Library of Congress
Subject Headings

Module 4.6
Non-Human Entities as Subject Headings

Policy and Standards Division
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Non-Human Entities

- Established in LCSH until 2013, now established in the Name Authority File
  - Individual fictitious characters
  - Individual mythological beings
  - Individual deities
  - Individual legendary characters
  - Animals with proper names

Non-human entities are defined as fictitious characters, mythological figures, deities, legendary characters, and animals with proper names.

RDA allows these entities to be established as personal names, since they can be presented as creators of resources.

These entities had always been established as topical LC subject headings, so the Library of Congress had to decide what to do. Should they continue to be established in LCSH, or should they change addresses, so to speak, and move to the NAF?

In 2013, the decision was made that going forward, all individual fictitious characters, mythological figures, deities, and legendary characters should be established in the NAF, and so should animals with proper names.

Non-Human Entities

- Still established in LCSH
  - Groups of fictitious characters
  - Groups of mythological beings
  - Groups of deities
  - Groups of legendary characters

Groups of fictitious characters, mythological figures, deities, and legendary characters are still established as topics in LCSH.

In this module we will discuss the impact of this policy change on cataloging.

Most of the changes have to do with searching for headings to assign, but the form of heading is sometimes different.

Plus, the free-floating subdivisions that are assigned with headings for non-human entities are different from those assigned with personal names, so we will discuss that, too.

Split File

- LCSH statistics, as of June 2016
  - Over 4,300 individual fictitious characters
  - Over 300 individual mythological beings
  - Over 280 individual legendary characters
  - Over 490 individual deities
  - Unknown number of animals with proper names

First, you need to be aware that as of June 2016, there has not been a special project to remove existing headings from LCSH and re-establish them in the NAF. As of June 2016, there are still over 6,500 headings that need to be cancelled from LCSH.
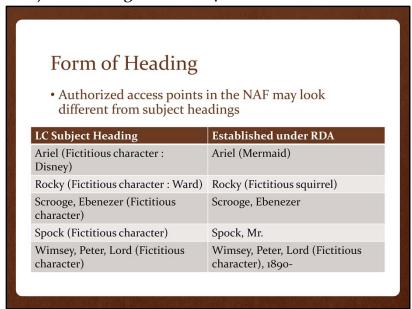
Split File

- Newly established individual non-human entities
  - Establish in the Name Authority File
- Individual non-human entities already established in LCSH
  - Catalogers are encouraged to make a name authority record and cancel the subject

No new headings of this type are being established in LCSH. Instead, non-human entities that are being newly established are established in the NAF.

LC catalogers and catalogers in libraries that participate in the Program for Cooperative Cataloging are encouraged, but are not required, to create name authority records for non-human entities that already have a heading in LCSH and then propose that the subject heading be cancelled. The more people who consistently do this the better, because it will clean up the files more quickly.

Until all of the individual non-human entities are moved from LCSH to the NAF, catalogers have to search in both places to determine whether there is an authorized heading for the entity they wish to assign to a resource.

Form of Heading

- Authorized access points in the NAF may look different from subject headings

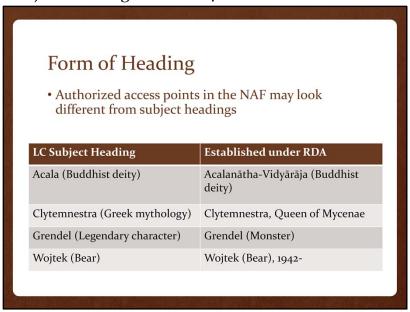| LC Subject Heading	Established under RDA
Ariel (Fictitious character : Disney)	Ariel (Mermaid)
Rocky (Fictitious character : Ward)	Rocky (Fictitious squirrel)
Scrooge, Ebenezer (Fictitious character)	Scrooge, Ebenezer
Spock (Fictitious character)	Spock, Mr.
Wimsey, Peter, Lord (Fictitious character)	Wimsey, Peter, Lord (Fictitious character), 1890-

The rules for establishing individual non-human entities are different in RDA than they were in LCSH. Sometimes the headings are identical, but sometimes they can look quite different from each other.

