

### Recap

- Unit 1 Foundations
  - Module 1.1: Why Do We Organize Information?
  - Module 1.2: Why Do We Use Controlled Vocabulary?
  - Module 1.3: What is Subject Analysis?
  - Module 1.4: How Do We Determine Aboutness?
  - Module 1.5: Introduction to LCSH

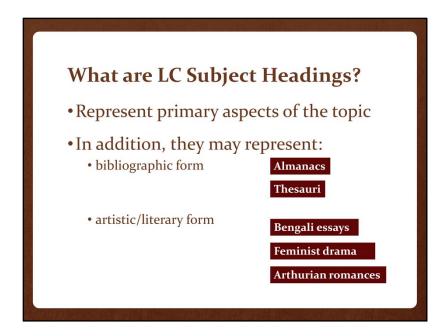
In the first unit, we explored the foundations of subject cataloging.

We introduced the concepts of

- information organization,
- controlled vocabulary, and
- subject analysis.

We discussed how to analyze resources to determine their aboutness and other relevant characteristics. Finally, we introduced a world-wide standard for subject cataloging: *Library of Congress Subject Headings* (or LCSH).

In this unit we will cover the structure of LCSH.



A subject heading is an authorized word or phrase contained in a controlled vocabulary.

They are used to describe resources.

Topics are identified by LC subject headings to represent what the material covers—its aboutness.

In addition to subject matter, LC subject headings can also represent the *form* of the material. For example it contains headings such as

- **Proverbs** (which represents bibliographic form), and
- **Spanish poetry** (which represents literary form).

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What are LC Subject Headings?	
They may appear in many forms:	
• single headings	Puppies Fondue
• simple or compound phrases	Punk culture
	Autonomy and independence movements
<ul> <li>headings combined with subdivisions to create strings</li> </ul>	
Alcoholic beverages	—Taxation—Law and legislation
United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865— Regimental histories	
Autonomy and independence movements  • headings combined with subdivisions to create strings  Alcoholic beverages—Taxation—Law and legislation  United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865—	

Library of Congress subject headings may appear in a variety of forms.

We will often see single words, like **Puppies**, or **Fondue**, used as headings.

We also might find phrases – maybe a simple phrase like **Punk culture**, or compound phrases like **Autonomy and independence movements**.

In addition, you'll often find strings in LCSH, where we have headings that are combined with subdivisions to create more context for the main topic. Examples of subject heading strings include things like Alcoholic beverages—
Taxation—Law and legislation and United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865—Regimental histories.

# Relationships among Subject Headings

### Hierarchical Relationships

- BT: Broader term
  - a term with a lesser level of specificity
  - a parent term
  - not the same as **TT** (top term)
- NT: Narrower term
  - a term with a greater level of specificity
  - · a child term

Before we look at how subject headings are displayed in LCSH, it would be helpful to have a sense of the relationships that can exist among headings in the system. The backbone of a controlled vocabulary is the hierarchical relationships. In LCSH, hierarchical relationships are represented with the notations BT and NT.

A BT, or broader term, is the less specific topic that is the quote-unquote "parent" of the more specific topic – the narrower term, or NT. The examples on the next slide will help illustrate this.

# Relationships among Subject Headings

• Genus/Species or Thing/kind relationships

Frozen foods

Food

BT Food

NT Frozen foods

• Whole/Part relationships

Fingers BT Hand Hand NT Fingers

• Instance relationships

South China Sea

Seas

**BT** Seas

NT South China Sea

In LCSH there are three types of broader term / narrower term (or hierarchical) relationships.

- The first is genus/species, also sometimes called thing/kind, or maybe class and class member. For example, frozen foods are a specific type of food, and the concept of frozen foods is thus narrower than food in general. Because **Frozen foods** has a parent of **Food**, then logically **Food** must display that it has a child, **Frozen foods**.
- The second is the whole/part relationship. For example, your **Fingers** are part of your **Hand**, or your **Toes** are part of your **Foot**. That's usually a pretty simple one to understand.
- The third kind is quite different. These are the instance relationships. The South China Sea is one of the seas of the world. Therefore the **South China Sea** has a parent term (a broader term) of **Seas**. Likewise, the heading **Indian Ocean** would have the broader term of **Oceans**, because it is an ocean.

