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# Library of Congress Subject Headings

Module 4.10  
Linear Name Changes and Mergers  
of Jurisdictions

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Policy and Standards Division  
Library of Congress  
October 2016; Revised January 2017

## Introduction and Plan

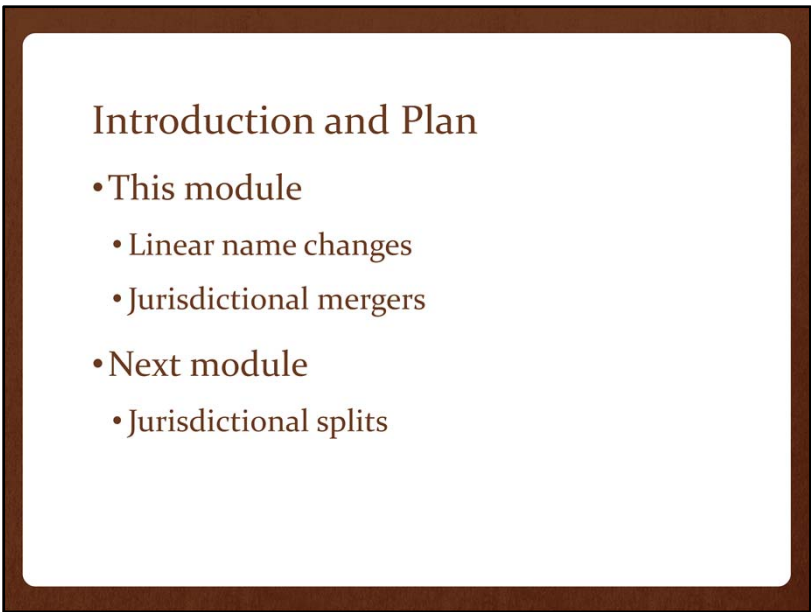
- Linear jurisdictional name changes
  - Territorial identity does not generally change
- Jurisdictional mergers and splits
  - Territorial identity generally changes
- Subject policy does not affect descriptive policy and practice

Most jurisdictions in the world – countries, states, provinces, cities, and so on – have a single name throughout their existence. However, names of jurisdictions do change for political reasons, to honor people or events, or for other reasons. In LCSH, these kinds of changes are called linear name changes, and the territorial identity – that is, the land area covered by the jurisdiction – does not typically change.

On the other hand, jurisdictions sometimes are split into two or more new jurisdictions, or they merge with other jurisdictions. As you might imagine, the territorial identity *does* change when there is a merger or a split.

Linear name changes and splits and mergers sometimes require that the access point established in the Name Authority File be revised, and at other times a new access point is created in addition to the access point that already exists for the earlier jurisdiction.

Please keep in mind that the subject policy for cataloging resources about jurisdictions that have undergone a name change, a split, or a merger, sometimes prohibits the use of former names. But it does not affect the descriptive access points. Therefore, the descriptive entry may be different from the subject headings assigned to any given resource.



Introduction and Plan

- This module
  - Linear name changes
  - Jurisdictional mergers
- Next module
  - Jurisdictional splits

This module will cover the rules for assigning jurisdictions as subject headings when there has been a linear name change or a jurisdictional merger.

The next module will explain the rules for assigning geographic headings when a jurisdiction splits into two or more new jurisdictions.

**Linear Name Changes**

**From H 708, Linear Jurisdictional Name Changes in Name Authority Records**

It is subject cataloging policy to assign as a subject heading or as a geographic subdivision, only the latest name of a political jurisdiction that has had one or more earlier names, as long as the territorial identity remains essentially unchanged.

First we will talk about linear name changes.

The instructions are found in H 708, Linear Jurisdictional Name Changes in Name Authority Records. It begins:

It is subject cataloging policy to assign as a subject heading or as a geographic subdivision, only the latest name of a political jurisdiction that has had one or more earlier names, as long as the territorial identity remains essentially unchanged.

To put it another way, older names of jurisdictions are not used as subject headings or as geographic subdivisions.

**Linear Name Changes**

- **Example 1**
  - In 1995, Bombay, India, was renamed to Mumbai
  - An authority record exists for each name
  - Use only **Mumbai (India)** as a subject heading

A history of Bombay in the 1980s  
*Subject heading:* **Mumbai (India)—History—  
20th century.**

For example, Bombay, India, was renamed Mumbai in 1995, and the territorial identity did not change.

All resources about Mumbai are assigned a subject heading or subdivision for Mumbai, regardless of the time period covered.

