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# Library of Congress Subject Headings

Module 4.9  
Introduction to Geographic Headings

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Policy and Standards Division  
Library of Congress  
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## Recap and Plan

- Geographic headings
  - One of the eight main categories of subject headings
  - Established in either the Name Authority File or in LCSH
    - NAF: Jurisdictional and quasi-jurisdictional entities
    - LCSH: Non-jurisdictional natural and man-made features with geographic extent

In Module 4.1 we explained that there are eight main categories of headings, and geographic headings constitute one of those categories.

We also learned that geographic headings may be established in either the NAF or in LCSH, depending on what the heading represents.

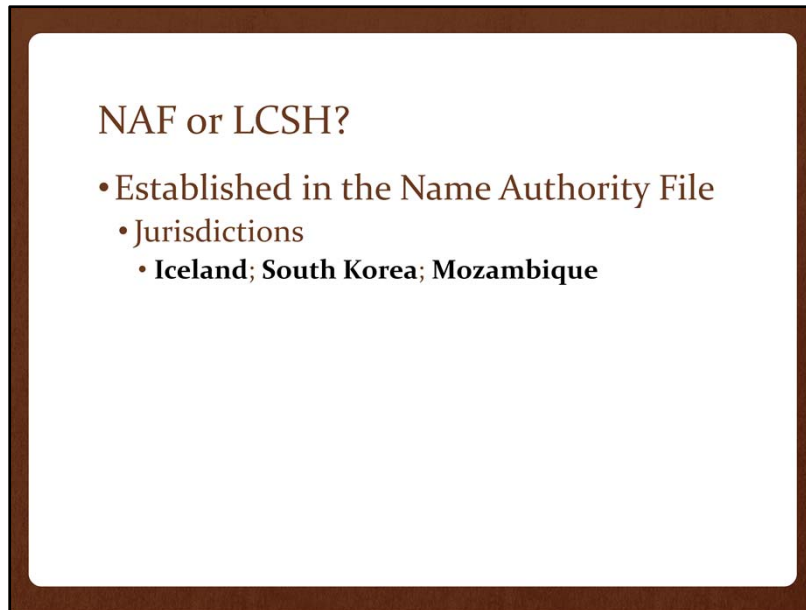
## Recap and Plan

- This module
  - More about the types of geographic headings that are established in LCSH
  - An overview of the structure of geographic headings
  - Pertinent instruction sheets
  - Subdivisions used with geographic headings

In this module, we will provide more discussion about the types of entities that are established in the NAF and in LCSH, and provide a high-level overview of the various types of qualifiers that can be found on geographic headings established in LCSH.

We will also indicate which instruction sheets are especially pertinent to geographic headings, and to their use as subdivisions.

Finally, we will list the instruction sheets that provide information not on geographic subdivisions, but on the subdivision of geographic headings.



NAF or LCSH?

- Established in the Name Authority File
  - Jurisdictions
    - **Iceland; South Korea; Mozambique**

Let's first review and expand upon the types of headings that are established in the NAF and in LCSH.

As we know, jurisdictions are established in the Name Authority File. This includes everything from countries such as Iceland and Mozambique ...

### NAF or LCSH?

- Established in the Name Authority File
  - Jurisdictions
    - **Iceland; South Korea; Mozambique**
    - **Bavaria (Germany); California; Limpopo (South Africa)**

to the states and provinces of those countries, like Bavaria, Germany and Limpopo, South Africa...

### NAF or LCSH?

- Established in the Name Authority File
  - Jurisdictions
    - **Iceland; South Korea; Mozambique**
    - **Bavaria (Germany); California; Limpopo (South Africa)**
    - **Hanoi (Vietnam); Rio de Janeiro (Brazil); Vienna (Austria)**

and cities like Hanoi, Vietnam and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

**NAF or LCSH?**

- **Established in the Name Authority File**
  - **Jurisdictions**
    - **Iceland; South Korea; Mozambique**
    - **Bavaria (Germany); California; Limpopo (South Africa)**
    - **Hanoi (Vietnam); Rio de Janeiro (Brazil); Vienna (Austria)**
    - **Ennis (Ireland); Homer (Pa. : Township)**

Also included is a wide assortment of other types of jurisdictions, such as townships, boroughs, administrative regions, and so on, some of which you may never have heard of before, such as Ennis in County Clare, Ireland, and Homer Township in Pennsylvania.

NAF or LCSH?

- Established in the Name Authority File
  - Quasi-jurisdictional entities
    - **Yuma Soil Conservation District; Vancouver Forest District (B.C.); East Bay Municipal Utility District (Calif.)**

Quasi-jurisdictional entities are places that do not necessarily have a government per se, but have some of the characteristics of a government.

Examples are various types of districts, including conservation districts and forest districts like the Yuma Soil Conservation District and the Vancouver Forest District in British Columbia, and utility districts like the East Bay Municipal Utility District in California.