# Example Life Organisms Animals Domestic animals Dogs Working dogs Hunting dogs Bird dogs Setters (Dogs) Irish Setters

Hierarchical references are relative to each other.

In this example, **Organisms** are subordinate to **Life**. **Organisms** is the narrower term. Following the same logic, **Animals** are a type of **Organism**, and are therefore narrower. **Domestic animals** are narrower than **Animals**, and so on.

We can go up the hierarchy, too. **Irish Setters** are a type of **Setter**, which are a type of **Bird dog**, and so on.

The beauty of hierarchical (or BT/NT) relationships is that we can move up and move down them to find the heading that best suits our needs. In hierarchical relationships, each heading has an explicit relationship to the heading immediately above it in the logical hierarchy, and also to any heading immediately below it. **Domestic animals** does not have a BT **Life**, because there are two intervening levels of hierarchy.

This is only one of the many hierarchies in LCSH.

# **Relationships among Terms**

### **Equivalence Relationships**

• USE: Indicates another term is the authorized subject heading.

"Go there instead!"

• UF - (Used For): Indicates what other terms the subject heading represents

"This subject heading represents these other terms."

In addition to hierarchical relationships, LCSH addresses equivalence relationships. This occurs when two or more terms have the same or very similar meanings. In other words, equivalence relationships are about synonym control.

To represent equivalency, we use USE and UF as relationship indicators.

- USE is basically saying that another term is the authorized subject heading instead. It says, "Go there!...Do this!" It's a command.
- The UF, or Used For, indicates what other terms the subject heading represents.

These reciprocal relationships (the USE and Used For) help to provide structure to the LCSH system. The USE references provide a pathway to the authorized terms.

## **Relationships among Terms**

### Equivalence Relationships address:

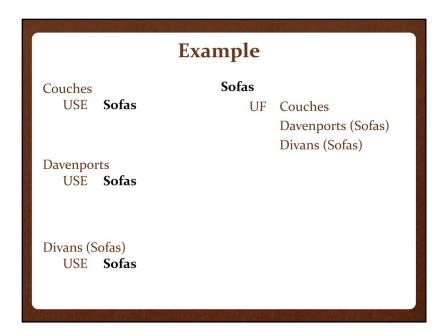
- Synonymy
  - Flues, not Smoke-pipes
- Lexical variants
  - · Hematology, not Haematology
- Near synonymy
  - · Seawater, not Ocean water

In LCSH, equivalence relationships are used to control synonymy. For example, in the controlled vocabulary, you don't want equivalent concepts both being authorized for use. You wouldn't want Handbags and Pocketbooks both being used to describe resources. You choose one and you refer from the other.

In addition, LCSH uses equivalence relationships to manage lexical variants – things like different spellings or different word forms. Airplanes versus aeroplanes, for example. Or the different ways to spell hematology that you see on the screen.

In addition to those, there are also *nearly* synonymous terms – not quite the exact equivalent, but terms that may be close enough that we want the resources to be cataloged together and retrieved together. An example might be seawater and ocean water. How much of a difference is there, and are our users going to know the difference? There are some hairs that just do not need to be split.

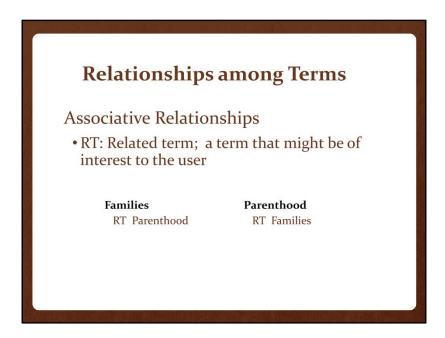
In other cases, there are some terms that are so closely linked that they become hard to separate. While not synonymous, an example like equality and inequality (which are really opposites) – you can't really speak of one without the other. So, in certain cases, we will point from one to an authorized form.



This example shows the reciprocal nature of the relationships between USE and UF references in LCSH.

