Library of Congress Subject Headings

Module 4.5
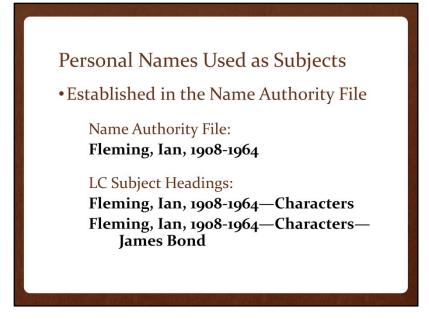Personal Names as Subject Headings

Recap and Plan

- Most personal names can be used as subjects
  - Exception: persons who have more than one bibliographic identity
- This module
  - More discussion and examples
  - Subdivisions used with personal names

In Module 4.4, Introduction to Descriptive Access Points as Subject Headings, we provided an overview of the use of personal names as subject headings, and the one exception to that general rule.

In this module we will provide more details along with numerous examples. We will also briefly provide some information about using subdivisions with personal names.

This module does not cover headings for individual fictitious characters, legendary characters, deities, and mythological figures. It also does not cover headings for individually named animals, like the racehorse Seabiscuit.
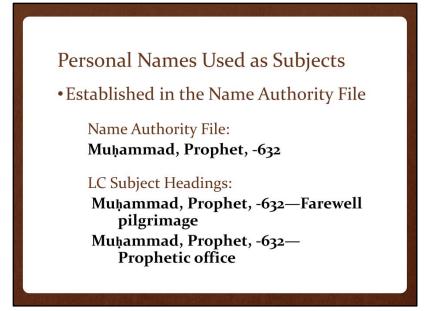
These non-human entities are now established in the Name Authority File instead of in LCSH, and a separate module provides details about them.

Personal Names Used as Subjects

- Established in the Name Authority File

Name Authority File:
Fleming, Ian, 1908-1964

LC Subject Headings:
Fleming, Ian, 1908-1964—Characters
Fleming, Ian, 1908-1964—Characters—James Bond

Authorized access points for personal names are established in the Name Authority File, not in LCSH. Some personal names do appear in LCSH when it is necessary to establish subdivisions for them, but the heading is copied from the NAF.

For example, the access point for Ian Fleming, the creator of the fictional spy James Bond, can be found in the Name Authority File.

His name appears twice in LCSH, to establish the subdivisions **–Characters** and **–Characters—James Bond.**

Personal Names Used as Subjects

• Established in the Name Authority File

Name Authority File:
Muḥammad, Prophet, -632

LC Subject Headings:
Muḥammad, Prophet, -632—Farewell pilgrimage
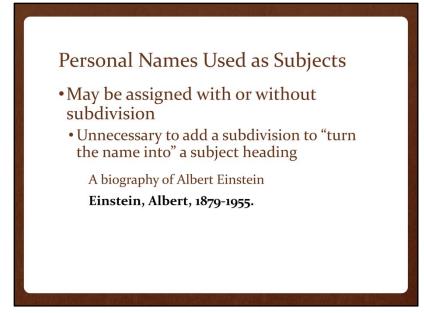**Muḥammad, Prophet, -632— Prophetic office**

Other personal names are included in LCSH in order to establish subdivisions that are unique to that person.

For example, the heading for the Prophet Muhammad is established in the NAF, and the subdivision **–Farewell pilgrimage** needed to be established for use under his name.
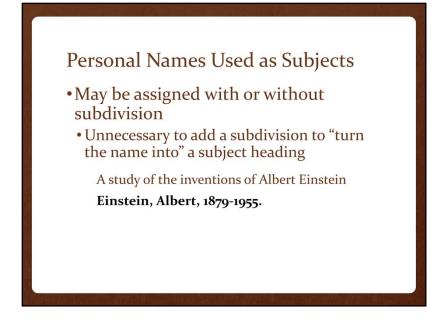
This is the only time that the subdivision **–Farewell pilgrimage** appears in LCSH. The subdivision **–Prophetic office** also had to be established.

You should always search the NAF to double-check a personal name heading that appears in LCSH before you assign it, because the form of the name may have changed. The LCSH copy of the access point is not automatically updated when the NAF is, so it may be out of date.

Personal Names Used as Subjects

- May be assigned with or without subdivision
  - Unnecessary to add a subdivision to "turn the name into" a subject heading

    A biography of Albert Einstein

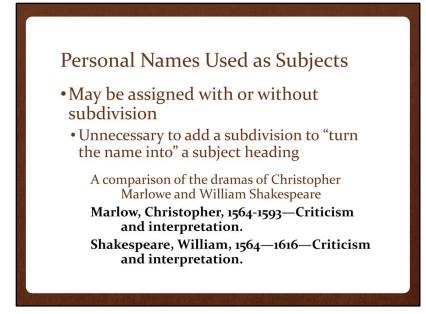   **Einstein, Albert, 1879-1955.**

Personal names may be assigned with or without subdivision, depending on the focus of the resource.

