

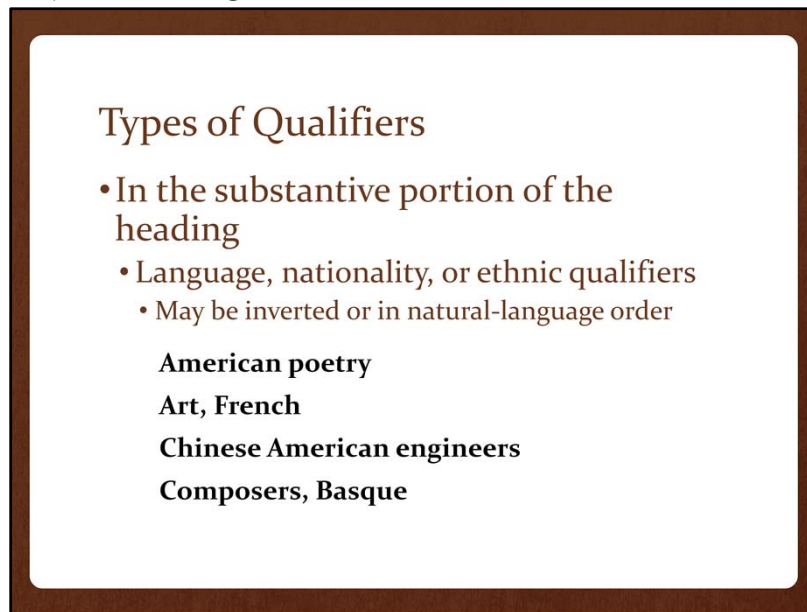
Types of Qualifiers

- In the substantive portion of the heading
 - Language, nationality, or ethnic qualifiers
 - May be inverted or in natural-language order

LCSH includes several kinds of qualifiers, which can be categorized by their notation and purpose.

Some qualifiers appear in the substantive part of the heading and are often adjectives that qualify a noun.

These qualifiers usually consist of words or phrases that denote the language, nationality, or ethnicity of a topic or class of persons. They may be inverted or in natural-language order.



Types of Qualifiers

- In the substantive portion of the heading
 - Language, nationality, or ethnic qualifiers
 - May be inverted or in natural-language order

American poetry

Art, French

Chinese American engineers

Composers, Basque

For example, in the heading **American poetry**, American is the nationality qualifier.

Art, French is an inverted heading, and French is the qualifier.

In the heading **Chinese American engineers**, Chinese American is an ethnic qualifier, describing a particular subset of engineers.

And Basque is the inverted ethnic qualifier in the heading **Composers, Basque**.

Types of Qualifiers

- In the substantive portion of the heading
 - Inverted time period qualifiers

Archaeology, Medieval

Belt buckles, Anglo-Saxon

Civilization, Modern

Pottery, Ancient

Some qualifiers that appear in the substantive part of the heading refer to time periods.

They are always inverted, and always refer to very broad time periods.

In these examples, the qualifiers are Medieval, Anglo-Saxon, Modern, and Ancient.

Types of Qualifiers

- **Set off by commas**
 - Geographic qualifiers in some event headings

Christchurch Earthquake, N.Z., 2011

El 'Al Flight LY426 Crash, Bulgaria, 1955

Salerno, Battle of, Salerno, Italy, 1943

Some qualifiers are for geographic places and are surrounded by commas. They appear in some event headings and indicate the location of the event.

The Christchurch Earthquake occurred in New Zealand, so the abbreviation N.Z. appears in the heading for the earthquake.

The crash of Flight LY426 occurred in Bulgaria.

And the Battle of Salerno happened in Salerno, Italy. As you can see from this final example, sometimes the qualifier looks redundant.

It is not redundant, though, because the substantive portion of the heading is *Salerno, Battle of*, and the qualifier is *Salerno, Italy*. Those two pieces of the heading serve different purposes, so the apparent redundancy is okay.