As you can see on the slide, *Couches*, *Davenports* (*Sofas*), *Divans* (*Sofas*) (as a qualifier) – all are entries, but they point to the authorized term, **Sofas**.

At the entry for **Sofas**, it lists all of the Used For references there, so that you have an understanding of what is represented under the authorized term.



The third type of relationship in LCSH is the associative, or related term, relationship.

In some ways, these are the most difficult to establish. RT (related term) references are provided when we think that another heading might be of interest to the user. Generally, the headings have to be so highly related that we automatically think of one when we think of the other. For example, when we think of **Families**, almost immediately will occur to us the idea of **Parenthood**.

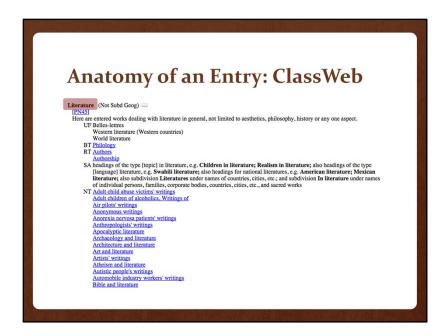
# **Subject Headings Displays**

- Subject headings may be displayed in a variety of ways depending on the interface used to access them.
  - Classification Web (ClassWeb)
  - Print-ready PDF files
  - LC Authorities database

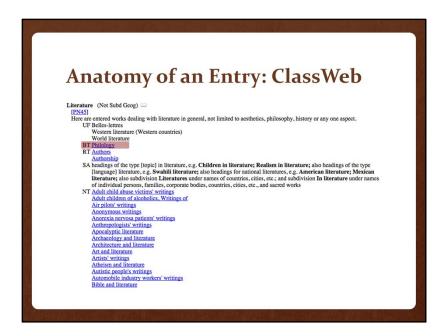
Subject headings may be displayed in a variety of ways.

For example, you may access LCSH in *Classification Web* – the fee-based, online service that provides an interactive web interface for LC subject headings, numerous other LC controlled vocabularies, and LC classification notations, as well.

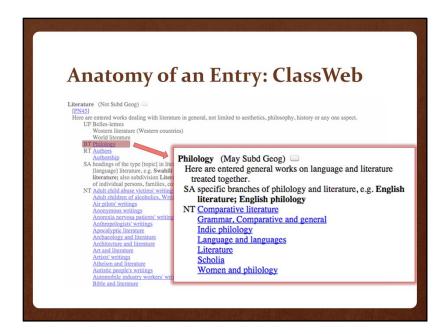
You might also access LCSH through the free PDF files that are available on the LC website. They are also available in the LC Authorities database, freely available as MARC authority records at authorities.loc.gov.



This is the view of the LCSH heading for **Literature** in *Classification Web*. In this display, you should notice that the authorized heading is found at the top of the entry, and that authorized headings appear in **boldface** type so that they stand out.

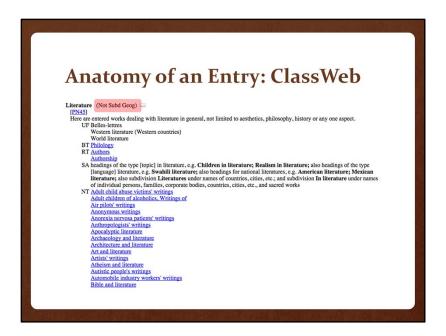


Highlighted on the screen is the BT reference for **Literature**. It refers to the concept **Philology**. While other subject headings are shown in this display, you should not assign any of the other headings without looking at their full entries in *Classification Web*.



Every term authorized for use will have its own entry in the subject heading list.

These should be consulted for the fullest information about that subject heading.

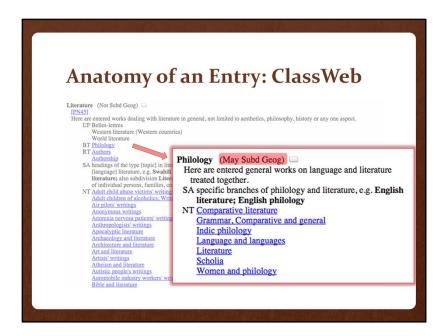


After the authorized heading you find an instruction, **Not Subd Geog**, which appears in parentheses. And, yes, we actually do walk around the halls of the Library of Congress saying things like "Not subd geog!"