**Linear Name Changes**

- Example 2
  - In 1964, Northern Rhodesia became independent and was renamed Zambia
  - An authority record exists for each name
  - Use only **Zambia** as a subject heading

The economic conditions of Northern Rhodesia  
*Subject heading:* **Zambia—Economic conditions.**

Here is another example. In 1964, Northern Rhodesia became independent and was renamed Zambia. As with Mumbai, there is an authority record for each name, but only the latest name can be used a subject heading.

Therefore, a resource about Northern Rhodesia would be assigned the heading **Zambia**.

## Linear Name Changes

- Example 3

- In 1945, the German village of Wormditt was transferred to Poland and became Ornetta
- An authority record exists for each name
- Use only **Ornetta (Poland)** as a subject heading

A history of Wormditt through 1945

*Subject heading:* **Ornetta (Poland)—History.**

Sometimes the local place name and the jurisdiction in the qualifier both change. Again, the latest name is used for subject cataloging purposes.

As part of the Potsdam Agreement in 1945, the German village of Wormditt was transferred to Poland and is now called Ornetta. In this case, an authority record exists for each of the two names; but only **Ornetta (Poland)** is used as a subject heading.

## Linear Name Changes

- Example 4
  - In 1991, the Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic became Tajikistan, an independent country
    - Town of Stalinabad renamed Dushanbe
  - Authorized access points
    - Stalinabad (Tajik S.S.R.)**
    - Dushanbe (Tajikistan)**
  - Subject heading: **Dushanbe (Tajikistan)**

A similar situation happened when the Soviet Union collapsed. New countries were formed, and local place names were changed.

For example, Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic became an independent country called Tajikistan. The town of Stalinabad was understandably renamed to Dushanbe. An authorized access point exists for each name. Only the later name is used for subject cataloging purposes.



### Linear Name Changes

- Use of current name
  - Sometimes looks anachronistic
  - Collocates all resources on the place
  - Assists users who do not know the earlier name (or maybe even that there *was* an earlier name)

Using only the current name in subject cataloging can look anachronistic, and LCSH is sometimes criticized for the practice, so why do we do it that way?

For linear name changes the current name is used primarily because of the purpose of subject cataloging, which is to collocate materials on the same topic.

In the case of a linear name change, the territorial identity does not change; therefore, regardless of whether the place is called Bombay or Mumbai, or Northern Rhodesia or Zambia, or Wormditt or Ornetta, the place itself is the same. It is considered an advantage for users to find all of the materials about the place – regardless of the name of the place – without having to search each individual name.

There is another important point, here, which is that memories are short.

Do most people in the United States know that Zambia was once called Northern Rhodesia? Because it was a more recent change, more people are likely to know about the switch from Bombay to Mumbai, but even that wouldn't hit 100 percent.

**Jurisdictional Mergers**

From H 710, Jurisdictional Mergers and Splits

*I. General principles.* For situations where jurisdictions have merged or split, various headings may be appropriate depending on the area and the time period being discussed. In general, assign subject headings that correspond to the physical extent of the area being discussed.

The situation is different when a jurisdiction has merged with another one.

The general principle as provided in H 710, Jurisdictional Mergers and Splits, is:

For situations where jurisdictions have merged or split, various headings may be appropriate depending on the area and the time period being discussed. In general, assign subject headings that correspond to the physical extent of the area being discussed.

We will talk about mergers here, and splits in the next module.

**Jurisdictional Mergers**

- Assign the heading that corresponds to the territory discussed in the resource
  - Example 1
    - In 1873, the cities of Buda and Pest, Hungary, merged to form Budapest
  
    - A resource that covers Budapest since 2000
    - A resource that covers Buda and Pest in the 1700s
    - Heading: **Budapest (Hungary)**

For mergers, we assign the heading that corresponds to the physical territory discussed in the resource. It is easiest to explain this by showing you examples.

In 1873, Buda and Pest, Hungary combined to form Budapest, Hungary. Say that you are cataloging a book about Budapest in the 21st century. Hopefully it is clear that you would assign **Budapest (Hungary)** as a subject.

It may not be as clear that you would assign **Budapest (Hungary)** if the resource were about Buda and Pest during the pre-merger period. You do, though, because you are looking at the territory being discussed, and not the names of the jurisdictions.

If you think about it a moment, it does make sense. Some resources about Buda and Pest together during the pre-merger period refer to them separately, but it is just as likely that resources will refer to Budapest if they are covering the entire area now known as Budapest – even if using that name is anachronistic.

Now let's talk about resources that cover either Buda or Pest, but not both.

**Jurisdictional Mergers**

- Assign the heading that corresponds to the territory discussed in the resource
  - Example 1

In 1873, the cities of Buda and Pest, Hungary, merged to form Budapest

A resource that covers the territory formerly known as Buda since 2000

A resource that covers Buda in the 1700s

*Heading: **Buda (Hungary)***

Say that you have a resource that discusses Buda in the 1700s. The heading should be obvious: **Buda (Hungary)**.