Types of Qualifiers

- In parentheses following the substantive portion of the heading
 - A geographic place to specify the location of the entity in the heading

Some geographic qualifiers appear in parentheses after the substantive portion of the heading.

They specify the location of the entity in the heading, and occur in most headings for geographic features like lakes and mountains and so forth, and also in headings for individual buildings.

Types of Qualifiers

- In parentheses following the substantive portion of the heading
- A geographic place to specify the location of the entity in the heading

Empire State Building (New York, N.Y.)

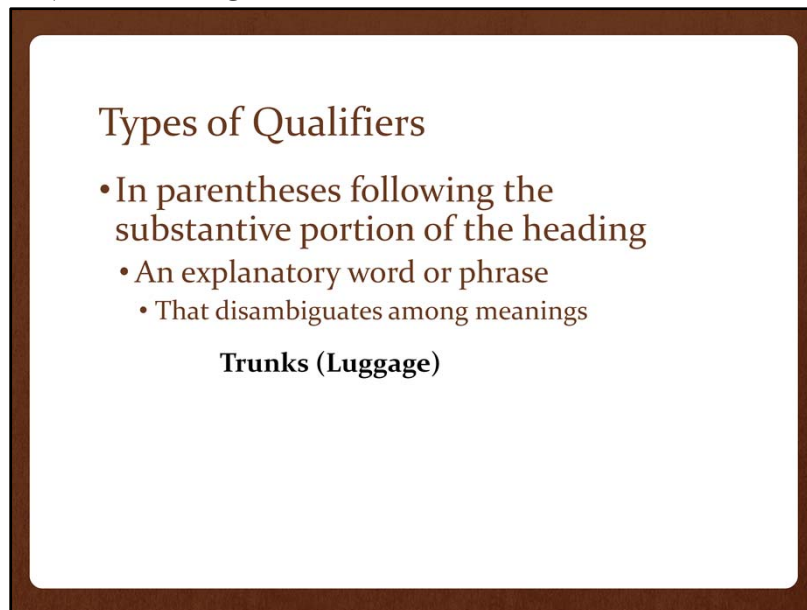
Yacuma River (Bolivia)

Sapas Mons (Venus)

For example, the Empire State Building is in New York City.

The Yacuma River is in Bolivia.

And the Sapas Mons is a rather large volcano on the planet Venus.



Types of Qualifiers

- In parentheses following the substantive portion of the heading
 - An explanatory word or phrase
 - That disambiguates among meanings

Trunks (Luggage)

There is another type of qualifier that appears in parentheses after the substantive portion of the heading: qualifiers that consist of an explanatory word or phrase.

These qualifiers are used to disambiguate among homographs: words that are spelled the same, but have different meanings. This situation happens frequently in the English language. The qualifier helps users and catalogers know which meaning of a word the heading is referring to.

In this example, the qualifier “Luggage” makes it clear that the heading refers to trunks that you might use to store possessions instead of to an elephant’s trunk, a tree trunk, or swimming trunks.

Types of Qualifiers

- In parentheses following the substantive portion of the heading
 - An explanatory word or phrase
 - That disambiguates among meanings

Trunks (Luggage)

- That eliminates ambiguity

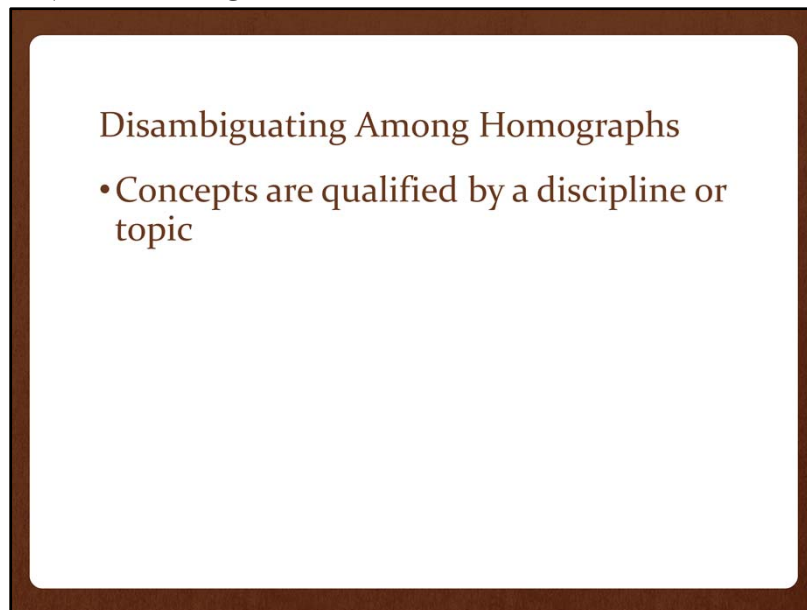
Analitik (Computer program language)

