
Library of Congress Subject Headings

Module 2.7
“Used For” References

Policy and Standards Division
Library of Congress
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Recap

- In LCSH, equivalence relationships are represented by Used For (UF) references
 - Synonymous words and phrases
 - Allow users to search synonyms and be directed to the authorized heading

To review: in LCSH, equivalence relationships are represented by Used For references, which are notated with UF.

The UF references contain synonymous words and phrases that users might search instead of the word or phrase in the authorized heading.

The references direct users to the proper heading.

Library of Congress Subject Headings: Module 2.7

Recap

Library catalog management (May Subd Geog)
[Z695.88]
UF Catalog maintenance, Library
 Catalog management, Library
 Library catalog maintenance
 Library catalogs—Management
BT [Cataloging](#)

Library catalogers
USE [Catalogers](#)

Library catalogs (May Subd Geog)
[Z710 (General)]
UF Catalogs, Library
 Libraries—Catalogs
BT [Catalogs](#)

Each UF also displays as an instruction to USE the authorized heading.

The USE references display in alphabetical order, intermixed with authorized headings.

The USE reference for **Library catalogers** falls between the headings **Library catalog management** and **Library catalogs**.

Library of Congress Subject Headings: Module 2.7

Recap

Library catalog management (May Subd Geog)
[Z695.88]
UF Catalog maintenance, Library
Catalog management, Library
Library catalog maintenance
Library catalogs—Man
BT [Cataloging](#)

Library catalogers
USE [Catalogers](#)

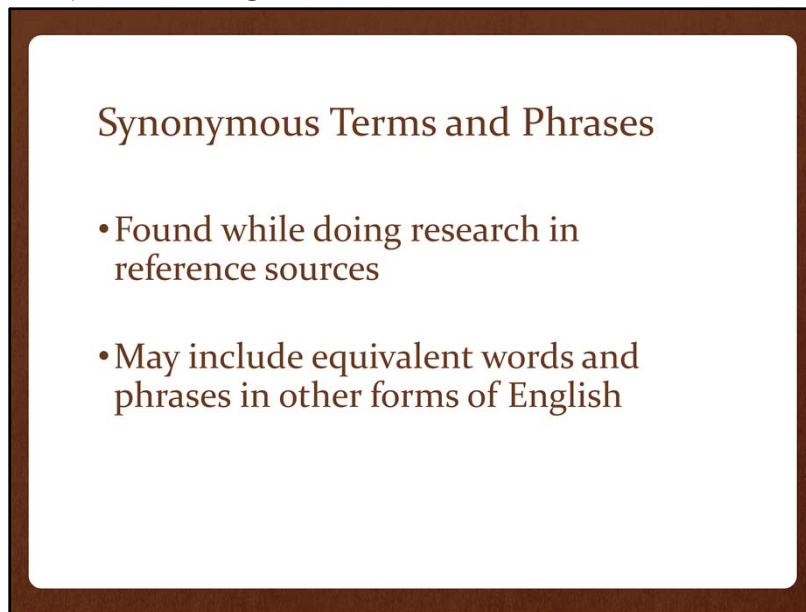
Library catalogs (May Su
[Z710 (General)]
UF Catalogs, Library
Libraries—Catalogs
BT [Catalogs](#)

Catalogers (May Subd Geog)
UF Catalog librarians
Cataloging librarians
Cataloguers
Library catalogers

Clicking on the link in Classification Web sends us to the authorized heading **Catalogers**, the entry for which includes the full list of UF references.

Note that the list of UF references for an individual authorized heading always appears in alphabetical order.

In this module, we will discuss some of the various types of UFs that are found in LCSH. We will focus on the instructions in *Subject Headings Manual* H 373, which is the general instruction sheet for UFs.



Synonymous Terms and Phrases

- Found while doing research in reference sources
- May include equivalent words and phrases in other forms of English

Synonymous terms and phrases are found while the cataloger is doing research in reference sources prior to making the proposal for the heading.

Additional UFs may also be added later, as they are discovered.

Although American libraries are the primary audience for LCSH, equivalent terms and phrases in British English, Indian English, and so on, may be included as UFs.

