
Library of Congress Subject Headings

Module 4.11
Jurisdictional Splits

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Library of Congress
October 2016

Recap and Plan

- Previous module
 - Linear jurisdictional name changes
 - Jurisdictional mergers
- This module
 - Jurisdictional splits
- Subject policy does not affect descriptive policy and practice

In the previous module we discussed the subject assignment policies for jurisdictions that have undergone a linear name change, like Mumbai, India, and those that have undergone a merger like Budapest, Hungary.

In this module, we will discuss the rules for assigning subject headings for jurisdictional splits.

As we noted in the previous module, subject policy sometimes prohibits the use of former names, but that does not affect the descriptive access points. Therefore, the descriptive entry may be different from the subject headings assigned to any given resource.

The rules for jurisdictional splits are a bit more involved than the rules for mergers and linear name changes, so we thought it would be a good idea to address them separately.

Name of Earlier Jurisdiction *Not*
Retained by a Later Jurisdiction

- Resource covers the pre-split period
 - Use the heading for the pre-split jurisdiction
 - Example
Czechoslovakia was formed in 1918; in 1993, it split into Czech Republic and Slovakia

Resource about Czechoslovakia in the 1920s
Heading: **Czechoslovakia**

When cataloging a resource about a jurisdiction that split into two or more new ones, it is important to know whether the name of the earlier jurisdiction was or was not reused for one of the post-split jurisdictions.

We will first discuss cases in which the name of the earlier jurisdiction was *not* reused by one of the later jurisdictions.

So, if the resource covers the pre-split time period, then the heading for the pre-split jurisdiction is assigned.

Czechoslovakia was formed in 1918 and broke up into two countries, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, in 1993.

A resource about Czechoslovakia from the period of 1918-1993 would be assigned the heading **Czechoslovakia**.

**Name of Earlier Jurisdiction *Not*
Retained by a Later Jurisdiction**

- **Resource covers the post-split period**

For the area corresponding to the pre-split jurisdiction, assign the heading for the pre-split jurisdiction if the name is still in use for the region. If the former jurisdictional name is no longer in common use as a name for the region, assign an equivalent subject heading, or assign the headings for the post-split jurisdictions. For an area corresponding to one of the post-split jurisdictions, assign the heading for the post-split jurisdiction.

What if the resource is about the post-split period, but discusses the geographic territory that used to be controlled by the single jurisdiction?

The SHM says,

For the area corresponding to the pre-split jurisdiction, assign the heading for the pre-split jurisdiction if the name is still in use for the region. If the former jurisdictional name is no longer in common use as a name for the region, assign an equivalent subject heading, or assign the headings for the post-split jurisdictions. For an area corresponding to one of the post-split jurisdictions, assign the heading for the post-split jurisdiction.

That’s a lot of information in a rather short paragraph. Let’s look more closely at each of the three options.

**Name of Earlier Jurisdiction *Not*
Retained by a Later Jurisdiction**

- Resource covers the post-split period

For the area corresponding to the pre-split jurisdiction, assign the heading for the pre-split jurisdiction if the name is still in use for the region. If the former jurisdictional name is no longer in common use as a name for the region, assign an equivalent subject heading, or assign the headings for the post-split jurisdictions. For an area corresponding to one of the post-split jurisdictions, assign the heading for the post-split jurisdiction.

First, if the name of the pre-split jurisdiction is still used for the area, we should use the heading for the pre-split jurisdiction for a resource about that area.

Name of Earlier Jurisdiction *Not*
Retained by a Later Jurisdiction

- Resource covers the post-split period
 - Name of pre-split jurisdiction is still used for the area
 - Example
 - The Lado Enclave, Congo Free State, was divided between Sudan and Uganda in 1912
 - The non-jurisdictional region is still called the Lado Enclave
 - Heading: Lado Enclave (Congo Free State)*

For example, the Lado Enclave was a jurisdiction during the period when Central Africa was colonized by England and Belgium. It went through various territorial and governmental shifts due to treaties and land swaps, but in 1912 it ceased to exist as a jurisdiction when it was divided between South Sudan and Uganda.

The non-jurisdictional region is still called the Lado Enclave, so resources about the post-split period should be assigned the heading **Lado Enclave**, qualified by **(Congo Free State)**.