There is one more type of qualifier that appears in parentheses after the substantive portion of the heading: those that are intended to eliminate ambiguity.

Would you know what Analitik is a computer program language if the heading did not have a qualifier?

The remainder of this module will focus on parenthetical qualifiers that disambiguate among homographs and eliminate ambiguity.

The general rules for these types of qualifiers are contained in *Subject Headings Manual* instruction sheet H 357.



When a concept has two or more dictionary definitions, it is usually qualified by the appropriate discipline or topic.

Disambiguating Among Homographs

- Concepts are qualified by a discipline or topic

Alienation (Philosophy)

Alienation (Rhetoric)

Alienation (Social psychology)

Alienation (Theology)

For example, the concept of alienation is important in at least four disciplines: philosophy, rhetoric, social psychology, and theology.

Each of those disciplines defines it differently, so a separate heading is authorized for each meaning. Each heading is qualified by the discipline to which it applies.

Disambiguating Among Homographs

- Concepts are qualified by a discipline or topic

Passing (Football)

Passing (Hockey)

Passing (Identity)

Passing (Soccer)

Let's look at another example.

The strategy of passing occurs in many sports, including football, hockey, and soccer (that is, what most of the world refers to as football!).

Since the practice of passing is different in each sport, there is a separate heading for each meaning, and each is qualified by the sport to which it refers.

Passing also has another meaning: the practice of identifying oneself as a member of a racial, religious, ethnic, or other group that is not one's own by concealing one's ancestry or background. That heading is qualified by "Identity" to distinguish it from the other meanings.

Disambiguating Among Homographs

- Kinds of objects are qualified by the category to which the object belongs

Sometimes words (and therefore headings) refer to things, not concepts. If that is the case, the heading is qualified by the category to which the object belongs.

Disambiguating Among Homographs

- Kinds of objects are qualified by the category to which the object belongs

Plates (Engineering)

Plates (Tablewear)

Plates are used in engineering, and we also eat off of them.

Disambiguating Among Homographs

- Kinds of objects are qualified by the category to which the object belongs

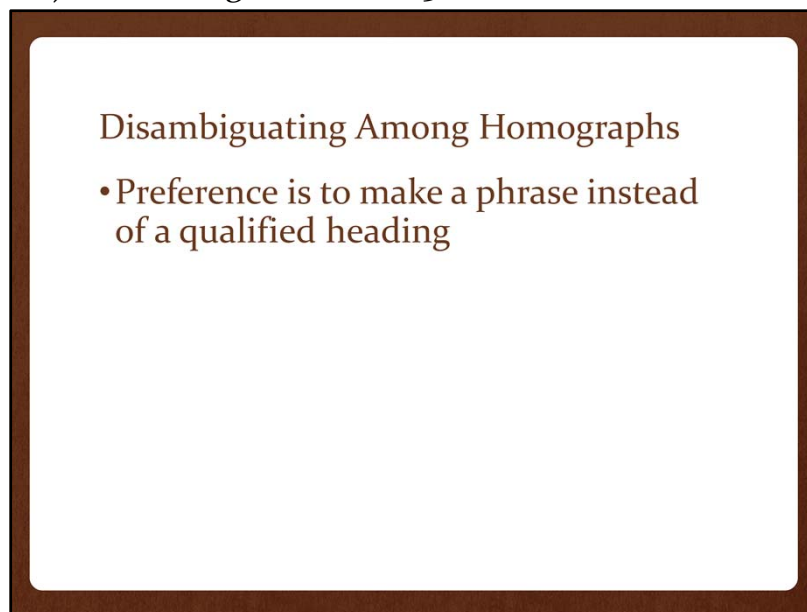
Plates (Engineering)

Plates (Tablewear)

Balls (Parties)

Balls (Sporting goods)

Balls are a type of party, and also a type of sports equipment.