You can see from these examples that in LCSH, all of the fictitious characters had the qualifier "Fictitious character."

Qualifiers are not always required under RDA, and RDA does not mandate a particular qualifier when it is needed.

Authorized access points for fictitious characters can also have birth and death dates, just like those for humans can.

Form of Heading

• Authorized access points in the NAF may look different from subject headings

LC Subject Heading	Established under RDA
Acala (Buddhist deity)	Acalanātha-Vidyārāja (Buddhist deity)
Clytemnestra (Greek mythology)	Clytemnestra, Queen of Mycenae
Grendel (Legendary character)	Grendel (Monster)
Wojtek (Bear)	Wojtek (Bear), 1942-

The same goes for mythological beings, deities, and animals with personal names.

Searching for a Heading

- Individual non-human entities
  - Search both LCSH and the NAF
  - Do not assume that the heading in the NAF will include a standard LCSH qualifier
- Groups of non-human entities
  - Search LCSH

      Hardy Boys (Fictitious characters)
      Penates (Roman deities)
      Pīshdādids (Legendary characters)

When you are searching for a heading for an individual non-human entity, search both LCSH and the NAF.

When you are searching the NAF, do not assume that the authorized access point will include a qualifier; check any heading or reference that looks reasonable, just as you would for a human being.

Groups of non-human entities are still established in LCSH, so you need to search only in one place for those.

Derivative Phrase Headings in LCSH

• Authorized heading for the non-human entity followed by a phrase

Cinderella (Legendary character) in literature

Don Quixote (Fictitious character) in art

Tarzan (Fictitious character) in mass media

LCSH includes hundreds of headings that consist of the authorized heading for the non-human entity followed by a phrase. They represent the entity as it appears outside its original medium. For example, Cinderella, a legendary character, has appeared in literature, Don Quixote originally appeared in a literary work, but has also been depicted in art; and Tarzan is a literary character that has been depicted in various forms of mass media.

Derivative Phrase Headings in LCSH

• Cancelled when the heading for the non-human entity is cancelled
  • Usually replaced by free-floating subdivisions

Old Headings	New Headings
Eurydice (Greek mythology)	Eurydice (Greek mythological character)
Eurydice (Greek mythology) in literature	Eurydice (Greek mythological character)--In literature

Headings such as these are cancelled when the headings for the non-human entities are cancelled.

For example, when the heading for Eurydice was cancelled, so was the heading **Eurydice (Greek mythology) in literature**.

It was replaced by the free-floating combination **Eurydice (Greek mythological character)—In literature.**

Free-Floating Subdivisions

- H 1095: Free-Floating Subdivisions: Form and Topical Subdivisions of General Application

- Not covered by
  - H 1110, Personal Names
  - H 1147, Animals

All of the free-floating subdivisions that can be used with headings for fictitious and legendary characters, mythological beings, and animals with proper names can be found in H 1095, Form and Topical Subdivisions of General Application.

Non-human entities are not covered by H 1110, Personal Names, nor by H 1147, Animals.

Free-Floating Subdivisions

• From H 1095

$x **In literature**
Use under names of individual persons, families, corporate bodies, and countries, cities etc., Christian denominations and uniform titles of sacred works, and under names of deities, mythological or legendary figures, and fictitious characters, for works on those persons, organizations, and places in literature.

Here is an example of a scope note from H 1095. The subdivision **–In literature** may be used

> under names of individual persons, families, corporate bodies, and countries, cities etc., Christian denominations and uniform titles of sacred works, and under names of deities, mythological or legendary figures, and fictitious characters, for works on those persons, organizations, and places in literature.

We will discuss the use of free-floating subdivisions in detail in Unit 6.

Additional Information

- H 405, Establishing Certain Entities in the Name or Subject Authority File

- H 1610, Fictitious Characters

- H 1635, Gods and Mythological Figures

- H 1636, Gods of Greek and Roman Mythology

- H 1795, Literature: Legends and Romances

Additional information about the subject cataloging policies for cataloging resources about non-human entities may be found in these instruction sheets.