Synonymous Terms and Phrases

Trails (May Subd Geog) <input type="checkbox"/> [TE304 (Road construction)] UF Backcountry routes Backcountry tracks <u>Bridle paths</u> Bush tracks Bush walks Foot paths Foot trails Footpaths General purpose trails <u>Hiking routes</u> <u>Hiking trails</u> Horse trails Multi-use trails	Multiple-use trails <u>Paths (Trails)</u> Recreation trails Recreational trails Routes, Backcountry Routes, Hiking Tracks (Trails) Tramping tracks Walking tracks Walks (Trails) <u>Walkways (Trails)</u>
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This example, the entry for **Trails**, includes almost two dozen UFs.

The underlined UFs are equivalent phrases that are commonly used in the United States – *Bridle paths*, *Hiking routes*, *Hiking trails*, *Paths*, and *Walkways*.

Synonymous Terms and Phrases

Trails (May Subd Geog) <input type="checkbox"/> [TE304 (Road construction)] UF Backcountry routes Backcountry tracks Bridle paths <u>Bush tracks</u> <u>Bush walks</u> <u>Foot paths</u> <u>Foot trails</u> <u>Footpaths</u> General purpose trails Hiking routes Hiking trails Horse trails Multi-use trails	Multiple-use trails Paths (Trails) Recreation trails Recreational trails Routes, Backcountry Routes, Hiking <u>Tracks (Trails)</u> <u>Tramping tracks</u> Walking tracks Walks (Trails) Walkways (Trails)
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There are also several examples of UFs in Australian and British English – *Bush tracks*, *Bush walks*, *Footpaths*, *Foot trails*, *Tracks*, and *Tramping tracks*.

Beginning with Significant Words

- UFs beginning with significant words are made frequently
 - Users may “mix up” the words when searching
 - Sometimes used to bring similar concepts together in an alphabetical display
 - Usually provided with inverted references
 - May be phrases

Just as common as UFs for synonymous words are UFs that bring significant words to the front.

These are usually provided through inverted references, and may also appear as phrases that are synonymous with the heading (or another reference).

Another important use for these types of UFs is to bring similarly-worded concepts together when they would otherwise be widely separated by the alphabetical arrangement of LCSH.

Beginning with Significant Words

Grains of paradise
[[QK495.Z65](#) (Botany)]

- UF Aframomum grana-paradisi
- Aframomum melegueta
- Amomum melegueta
- Guinea grains
- Guinea pepper
- Malagueta pepper
- Melegueta pepper
- Paradise, Grains of**
- Paradise meleguetapepper
- Pepper, Guinea
- Pepper, Malagueta
- Pepper, Melegueta

BT [Plants, Edible](#)

In this example, we can see several inverted UFs made to bring significant words to the front.

Paradise, Grains of, is the inversion of the heading.

Beginning with Significant Words

Grains of paradise

[\[QK495.Z65 \(Botany\)\]](#)

- UF Aframomum grana-paradisi
- Aframomum melegueta
- Amomum melegueta
- Guinea grains
- Guinea pepper
- Malagueta pepper
- Melegueta pepper
- Paradise, Grains of
- Paradise meleguetapepper
- Pepper, Guinea
- Pepper, Malagueta
- Pepper, Melegueta

BT [Plants, Edible](#)

Pepper, Guinea, is the inversion of another UF, *Guinea pepper*.

Beginning with Significant Words

Grains of paradise

[\[QK495.Z65](#) (Botany)]

- UF Aframomum grana-paradisi
- Aframomum melegueta
- Amomum melegueta
- Guinea grains
- Guinea pepper
- Malagueta pepper
- Melegueta pepper
- Paradise, Grains of
- Paradise meleguetapepper
- Pepper, Guinea
- Pepper, Malagueta
- Pepper, Melegueta

BT [Plants, Edible](#)

And there are two other inverted references that pair with other UFs that are in natural-language order.

Beginning with Significant Words

Pepper grinders
USE [Pepper mills](#)

Pepper, Guinea
USE [Grains of paradise](#)

Pepper Islands (Seychelles)
USE [Poivre Islands \(Seychelles\)](#)

Pepper, Malagueta
USE [Grains of paradise](#)

The inverted UFs bring alternative terminology for **Grains of paradise** together with other references that include the word “pepper.”