Thousands of headings include qualifiers to disambiguate among homographs, but the preference is actually to make a phrase instead.

Since phrases are in natural-language form, they are more useful for keyword searching.

Disambiguating Among Homographs

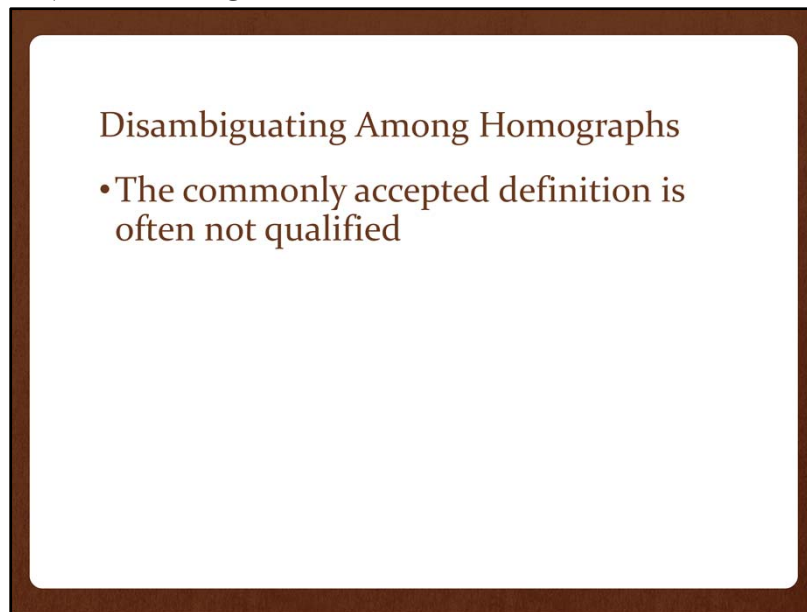
- Preference is to make a phrase instead of a qualified heading

Forensic dermatology
not Dermatology (Forensics)

Automobile racing
not Racing (Automobiles)

Instead of *Dermatology* qualified by *Forensics*, **Forensic dermatology** is the heading.

Instead of *Racing* qualified by *Automobiles*, **Automobile racing** is the heading.



Headings that refer to the commonly accepted meaning – the meaning that comes immediately to mind for most people – are usually not qualified, while headings for more obscure meanings *are* qualified.

Disambiguating Among Homographs

- The commonly accepted definition is often not qualified

Divers

Divers (Birds)

When most people hear the word *divers* they think about people who dive into bodies of water and swimming pools. Since that is the commonly accepted meaning, that heading is unqualified.

The concept of birds that are classified as divers (such as loons and puffins) is more obscure. Therefore, that heading *is* qualified.

Disambiguating Among Homographs

- The commonly accepted definition is often not qualified

Divers

Divers (Birds)

Mice

Mice (Computers)

Sometimes this policy creates interesting situations.

In LCSH, the commonly accepted meaning of **Mice** is the small mammals that we try to keep out of buildings, while the heading for the mice that we use with computers is qualified.

Is it still the case that mice as animals is the commonly accepted meaning, or is mice as computer peripherals now more common?

Removing Obscurity and Ambiguity

- Qualifiers may be added whenever a heading would otherwise be obscure or ambiguous

DDT (Insecticide)

Sinusoidal projection (Cartography)

In addition to adding qualifiers to disambiguate among homographs, topical headings may also be qualified if a qualifier would help users and catalogers understand what a heading means. This happens most often with headings that may be considered to be ambiguous or obscure.