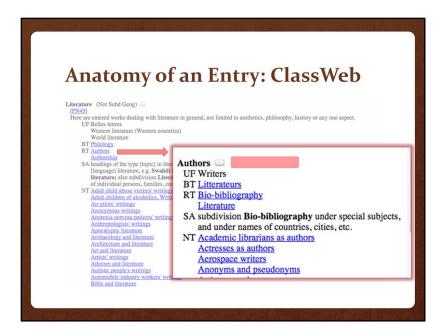
This instruction informs you that this heading *may not* be subdivided geographically, in other words, by a place name.

So, in the LCSH system, you *cannot* create a string such as **Literature—United States**.

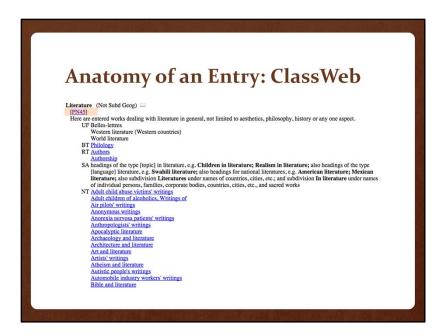
Instead, an alternative must be found.



Other headings in LCSH have the instruction that says **May Subd Geog**. These headings *can* be followed by a geographic subdivision, if necessary.

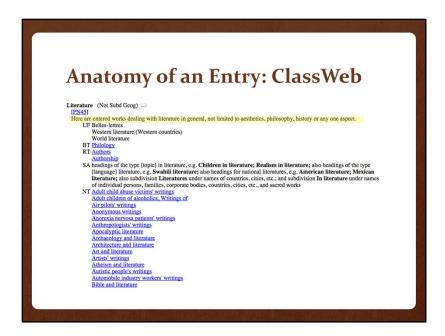


Other subject headings have no instruction at all in that position. For the headings that have no specific instruction, you also *cannot* follow that term with a place name, just as if it said, "Not Subd Geog."



After the authorized heading, you will find a number of different components. Sometimes there is a closely associated classification number from the Library of Congress Classification. This might include a single class number, or maybe more than one related class number, or even ranges of class numbers.

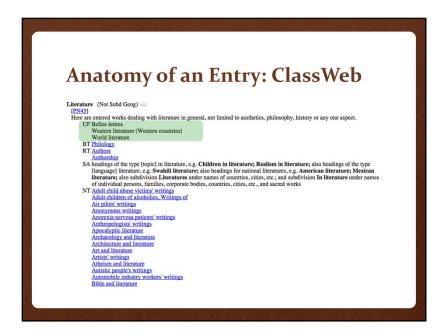
This entry, at **Literature**, tells you that if you are cataloging a very general resource on literature (that is not focused on a particular language, form, or aspect), then *one* possible class number to consider is PN45. But it is not necessarily the only choice, and you should always check the LC Classification Schedule before assigning any number that you see in LCSH.



Approximately 3.5 percent of headings in LCSH have scope notes, which define or delimit a subject heading.

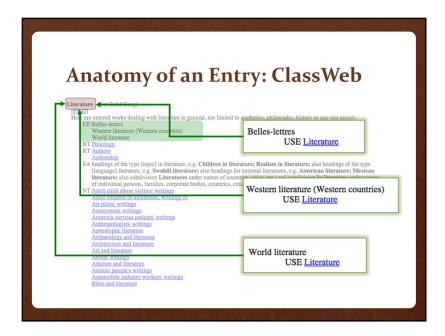
In addition, they may or may not suggest further terms for the user to consult.

Reading the scope note, if it's present, is key in understanding the meaning or focus of the heading.