Beginning with Significant Words

Pepper grinders USE Pepper mills	
Pepper, Guinea USE Grains	
Pepper Islands (Seychelles) USE Poivre	Pepper Martin (Fictitious character) USE Martin, Pepper (Fictitious character)
Pepper, Malagueta USE Grains	Pepper, Melegueta USE Grains of paradise
	Pepper mills (May Subd Geog) <input type="checkbox"/> UF Grinders, Pepper Mills, Pepper Pepper grinders

Beginning with Significant Words

- Routes, Air
USE [Airways](#)
- Routes, Backcountry
USE [Trails](#)
- Routes, Bus
USE [Bus travel](#)
- Routes, Ferry
USE [Ferry routes](#)
- Routes, Heritage (Scenic byways)
USE [Scenic byways](#)

On this slide you can see the array of headings that refers to various types of routes, including our example from before, *Routes, Backcountry* USE **Trails**.

Beginning with Significant Words

Routes, Air USE Airways	Routes, Hiking USE Trails
Routes, Backcountry USE Trails	Routes of trade USE Trade routes
Routes, Bus USE Bus travel	Routes of travel USE Air travel Bus travel Ocean travel Railroad travel
Routes, Ferry USE Ferry routes	Routes, Scenic USE Scenic byways
Routes, Heritage (Scenic byway) USE Scenic byways	

These headings for types of routes would not otherwise be related to each other, but putting them into alphabetical proximity helps the user see all of the possibilities.

Beginning with Significant Words

Routes, Air USE Airways	Routes, Hiking USE Trails
Routes, Backcountry USE Trails	Routes of trade USE Trade routes
Routes, Bus USE Bus travel	Routes of travel USE Air travel Bus travel Ocean travel Railroad travel
Routes, Ferry USE Ferry routes	Routes, Scenic USE Scenic byways
Routes, Heritage (Scenic byway) USE Scenic byways	

Note the reference for *Routes of Trade*. This is an example of the use of a phrase instead of an inverted reference.

It could as easily say “Routes, Trade,” but instead the somewhat more common phrase *Routes of trade* was preferred, because users would be likely to search it.

Beginning with Significant Words

The screenshot displays a search interface for Library of Congress Subject Headings. It features several search results boxes with the following content:

- Routes, Air
USE [Airways](#)
- Routes, Backcountry
USE [Trails](#)
- Routes, Hiking
USE [Trails](#)
- Routes of trade
USE [Trade routes](#)
- Trade routes** (May Subd Geog)
[\[HE323-328\]](#)
 - UF Commercial routes
 - Foreign trade routes
 - Ocean routes
 - Routes of trade
 - Sea lines of communication
 - Sea routes
- [Air travel](#)
- [Bus travel](#)
- [Ocean travel](#)
- [Railroad travel](#)
- USE [Scenic byways](#)

Remember that it is essential to click on the UF reference to see the entry itself, in order to find full information about the heading, instead of assigning headings based on a reference that you found.

Beginning with Significant Words

- UFs for headings that are qualified by a language, ethnic group, or nationality
- Some headings are in natural-language order, while others are inverted
- The alternative is always provided as a UF

There is a special provision for UFs to bring together headings qualified by a language, ethnic group, or nationality.

Most headings of this type are established in natural-language order, but sometimes they are inverted. Users should not have to know which is which, so a UF is always provided for the alternative form.

Beginning with Significant Words

Art, Algerian (May Subd Geog)
UF Algerian art

Art, Algonquian
USE [Algonquian art](#)

Art, Alsatian (May Subd Geog)
UF Alsatian art

You can see the results here.

Art, Algerian and **Art, Alsatian** are authorized headings, but so is **Algonquian art**.