The initialism DDT refers to multiple concepts and corporate bodies; the subject heading in this example is intended for works about the insecticide called DDT.

The Sinusoidal projection is obscure to most people, so the qualifier *Cartography* is added to make that heading less obscure.

Categories Always Qualified

- Headings that fall into some broad categories are qualified by policy

Policy also requires that some entire categories of headings be qualified.

Categories Always Qualified

- Headings that fall into some broad categories are qualified by policy

Women (Byzantine law)

Women (Canon law)

Women (Hindu law)

Women (International law)

Women (Islamic law)

Women (Jewish law)

Headings for legal systems are a good example.

Most, if not all, legal systems have laws about women.

Each heading for laws about women is qualified by the legal system to which it applies.

Categories Always Qualified

- Headings that fall into some broad categories are qualified by policy

Suma (Artificial language)

Headings for artificial languages are also always qualified.

Categories Always Qualified

- Headings that fall into some broad categories are qualified by policy

Suma (Artificial language)

Burji (African people)

As are those for ethnic groups.

Categories Always Qualified

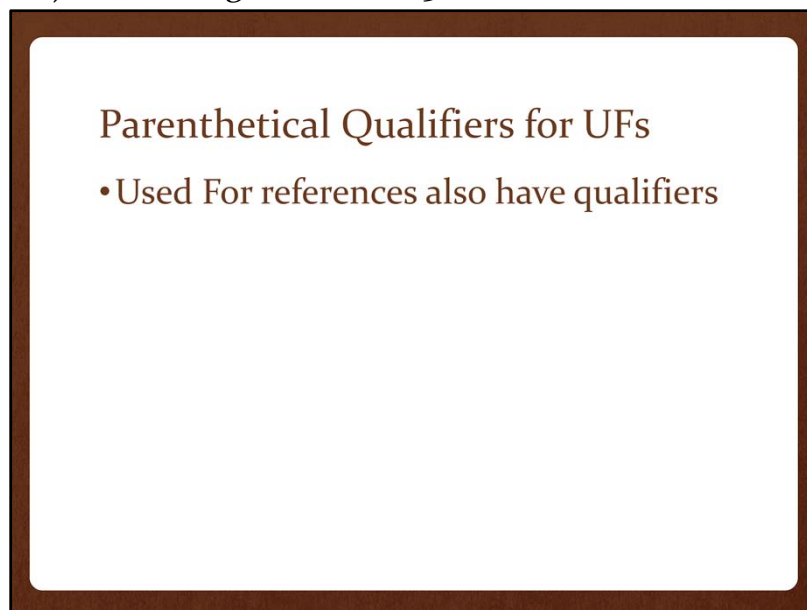
- Headings that fall into some broad categories are qualified by policy

Suma (Artificial language)

Burji (African people)

City Class (Steam locomotives)

And for classes of steam locomotives, among many other categories.



We have been talking about parenthetical qualifiers used on headings, but they also appear on Used For references, for the same reasons:

- to disambiguate among homographs,
- to make a reference less obscure or ambiguous,
- or because the reference falls into a category that by policy is always qualified.

Parenthetical Qualifiers for UFs

- Used For references also have qualifiers

Passing (Automobile driving)

USE Automobile driving—Passing

Passing (Football)

Passing (Hockey)

Passing (Identity)

Passing (Soccer)

Passing (Volleyball)

USE Volleyball—Passing

Take the example of *Passing* that we saw earlier. There are also Used Fors for passing.

Passing qualified by *Automobile driving*, USE **Automobile driving—Passing**.

Passing qualified by *Volleyball*, USE **Volleyball—Passing**.

Why is the heading for passing in volleyball different from headings for passing in other sports?

Well, I have no idea, but it probably has to do with different policies on headings that have existed over time. But the UF reference alerts users and catalogers that it *is* different, by putting passing in volleyball into the same alphabetical array with passing in other sports.