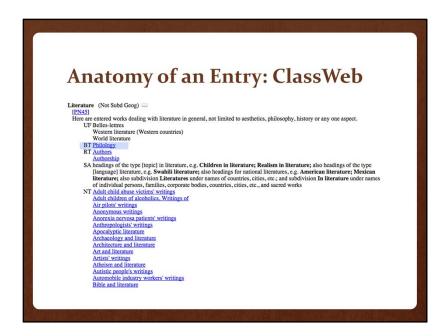
On this slide, the Used For references are now highlighted. In this entry, we are instructed that catalogers should not assign *Belles-lettres*, *Western literature* (*Western countries*), or *World literature* to any resource. The authorized heading **Literature** should be used instead.

Notice that one of the references, *Western literature* has a qualifier added to it. Qualifiers are explanatory information to help clarify a subject heading. In this case, the reference is qualified so that one does mix up the literature of Western countries with the Western genre in literature (fiction that features the American West during the period of westward expansion).

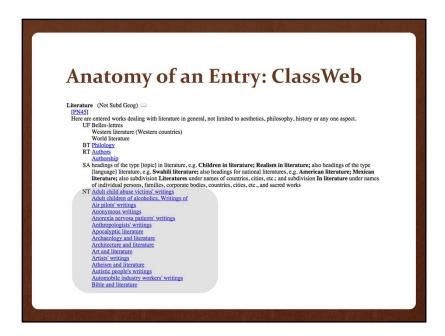


In LCSH, these terms marked as UFs under **Literature** have separate entries in the vocabulary that point back the authorized heading.

In each of these entries, instead of seeing UF again, you see the instruction USE.

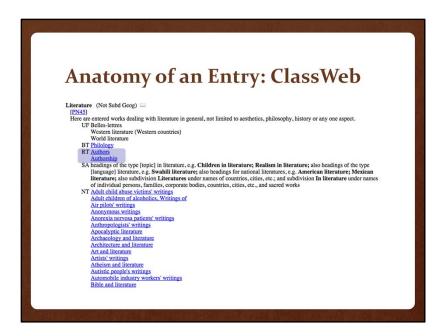


In this slide, **Literature**'s BT (or Broader Term) is highlighted. There's only one BT for this entry, but for other headings there may be two or more.

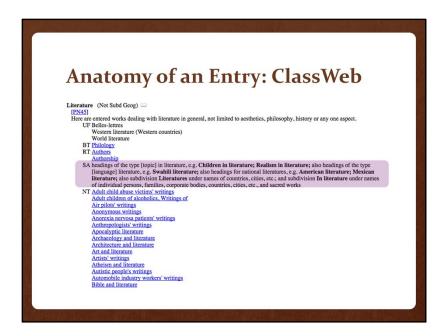


These narrower terms (or NTs) are considered more specific types or aspects of the heading Literature.

This is only a small portion of the narrower terms; the actual list of NTs in LCSH is much, much longer.

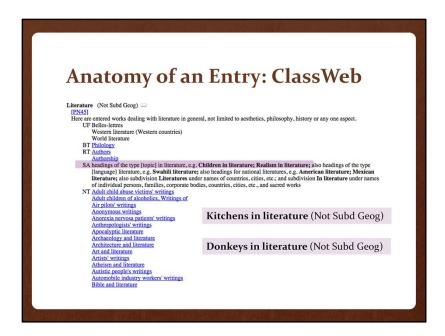


We have now highlighted the Related Term references. Recall that RTs are terms that are not synonymous or hierarchical, yet are conceptually connected in some way. In this entry, **Literature** is being connected to the entries for both **Authors** and **Authorship**, because when we think of authors and authorship, we automatically think of literature.



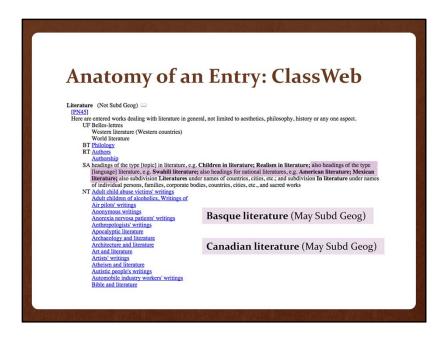
The final component that we'd like to highlight is the See Also reference (indicated by the abbreviation SA).

This reference advises you that other headings (in different forms or structures) may be of interest.