For example, a general biography of Albert Einstein would be assigned his authorized access point without subdivisions.

Personal Names Used as Subjects

- May be assigned with or without subdivision
  - Unnecessary to add a subdivision to "turn the name into" a subject heading

    A study of the inventions of Albert Einstein

    Einstein, Albert, 1879-1955.

Likewise, a resource about Albert Einstein's inventions is assigned Einstein's authorized access point unsubdivided.

Personal Names Used as Subjects
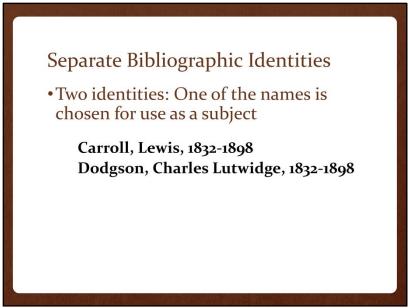
• May be assigned with or without subdivision
    • Unnecessary to add a subdivision to "turn the name into" a subject heading

    A comparison of the dramas of Christopher Marlowe and William Shakespeare

    Marlow, Christopher, 1564-1593—Criticism and interpretation.

    Shakespeare, William, 1564—1616—Criticism and interpretation.

But this resource about the plays of Christopher Marlowe and William Shakespeare is assigned the name heading for each dramatist, and each is subdivided.

Why are the headings for Marlowe and Shakespeare subdivided, but not the heading for Einstein?

Well, the subdivision **–Criticism and interpretation** is used only for critical studies of the works of people active in the fine arts, literature, music, and the performing arts.

Since Einstein was a scientist and inventor, he does not qualify.

In the same way, a biography of Marlowe would be about his life, and not be a critical study of his plays. The name heading for Marlow would be assigned without subdivision in that case.

Separate Bibliographic Identities

- Two identities: One of the names is chosen for use as a subject

  Carroll, Lewis, 1832-1898
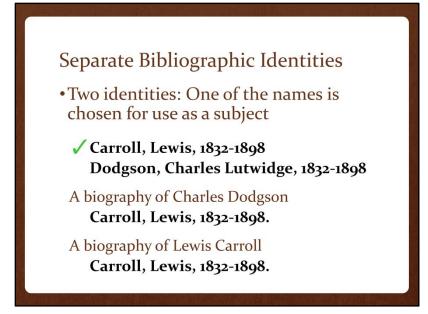 **Dodgson, Charles Lutwidge, 1832-1898**

Some people have multiple bibliographic identities, meaning that a person uses two or more names when creating resources. Each of those names is a separate bibliographic identity.

When a person has two or more bibliographic identities, one of the names is chosen as the subject heading under which all resources about the person are cataloged.

Charles Dodgson was a mathematician and philosopher, and published nonfiction under his real name.

He wrote children's books, including *Alice in Wonderland*, under the pen name Lewis Carroll.

Separate Bibliographic Identities

- Two identities: One of the names is chosen for use as a subject

✓ **Carroll, Lewis, 1832-1898**
   Dodgson, Charles Lutwidge, 1832-1898

A biography of Charles Dodgson
   Carroll, Lewis, 1832-1898.

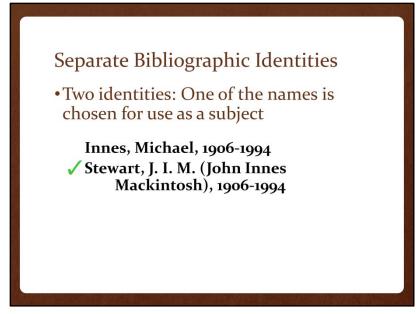A biography of Lewis Carroll
   Carroll, Lewis, 1832-1898.

He is better known under his pen name, so all resources about him are entered under the subject heading **Carroll, Lewis, 1832-1898**.

As you can see, all of the resources about him are assigned the same heading, regardless of the name used in the resource.

There are not any written rules about which heading to use when an author has only two bibliographic identities. In general, the name by which the author is most well known is used, and that is usually determined by the preponderance of the titles. However, other criteria may be taken into account.

For instance, if the author has a bestseller under one of the names but not the other, the name used on the bestseller may be used as the subject.
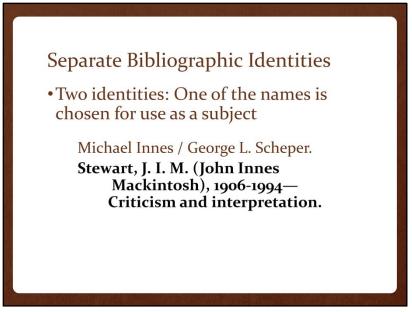
Other times it is based on the first resource cataloged about the author; the bibliographic identity the resource is about is chosen as the subject entry.