You may be wondering why the form of heading is different for **Algonquian art**. That is because Algonquians are an ethnic group in the United States, and headings qualified by an ethnic group in the United States are always in natural language order. Regardless of the form of heading, the UF *Art, Algonquian* brings Algonquian art into the array with the inverted headings

Beginning with Significant Words

Algeria-Italy Natural Gas Pipeline

UF Italy-Algeria Natural Gas Pipeline

BT [Natural gas pipelines—Algeria](#)

[Natural gas pipelines—Italy](#)

Algeria, Southern

UF Southern Algeria

Algerian art

USE [Art, Algerian](#)

Algerian arts

USE [Arts, Algerian](#)

Likewise, the UF *Algerian art* brings that concept into the alphabetical array with other headings containing the words Algerian and Algeria.

Beginning with Significant Words

Algeria-Italy Natural gas pipes UF Italy-Algeria Natural gas pipes BT Natural gas pipes—Algeria Natural gas pipes—Italy	Alsatian Americans (May Subd Geog) [E184.A4] UF Alsatian Americans—United States BT Alsations—United States Ethnology—United States
Algeria, Southern UF Southern Algeria	Alsatian Americans—United States USE Alsatian Americans
Algerian art USE Art, Algerian	Alsatian art USE Art, Alsatian
Algerian arts USE Arts, Algerian	Alsatian charr USE Brook trout

And the reference *Alsatian art* does the same.

Other Spellings, Word Endings, Etc.

- UF references are made from alternative spellings, different word endings, etc.

In addition to USE FORs beginning with significant words, we also have USE FORs for alternative spellings and different word endings, and so on.

Other Spellings, Word Endings, Etc.

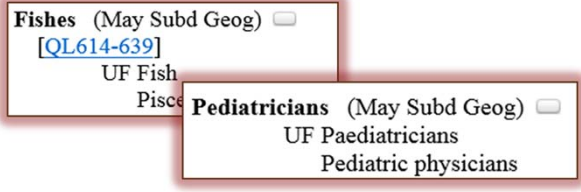
- UF references are made from alternative spellings, different word endings, etc.

Fishes (May Subd Geog)
[\[QL614-639\]](#)
UF Fish
Pisces

Most Americans probably use the plural *Fish*, so a reference is provided to the authorized heading, which is in the other plural form, **Fishes**.

Other Spellings, Word Endings, Etc.

- UF references are made from alternative spellings, different word endings, etc.



The screenshot shows two overlapping boxes from the Library of Congress Subject Headings interface. The top box is for the heading 'Fishes (May Subd Geog)' with a small square icon to its right. Below the heading is the classification code '[QL614-639]' in blue. Underneath are the terms 'UF Fish' and 'Pisc'. The bottom box is for the heading 'Pediatricians (May Subd Geog)' with a small square icon to its right. Below the heading are the terms 'UF Paediatricians' and 'Pediatric physicians'.

And pediatrician can be spelled in two ways.

Other Spellings, Word Endings, Etc.

- UF references are made from alternative spellings, different word endings, etc.
 - Exception 1: if the only difference is in the punctuation, capitalization, or diacritics used

But UFs are not made if the only difference is in punctuation, capitalization, or diacritics.

Other Spellings, Word Endings, Etc.

- UF references are made from alternative spellings, different word endings, etc.
 - Exception 1: if the only difference is in the punctuation, capitalization, or diacritics used
 - Exception 2: if the difference is handled at a higher level of the hierarchy

Or if the difference is handled at a higher level of hierarchy.

Other Spellings, Word Endings, Etc.

Pediatricians (May Subd Geog)
UF Paediatricians
Pediatic physicians

Women pediatricians (May Subd Geog)
BT [Pediatricians](#)
[Women physicians](#)

For example, it is not necessary to provide a UF in the entry for **Women pediatricians** since the alterative spelling of pediatricians is handled on the record for **Pediatricians**.

Changed or Cancelled Headings

- UFs are made when a heading is changed or cancelled
- Users might remember the old form of the heading

USE FORs are also created for changed or cancelled headings. So, whenever a heading is changed or cancelled, a USE FOR reference is made to lead users to the new form of the heading.

Changed or Cancelled Headings

- UFs are made when a heading is changed or cancelled
- Users might remember the old form of the heading

Toys, Mechanical
USE [Mechanical toys](#)

The USE reference appears as usual.