Name of Earlier Jurisdiction *Not*
Retained by a Later Jurisdiction

- Resource covers the post-split period

For the area corresponding to the pre-split jurisdiction, assign the heading for the pre-split jurisdiction if the name is still in use for the region. If the former jurisdictional name is no longer in common use as a name for the region, assign an equivalent subject heading, or assign the headings for the post-split jurisdictions. For an area corresponding to one of the post-split jurisdictions, assign the heading for the post-split jurisdiction.

But if the former jurisdictional name is not still in use for the region, the situation is different. We should assign an equivalent subject heading if there is one.

Name of Earlier Jurisdiction *Not*
Retained by a Later Jurisdiction

- Resource covers the post-split period
 - Name of pre-split jurisdiction is not still in use for the area
- Example
 - The Soviet Union existed from 1922-1991
 - The non-jurisdictional region is not called the Soviet Union

*Heading: **Former Soviet republics***

The most obvious 20th century example of this situation is the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union existed between 1922 and 1991, and it was composed of member republics.

Resources about the Soviet Union between 1922 and 1991 should be assigned the jurisdictional heading **Soviet Union**.

Resources about the ex-Soviet republics collectively should be assigned the subject heading **Former Soviet republics**.

The scope note for the subject heading says,

Here are entered works discussing collectively the independent countries that emerged from the dissolution of the former Soviet Union in 1991.

The subject heading is therefore equivalent in territory to the former jurisdiction and the former jurisdictional name, Soviet Union, is no longer used to refer to that territory.

**Name of Earlier Jurisdiction *Not*
Retained by a Later Jurisdiction**

- Resource covers the post-split period

For the area corresponding to the pre-split jurisdiction, assign the heading for the pre-split jurisdiction if the name is still in use for the region. If the former jurisdictional name is no longer in common use as a name for the region, assign an equivalent subject heading, or assign the headings for the post-split jurisdictions. For an area corresponding to one of the post-split jurisdictions, assign the heading for the post-split jurisdiction.

The third – and most common – situation is that the name of the former jurisdiction is not still in use, and there is no corresponding subject heading.

When resources are about the geographic area that used to be the jurisdiction, we need to assign the headings for all of the post-split jurisdictions.

Name of Earlier Jurisdiction *Not*
Retained by a Later Jurisdiction

- Resource covers the post-split period
 - Name of pre-split jurisdiction is not still in use for the area
 - Example
 - Czechoslovakia existed from 1918-1993
 - The non-jurisdictional region is not still called Czechoslovakia
 - Headings: **Czech Republic; Slovakia***

Let's go back to the example of Czechoslovakia. The name Czechoslovakia does not continue to be used, and there is no subject heading that is equivalent, so when a resource discusses the post-split period of the territory that was formerly called Czechoslovakia, we have to assign the headings for both the **Czech Republic** and **Slovakia**.

The name heading **Czechoslovakia** remains valid, but only for the 1918-1993 period.

*Name of Earlier Jurisdiction Retained
by a Later Jurisdiction*

- **Example**
In 1861, West Virginia split from Virginia; the name Virginia was retained
- **Pre-split coverage**
 - Resource about Virginia in 1857
 - Use the heading for the pre-split jurisdiction
 - *Heading: **Virginia***

Now let's turn our attention to splits in which one of the jurisdictions retains the name of the former jurisdiction. The jurisdiction that retains the name now encompasses a smaller territory than before.

We will be working with the example of Virginia and West Virginia. They were originally one state called Virginia, but the northwestern portion of Virginia split off in 1861 and took the name West Virginia. The rest of the former state continues to use the name Virginia to this day.

If the resource is about the entire territory of Virginia during the pre-1861 years, then assign the heading for the pre-split territory, **Virginia**.

*Name of Earlier Jurisdiction Retained
by a Later Jurisdiction*

- **Example**
In 1861, West Virginia split from Virginia; the name Virginia was retained
- **Pre-split coverage**
 - Resource about the area that came to be West Virginia in 1857
 - Use the heading for the post-split jurisdiction
 - *Heading:* **West Virginia**

If the resource is about the area that became West Virginia, and it is about the time before West Virginia split from Virginia, then you should assign the heading **West Virginia**, although the state did not actually exist yet.