Separate Bibliographic Identities

• Two identities: One of the names is chosen for use as a subject

Innes, Michael, 1906-1994
✓ Stewart, J. I. M. (John Innes Mackintosh), 1906-1994

When both of the identities are literary authors, the decision is often based on the author's classification number.
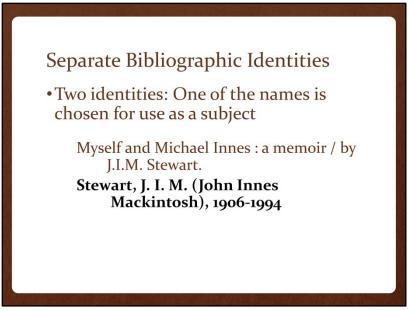
In Library of Congress classification, all works by a single literary author are classed in the same place, even if different names are used on the literary works. For example, J. I. M. Stewart published literary criticism and contemporary novels under his own name, and crime fiction under his pseudonym, Michael Innes.

All of his fiction – published under the name J. I. M. Stewart and under the Michael Innes – is classed in Stewart's number.

Separate Bibliographic Identities

- Two identities: One of the names is chosen for use as a subject

Michael Innes / George L. Scheper.
Stewart, J. I. M. (John Innes Mackintosh), 1906-1994— Criticism and interpretation.

The first resource about Stewart/Innes that LC acquired was literary criticism titled *Michael Innes* by George L. Scheper.

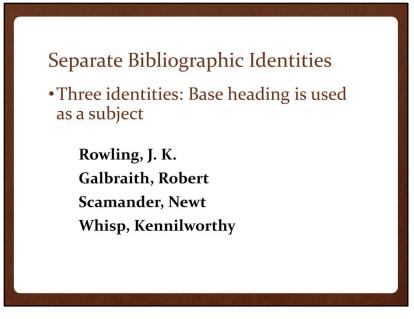Despite its title, it was given the subject heading **Stewart, J. I. M. (John Innes Mackintosh), 1906-1994—Criticism and interpretation** to match the classification number.

Separate Bibliographic Identities

- Two identities: One of the names is chosen for use as a subject

Myself and Michael Innes : a memoir / by J.I.M. Stewart.

Stewart, J. I. M. (John Innes Mackintosh), 1906-1994

The next resource acquired was *called Myself and Michael Innes* by J. I. M. Stewart.

Despite the fact that it is about Stewart and Innes both, the only name assigned as a subject heading is Stewart's.
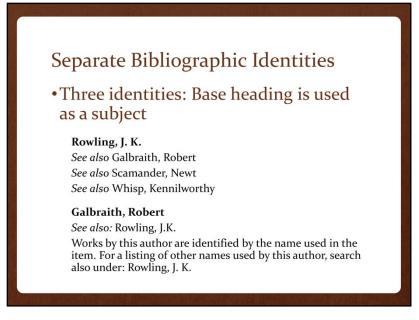
The heading for Innes cannot be assigned as a subject.

Separate Bibliographic Identities

- Three identities: Base heading is used as a subject

    Rowling, J. K.
    Galbraith, Robert
    Scamander, Newt
    Whisp, Kennilworthy

The situation is a bit different when there are three or more bibliographic identities, as in the case of J. K. Rowling, the author of the *Harry Potter* books.

She also writes adult novels under the pen name Robert Galbraith and *Harry Potter* spin-offs under the names Newt Scamander and Kennilworthy Whisp.
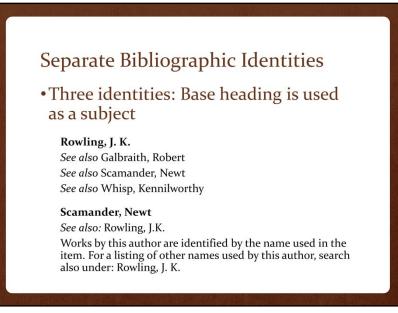
In cases such as this, the practice in the Name Authority File is to consider one of the names the "base heading," and that is where all of the references to the other names reside.

In our example, J. K. Rowling is the base heading.

The heading for Robert Galbraith is a dependent heading and the only see also reference is to J.K. Rowling, not to the other names.

Dependent headings can be identified by the cataloger's note that you see on your screen under *Galbraith, Robert*.

Separate Bibliographic Identities

- Three identities: Base heading is used as a subject

  Rowling, J. K.
  See also Galbraith, Robert
  See also Scamander, Newt
  See also Whisp, Kennilworthy

  Scamander, Newt
  See also: Rowling, J.K.
  Works by this author are identified by the name used in the item. For a listing of other names used by this author, search also under: Rowling, J. K.