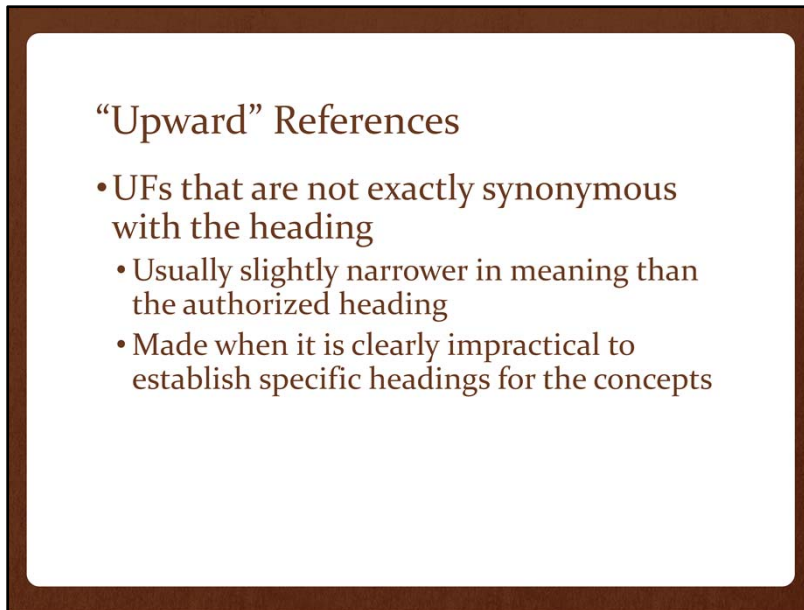
Changed or Cancelled Headings

- UFs are made when a heading is changed or cancelled
- Users might remember the old form of the heading

Toys, Mechanical
USE [Mechanical toys](#)

Mechanical toys (May Subd Geog)
UF Toys, Mechanical [Former heading]

However, the legend “Former heading” appears in the UF in the entry for the heading itself.



“Upward” References

- UFs that are not exactly synonymous with the heading
 - Usually slightly narrower in meaning than the authorized heading
 - Made when it is clearly impractical to establish specific headings for the concepts

Sometimes it is impractical to try to establish separate headings when words or phrases are extremely close in meaning. In that case, the concepts are covered by a heading for one of the words or phrases, and a UF is made for the other.

In most of those cases, the UF has an ever-so-slightly narrower meaning than the heading, so the UFs are called upward references.

“Upward” References

- UFs that are not exactly synonymous with the heading
 - Usually slightly narrower in meaning than the authorized heading
 - Made when it is clearly impractical to establish specific headings for the concepts

Nuns (May Subd Geog)
UF Sisters (in religious orders, congregations, etc.)

Nuns and sisters in Catholic religious orders are not equivalent, but the words are often used interchangeably.

Nuns take perpetual vows – that is, they take one vow that is in effect for the rest of their lives – while sisters take vows that must be renewed periodically. Most people refer to religious sisters as nuns, though, because the difference in definitions is obscure.

It therefore makes sense to have a single heading rather than trying to distinguish between sisters and nuns. This decision helps catalogers and users alike.

“Upward” References

Food security (May Subd Geog)

Here are entered works on physical and economic access to adequate food. Economic works on the availability of food are entered under Food supply.

UF Food deserts
Food insecurity
Insecurity, Food
Security, Food

Here is another example.

Food deserts, the first UF in the list of UFs for **Food security**, is not equivalent to **Food security**. **Food security** is the abstract concept, while *food deserts* are an outcome of food *insecurity*, and can therefore be considered an upward UF.

By the way, this slide also demonstrates another type of UF, which are UFs made to represent the opposite of the heading. This is a pretty common practice in LCSH.

Food security and food insecurity can be put on a continuum; you cannot talk about food security without relating it to food insecurity. As with upward UFs, the terms are not synonymous but it is impractical to establish separate headings for the concepts.

Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Initialisms

- UFs are made for abbreviations, acronyms, and initialisms
 - If they are in widespread use
 - Current policy is to qualify these types of references

We live in a society that loves acronyms, initialisms, and abbreviations, but they do not always make for good headings.