But **Buda (Hungary)** is also assigned to a resource about the post-merger period if it discusses the territory formerly known as Buda even though Buda no longer exists as a political entity.

Again, you are looking for the territory being discussed, not the name of that territory.

Let's look at another example.

**Jurisdictional Mergers**

- Assign the heading that corresponds to the territory discussed in the resource
  - Example 2
    - Italy unified in 1861, but continued to annex territory until 1870
    - A resource on the history of Italy in 1850
    - A resource on the history of Italy in 1862
    - Heading: **Italy***

Italy did not unify until 1861, but resources about the territory now known as Italy are assigned the heading **Italy** regardless of whether they cover the period before unification or the period after unification.

**Jurisdictional Mergers**

- Assign the heading that corresponds to the territory discussed in the resource
  - Example 2
    - Italy unified in 1861, but continued to annex territory until 1870
    - A resource on the history of Lombardy in 1850
    - A resource on the history of Lombardy in 1880
    - Heading: **Lombardy (Italy)***

But if the resource is about one of the territories that merged to become Italy, such as Lombardy, the heading **Lombardy (Italy)** is assigned regardless of the time period covered.

Of course, in a case like this, the formerly independent jurisdiction may have continued to exist even after it was incorporated into a larger jurisdiction. It may have changed its name, though, so check for a linear name change and assign the current name. Lombardy's name has not changed in all these years.



**Jurisdictional Mergers**

- Assign the heading that corresponds to the territory discussed in the resource
  - Example 2  
Italy unified in 1861, but continued to annex territory until 1870  
  
A resource on Italy and the Papal States in 1865  
*Headings: **Italy—Relations—Papal States.**  
**Papal States—Relations—Italy.***

Now we would like to explain why the example on the slide indicates that Italy continued to annex territory even after unifying.

Descriptive cataloging practice is to use a single authorized access point for a jurisdiction as long as its name has not changed, even if the territory has grown or shrunk.

The policy on subject headings leaves it up to cataloger's judgment.

A resource that is clearly about the relationship between the Papal States and Italy before Italy annexed them in 1870 would be assigned a heading for each.

**Jurisdictional Mergers**

- Assign the heading that corresponds to the territory discussed in the resource
  - Example 2  
Italy unified in 1861, but continued to annex territory until 1870  
  
A resource on Italy in 1865 (does not include the Papal States)  
*Heading: **Italy***

But a resource on Italy in 1865, before it acquired its current borders, would be assigned **Italy**, even though the territorial extent does not exactly conform to what we today call Italy.



**Jurisdictional Mergers**

- Assign the heading that corresponds to the territory discussed in the resource
  - Example 3
    - The United States originally had 13 states; it now has 50 states
    - A resource on the colonies that became the U.S.
    - A resource on the United States in 1789
    - A resource on the United States in 2016
    - Heading: **United States***

Let's look at one more example.

The United States originally consisted of 13 colonies, which became independent from England in 1783. The thirteen colonies became the thirteen original states of the United States. Additional states were added over time, with the 50<sup>th</sup> state, Hawaii, being added in 1959.

Regardless of whether the resource is on the thirteen colonies that eventually won independence, the thirteen original states, or the current 50 states, or something in between, the heading **United States** is assigned – as long as the resource is about the United States as a whole, whatever the “whole” was in the time period covered by the resource.

Resources about the individual states or other places that make up the United States are assigned headings appropriate to that place.

So far, we have seen that linear name changes are pretty uncomplicated: we use the latest name as the subject.

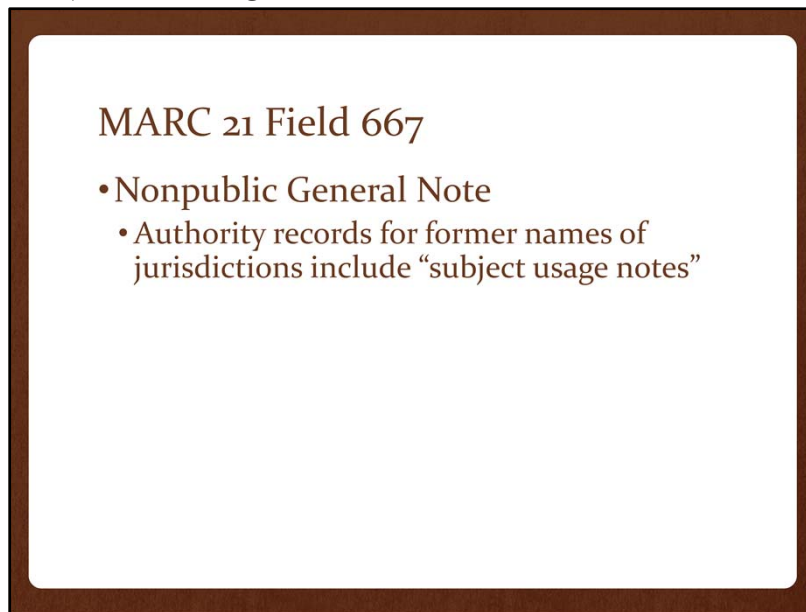
Mergers are also pretty straightforward; we use the name of the jurisdiction that corresponds to the geographic territory under discussion. If a jurisdiction has gained territory over time, cataloger's judgement and the scope of the resource apply.