The same reference and note appear in the record for Newt Scamander…

Separate Bibliographic Identities

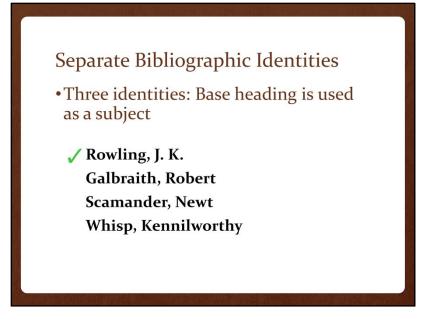- Three identities: Base heading is used as a subject

  Rowling, J. K.
  See also Galbraith, Robert
  See also Scamander, Newt
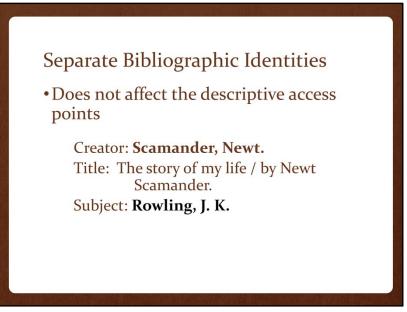 *See also* Whisp, Kennilworthy

  Whisp, Kennilworthy
  See also: Rowling, J.K.
  Works by this author are identified by the name used in the item. For a listing of other names used by this author, search also under: Rowling, J. K.

and the one for Kennilworthy Whisp.

Separate Bibliographic Identities

• Three identities: Base heading is used as a subject

✓ **Rowling, J. K.**
  Galbraith, Robert
  Scamander, Newt
  Whisp, Kennilworthy

Rowling, J.K. is therefore the heading that will be used on every resource about the author, regardless of what name is actually used in the resource itself.

We should make very clear that the choice of subject heading does not affect the descriptive access points that are assigned.

A seemingly outlandish and yet not unusual example should help make this clear.

Say that Newt Scamander writes an autobiography.

Descriptively speaking, it will be entered under the name used on the resource, Newt Scamander.

But the subject heading will be **Rowling, J. K.** because all resources about Newt Scamander are assigned the subject heading **Rowling, J. K.** to match the base heading.

The choice of a single heading for subject access purposes affects only biographical resources or general critical resources about the author.

Resources about an individual title by the author are assigned the name/title access point for the resource.

Scamander wrote a book entitled *Fantastic beasts and where to find them*. A resource about that book will be entered under the access point for the book: **Scamander, Newt. Fantastic beasts and where to find them**.
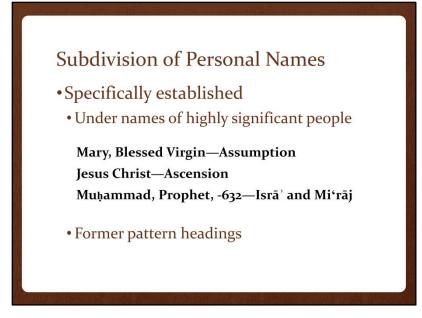
The resource about Newt Scamander in general is assigned the base heading **Rowling, J. K.** as the subject, while a resource about a book that Scamander wrote is entered under the appropriate name/title combination.

Subdivision of Personal Names

- Free-floating
  - H 1110, Names of Persons
  - H 1095, Free-Floating Subdivisions: Form and Topical Subdivisions of General Application
    - "Use under subjects"
    - "Use under names of individual persons"

As you have occasionally seen in this module, authorized access points for names that are used as subjects may sometimes be subdivided.

Most of the subdivisions used with names of people appear in the free-floating list of subdivisions for personal names, H 1110.

Subdivisions in H 1095, the list of topical and form subdivisions of general application, may also be used with personal names if they are marked "Use under subjects" or if the scope note otherwise indicates that the subdivision can be used with personal names.

Subdivision of Personal Names

- Specifically established
  - Under names of highly significant people

    Mary, Blessed Virgin—Assumption

    Jesus Christ—Ascension

    Muḥammad, Prophet, -632—Isrāʾ and Miʻrāj

  - Former pattern headings

Very few personal name headings appear in LCSH, and when they do, it is because a subdivision had to be specifically established.

New subdivisions are rarely established for an individual personal name, and when they are it is because an unusual subdivision had to be established under the name of a highly significant person.

For example, the subdivision **–Annunciation** was needed only under the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the concept of **–Ascension** has been needed only for Jesus Christ and Muhammad.

Many of the subdivisions that are established under an individual name are artifacts from a time when there were five separate lists of pattern subdivisions, one each for rulers and statesmen, musicians, philosophers, founders of religions, and literary authors.

For example, William Shakespeare was a pattern for literary authors, so there are a lot of subdivisions established specifically under his name.

If you need a subdivision that is not specifically established, you should check H 1110.

We will explain how to use pattern and free-floating subdivisions in Unit 6.