If the heading is the spelled-out form of the concept, a UF for the abbreviation or acronym is provided if it's in general use.

Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Initialisms

- UFs are made for abbreviations, acronyms, and initialism
- If they are in widespread use
- Current policy is to qualify these types of references

Graphical user interfaces (Computer systems)
[\[QA76.9.U83\]](#)
UF GUIs (Computer systems)

Graphical user interfaces are commonly called GUI interfaces, or GUIs, so there is a UF for that form.

Most UFs of this type are qualified in some way, to clarify the meaning.

Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Initialisms

Mirrorless interchangeable-lens cameras (May Subd Geog)
UF Compact interchangeable-lens cameras
Compact system cameras
Digital single lens mirrorless cameras
DSLM cameras
Electronic viewfinder, interchangeable lens cameras
E.V.I.L. cameras
EVIL cameras
Interchangeable lens cameras, Mirrorless
MILCs (Digital cameras)
Mirrorless system cameras
MSCs (Digital cameras)
Single lens mirrorless cameras, Digital

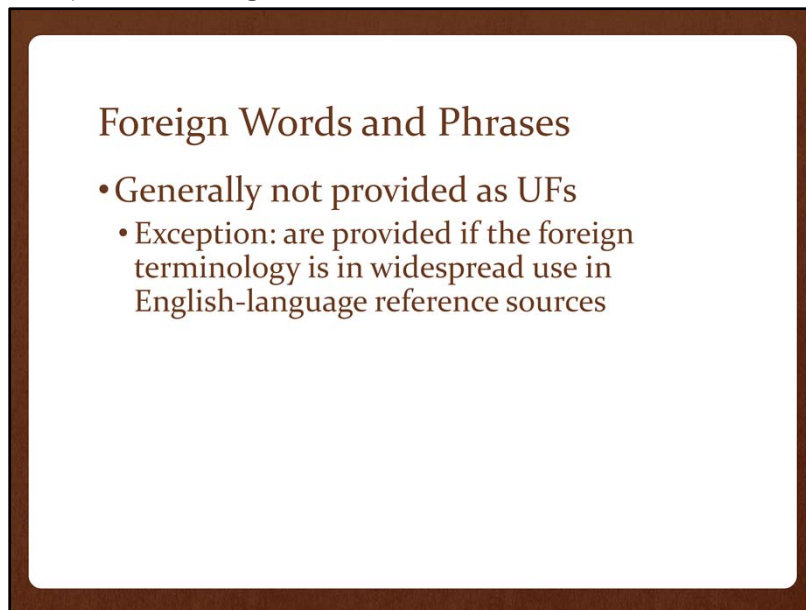
This entry for **Mirrorless interchangeable-lens cameras** includes four of this type of UF reference:

- *E.V.I.L. cameras,*
- *Evil cameras,*
- *MILCs,* and
- *MSCs.*

Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Initialisms

Virginia Standards of Learning Tests
[\[LB3060.33.V57\]](#)
UF Virginia SOL Tests (Achievement tests)

Here is one more example, this time of an initialism that occurs within the reference.



Foreign Words and Phrases

- Generally not provided as UFs
 - Exception: are provided if the foreign terminology is in widespread use in English-language reference sources

Foreign words and phrases are rarely provided as UFs in LCSH, since LCSH is an English-language vocabulary.

They are provided, however, if the foreign-language terminology is commonly found in English-language reference sources.

Foreign Words and Phrases

- Generally not provided as UFs
 - Exception: are provided if the foreign terminology is in widespread use in English-language reference sources

Enlightenment (May Subd Geog)
[B802 (General)]
Here are entered works on the 18th century intellectual movement characterized by belief in the power of human reason.
UF Aufklärung

The classic example of this phenomenon is the intellectual movement called the **Enlightenment**, which is also commonly known as the Aufklärung. Since many users may know the German word, it is provided as a UF.

Note that this rule about foreign-language references applies only to concepts. There are different rules for foreign-language UFs for named entities like geographic features and buildings.

[Topic A] and [Topic B]

- The reverse of the heading is provided as a UF

Literature and globalization (May Subd Geog)
UF Globalization and literature

We want to briefly mention another type of UF.