The idea is to provide collocation for all of the resources about that land area, regardless of the time period under discussion.

Name of Earlier Jurisdiction *Retained*
by a Later Jurisdiction

- Example
In 1861, West Virginia split from Virginia; the name Virginia was retained
- Pre-split coverage
 - Resource about the area that came to be today's Virginia
 - Use the heading for the post-split jurisdiction
 - *Heading:* **Virginia**

Likewise, if the resource is about the pre-split land area that corresponds to the land area of the current state of Virginia, you would use the heading **Virginia**.

Name of Earlier Jurisdiction *Retained*
by a Later Jurisdiction

- Example
In 1861, West Virginia split from Virginia; the name Virginia was retained
- Post-split coverage
 - Assign headings corresponding to the post-split jurisdictions
 - Resource about today's Virginia
 - *Heading: Virginia*

Now let's move on to resources that cover the post-split period.

If the resource covers only one of the post-split jurisdictions, assign the heading for the post-split jurisdiction.

So a resource about Virginia in the 20th century would be assigned **Virginia**.

Name of Earlier Jurisdiction *Retained*
by a Later Jurisdiction

- Example
In 1861, West Virginia split from Virginia; the name Virginia was retained
- Post-split coverage
 - Assign headings corresponding to the post-split jurisdictions
 - Resource about today's West Virginia
 - *Heading:* **West Virginia**

And one about West Virginia would be assigned **West Virginia**.

Name of Earlier Jurisdiction *Retained*
by a Later Jurisdiction

- Example
In 1861, West Virginia split from Virginia; the name Virginia was retained
- Post-split coverage
 - Assign headings corresponding to the post-split jurisdictions
 - Resource about today's Virginia and West Virginia, collectively
 - *Headings:* **Virginia**; **West Virginia**

If it is about 20th century Virginia and 20th century West Virginia, treated collectively, then headings for each one of those states would be assigned.

Confused?

- Refer to the instruction sheets
 - H 710, Jurisdictional Mergers and Splits, sec. 3
 - Practice for some jurisdictions is covered in other instruction sheets
 - H 945, Germany
 - H 1023, Soviet Union
 - H 1055, Yugoslavia

It is likely that you are quite confused by now. That is not surprising, because of the various rules for specific circumstances. And that is also why there is help available in the SHM. H 710 section 3 discusses all of the rules that we covered in this module.

In the previous module we indicated that there are subject usage notes in some name authority records for jurisdictions that have undergone mergers and linear name changes. Unfortunately, those types of notes are rare-to-nonexistent in the records for jurisdictions that have split. Although such notes may be helpful in some cases, the notes would often be confusing because all of the situations – pre- v. post-split coverage, equivalent subject headings, and so on – would need to be covered.

Therefore, the best thing you can do when you encounter a jurisdiction that has split is to read instruction sheet H 710.

The SHM also provides individual instruction sheets for some especially tricky situations, such as Germany, Yugoslavia, and the Soviet Union, and those sheets are particularly helpful for those countries.

Change in Name of Larger Jurisdiction

- Use the access point as authorized
 - Former authorized access point
Prague (Czechoslovakia)
 - Current authorized access point
Prague (Czech Republic)
- Resource about Prague when it was part of Czechoslovakia
Heading: Prague (Czech Republic)
- Resource about Prague before 1918
Heading: Prague (Czech Republic)

We want to make one final point about jurisdictional splits, and we made it in the module on linear name changes and mergers, too.

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 point should be adjusted. We use the heading as authorized for subject cataloging purposes, even if it is anachronistic.

We have talked in this module about the dissolving of Czechoslovakia into Czech Republic and Slovakia. Prague was the largest city in Czechoslovakia, and remains the largest city in the Czech Republic.

It used to be established as Prague, qualified by Czechoslovakia, but is now established as **Prague (Czech Republic)**.

Resources about Prague since the split are clearly assigned **Prague (Czech Republic)**, but so are resources about Prague when it was in Czechoslovakia. And the same heading is assigned even to resources from before the creation of Czechoslovakia.