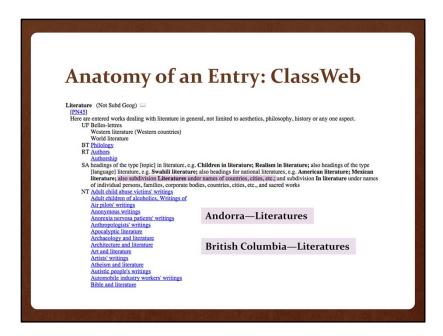


Some See Also references may contain multiple parts.

In the first part of the See Also reference for **Literature**, it reminds catalogers that there are headings in LCSH such as **Kitchens in literature** and **Donkeys in literature**.

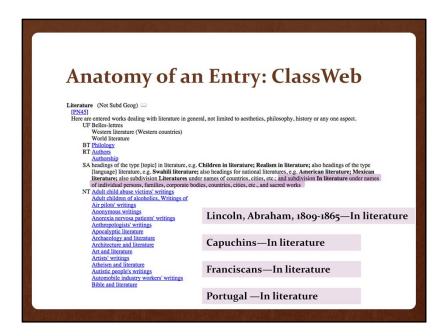


It goes on to state that there are also many headings established for the literatures of individual languages and nationalities, such as **Basque literature** and **Canadian literature**.



It also tells you that **Literature** is not just used as a heading. **Literatures** (plural) can be used as a subdivision, but only in certain circumstances, such as under the name of a country, or a city, or some other populated location.

Examples on the slide include Andorra—Literatures and British Columbia—Literatures.

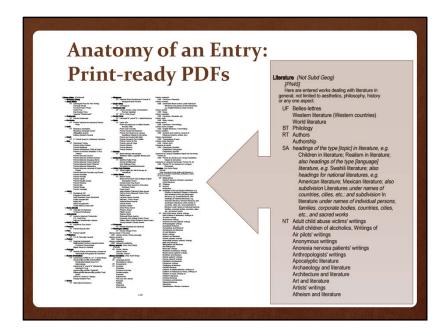


In addition, the subdivision **–In literature** is used in the LCSH system with names of persons, families, corporate bodies, countries, cities, and sacred works.

For example, on the slide you can see Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865—In literature.

The remaining modules in this unit will provide you with more information about each of these components that we've reviewed, plus a little bit more.

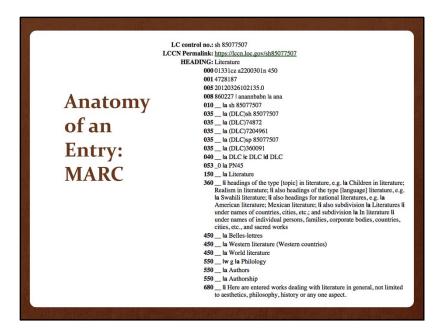
This type of display (that which is found in *Classification Web*) is the one we will use throughout the training modules. But in the next two slides we'll briefly show two other view of entries in LCSH.



This is the same entry for **Literature** that we've been looking at, but it is in PDF form, instead of in *Classification Web*.

The PDF display is not interactive like *Classification Web* is. It simply reproduces the display that was found in the print editions.

You can see here that there are three columns of headings on each page, and, as is found in Class Web, the authorized headings are printed in boldface type.



In this display, the entry looks quite a bit different.

You are looking at an encoded MARC authority record for the subject heading. We are not going to explore it deeply in this module, but the MARC format, as it relates to subjects, will be covered toward the end of the training.

What we would like you to understand at this time is that each subject heading in LCSH is described in a record of this sort. The authorized heading is found in an entry that is coded with a three digit number beginning with the number 1. In this case, you can see in the middle of the record that **Literature** is found in a 150 field.

In addition, some of the major fields to note include the 360 field which contains the See Also reference, and the 450 fields which contain the Used For references.

There are three 550 fields in this record, which contain the Broader Term and Related Terms.

In the 053 field, you will find the associated class. number.

And in the 680 field, at the very bottom of the record, you see the Scope Note for the subject heading.

As we mentioned earlier, MARC will be covered in more depth in a later module.