Sometimes the heading is in the form **[Topic A] and [Topic B]**, and the heading refers to a reciprocal relationship between the topics.

When that is the case, a UF is provided for the reverse order, as in the example **Literature and globalization**, which has a UF *Globalization and literature*.

Topics Subdivided by Other Topics

- A UF is made for the reversed form

Strikes and lockouts—Canneries (May Subd Geog)
UF Canneries—Strikes and lockouts

Strikes and lockouts—Carpentry (May Subd Geog)
UF Carpentry—Strikes and lockouts

The final type of UF that we would like to mention relates to topical headings that are subdivided by other topics. We have not discussed subdivisions in depth yet, so we will cover this type of reference very briefly.

When a topical heading is subdivided by another topical heading, and it is specifically established that way, a UF is made for the reversed form.

LCSH has an alphabetical list of strikes and lockouts in various industries, such as the cannery industry and the carpentry industry. **Canneries** and **Carpentry** are both authorized headings.

Topics Subdivided by Other Topics

- A UF is made for the reversed form

Canneries (May Subd Geog)
BT [Food processing plants](#)
NT [Fish canneries](#)

Canneries—Strikes and lockouts
USE [Strikes and lockouts—Canneries](#)

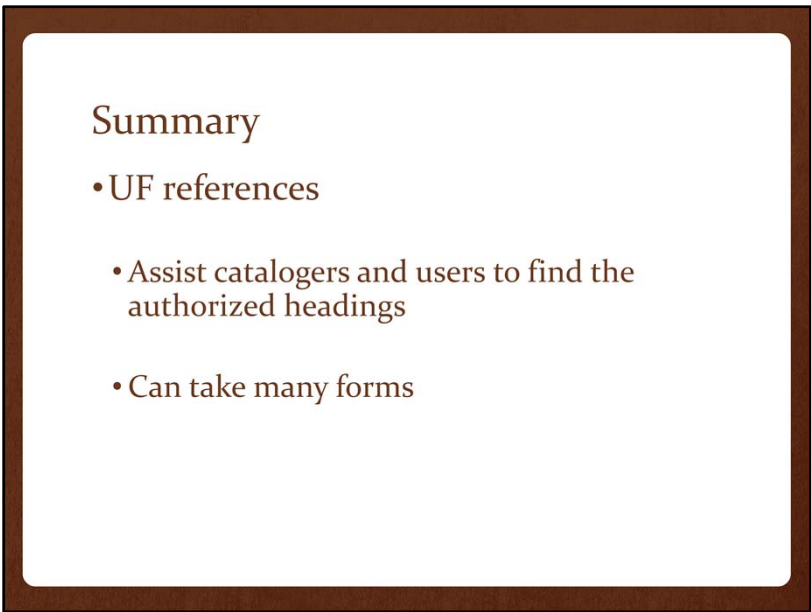
Canneries—Waste disposal (May Subd Geog)

The result is that the strikes and lockouts for canneries and carpentry can also be found by searching by the industry.

Topics Subdivided by Other Topics

- A UF is made for the reversed form

Canneries (May Subd Geog) <input type="checkbox"/> BT Food processing plants NT Fish canneries	
Canneries—Strikes and lockouts USE Strikes and lockouts—Canneries	Carpentry—Mathematics <input type="checkbox"/> [TH5612] BT Shop mathematics
Canneries—Waste disposal	Carpentry—Strikes and lockouts USE Strikes and lockouts—Carpentry
	Carpentry—Tools <input type="checkbox"/>



Summary

- UF references
 - Assist catalogers and users to find the authorized headings
 - Can take many forms

In summary, UF references assist users and catalogers to find authorized headings that represent concepts.

USE FOR references can take many forms, including synonyms, abbreviations, initialisms, acronyms, different forms of the heading, foreign words and phrases, and so on.

This module has covered the general rules for UFs, which are contained in *Subject Headings Manual* instruction sheet H 373.

Special rules also exist for other types of headings, such as buildings, geographic features, and other particular types of headings, such as battles. We will not talk about the rules for those references here, but they are also made for the convenience of the user. We will see many examples of them as we proceed through this training.