### Confused?

- Refer to instruction sheets
  - H 708, Linear Jurisdictional Name Changes in Name Authority Records
  - H 710, Jurisdictional Mergers and Splits, sec. 1 and 2
- Consult subject usage notes in the name authority records
  - For linear name changes

If you find yourself confused at this point, you are not alone! But the *Subject Headings Manual* instruction sheets are there for you to consult as often as necessary, and there are also subject usage notes in many of the authority records for jurisdictions that have undergone a linear name change or merger.

We are trying throughout this training to avoid talking about authority records or bibliographic records, or the MARC format. For the next few moments, though, we need to do just that, because the authority records for the former names of jurisdictions include information that will make your life easier when assigning subject headings.



MARC 21 Field 667

- Nonpublic General Note
  - Authority records for former names of jurisdictions include “subject usage notes”

The MARC 21 Authority Format includes a field for catalogers’ notes.

The 667 field is formally called the Nonpublic General Note, and it often includes information about the subject use of jurisdictions that have undergone a linear name change or merger.

The notes appear in the records for the former names of jurisdictions.

MARC 21 Field 667

- Nonpublic General Note
  - Authority records for former names of jurisdictions include “subject usage notes”

**Bombay (India)**  
667 ## \$a SUBJECT USAGE: This heading is not valid for use as a subject. Works about this place are entered under Mumbai (India).

For example, the record for **Bombay (India)** includes this note:

“SUBJECT USAGE: This heading is not valid for use as a subject. Works about this place are entered under **Mumbai (India)**.”

MARC 21 Field 667

- Nonpublic General Note
  - Authority records for former names of jurisdictions include “subject usage notes”

**Northern Rhodesia**  
667 ## \$a SUBJECT USAGE: This heading is not valid for use as a subject. Works about this place are entered under Zambia.

The record for Northern Rhodesia says the same thing, but with the place name changed.

**MARC 21 Field 667**

- **Nonpublic General Note**
  - Authority records for former names of jurisdictions include “subject usage notes”

**Bohemia (Kingdom)**  
667 ## \$a SUBJECT USAGE: This heading is not valid for use as a subject. Works about this place are entered under the subject heading Bohemia (Czech Republic)

These types of notes also exist to explain what to use when territory is incorporated into another country, as happened with the Kingdom of Bohemia. Resources about it are assigned the heading **Bohemia (Czech Republic)**.

You may be asking yourself, if the information is in the authority record, why did I have to spend all of this time learning the rules?

Well, the answer is pretty simple. Sometimes the subject usage note is missing, and you have to know whether you can use the jurisdiction as a subject heading or not.

Plus, some of you may create authority records for jurisdictions, or may do so someday. If that is the case, you will be expected to include a 667 subject usage note if you use LCSH and if the field is pertinent.

Change in Name of Larger Jurisdiction

- Use the access point as authorized
  - Authorized access point  
**Colombo (Sri Lanka)**
  - Resource about Colombo when Sri Lanka was called Ceylon  
*Heading: Colombo (Sri Lanka)*

We want to make one more brief point about mergers and linear name changes before we conclude this module. This point also applies to jurisdictional splits, and will be repeated in the next module.

Sometimes the name of the jurisdiction in the qualifier changes, but the name of the local place remains unchanged. In that case, RDA indicates that the qualifier on the authorized access should reflect the current name of the larger jurisdiction. We use the heading as authorized for subject cataloging purposes, even if it is anachronistic.

Colombo is a city in Sri Lanka, and Sri Lanka was previously called Ceylon. There is a single authorized access point for Colombo. Regardless of whether the resource is about Colombo when the country was called Ceylon or Sri Lanka, the heading assigned is the same: **Colombo (Sri Lanka)**.

The goal is to keep all of the information about a jurisdiction together, regardless of the name of the larger jurisdiction, because doing so is an aid for users.