**NAF or LCSH?**

- **Established in the Name Authority File**
  - **Quasi-jurisdictional entities**
    - **Yuma Soil Conservation District; Vancouver Forest District (B.C.); East Bay Municipal Utility District (Calif.)**
    - **RAF Barnham (England); Quantico Marine Corps Base (Va.)**

Some military installations are also established in the NAF, such as RAF Barnham in England and Quantico Marine Corps Base in Virginia.

**NAF or LCSH?**

- **Established in the Name Authority File**
  - **Quasi-jurisdictional entities**
    - **Yuma Soil Conservation District; Vancouver Forest District (B.C.); East Bay Municipal Utility District (Calif.)**
    - **RAF Barnham (England); Quantico Marine Corps Base (Va.)**
    - **Montañana (Zaragoza, Spain); Bishops court (Cape Town, South Africa)**
  - **For other categories, see H 405**

So are sections of cities like Bishops court, a section of Cape Town, South Africa.

Other categories can be found in H 405, Establishing Certain Entities in the Name or Subject Authority File.

### NAF or LCSH?

- Established in LCSH
  - Continents
  - Islands and island groups
  - Plateaus
  - Mountains and mountain chains
  - Bodies of water
  - Canyons, deltas, and valleys

Many other types of geographic headings are established in LCSH.

These include natural features.

Continents like...

### NAF or LCSH?

- Established in LCSH
  - **Asia; South America**
  - Islands and island groups
  - Plateaus
  - Mountains and mountain chains
  - Bodies of water
  - Canyons, deltas, and valleys

Asia and South America are represented, as are islands and island groups

NAF or LCSH?

- Established in LCSH
  - **Asia; South America**
  - **Herm (Guernsey); Frisian Islands**
  - Plateaus
  - Mountains and mountain chains
  - Bodies of water
  - Canyons, deltas, and valleys

like Herm in Guernsey and the Frisian Islands, which are divided among Denmark, Germany, and the Netherlands.

Plateaus such as

### NAF or LCSH?

- Established in LCSH
  - **Asia; South America**
  - **Herm (Guernsey); Frisian Islands**
  - **Mossi Plateau (Burkina Faso)**
  - Mountains and mountain chains
  - Bodies of water
  - Canyons, deltas, and valleys

the Mossi Plateau in Burkina Faso are established in LCSH, and so are mountains and mountain chains

### NAF or LCSH?

- Established in LCSH
  - **Asia; South America**
  - **Herm (Guernsey); Frisian Islands**
  - **Mossi Plateau (Burkina Faso)**
  - **Kilimanjaro, Mount (Tanzania); Alps**
  - Bodies of water
  - Canyons, deltas, and valleys

like Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania and the Alps in Europe.

**NAF or LCSH?**

- **Established in LCSH**
  - **Asia; South America**
  - **Herm (Guernsey); Frisian Islands**
  - **Mossi Plateau (Burkina Faso)**
  - **Kilimanjaro, Mount (Tanzania); Alps**
  - **Nile River; Arctic Ocean; Ball Lake (Ind.)**
  - **Canyons, deltas, and valleys**

Bodies of water such as the Nile River, the Arctic Ocean, and Ball Lake in Indiana are also represented.

So are canyons, deltas, and valleys, such as



**NAF or LCSH?**

- **Established in LCSH**
  - **Asia; South America**
  - **Herm (Guernsey); Frisian Islands**
  - **Mossi Plateau (Burkina Faso)**
  - **Kilimanjaro, Mount (Tanzania); Alps**
  - **Nile River; Arctic Ocean; Ball Lake (Ind.)**
  - **Grand Canyon (Ariz.); Indus River Delta (Pakistan); Po River Valley (Italy)**

the Grand Canyon and the Po River Valley in Italy.

You would perhaps expect natural entities like this to be established in LCSH, but other types of entities are also established there and treated as geographic headings.

### NAF or LCSH?

- Established in LCSH
  - Parks and golf courses
    - Ellipse, The (Washington, D.C.)**
    - Parque de Serralves (Portugal)**
    - Saint Andrews Links (St. Andrews, Scotland)**

These include numerous kinds of man-made features, like parks and golf courses.

**NAF or LCSH?**

- **Established in LCSH**
  - **Parks and golf courses**
    - Ellipse, The (Washington, D.C.)**
    - Parque de Serralves (Portugal)**
    - Saint Andrews Links (St. Andrews, Scotland)**
  - **Trails**
    - Appalachian Trail**
    - Women's Rights National Historic Trail (Mass. and N.Y.)**

Various kinds of trails are also established in LCSH.

Examples include walking trails like the Appalachian Trail and trails for learning history, like the Women's Rights National Historic Trail.

### NAF or LCSH?

- **Established in LCSH**
  - **Highways, roads, tunnels, squares, and plazas, and bridges**
    - M5 Motorway (England)**
    - Broadway (New York, N.Y.)**
    - Channel Tunnel (Coquelles, France, and Folkestone, England)**
    - Praça Antonio Prado (São Paulo, Brazil)**
    - Tappan Zee Bridge (N.Y.)**

Headings for highways, roads, tunnels, squares and plazas, and bridges, such as the M5 Motorway in England, the Channel Tunnel that links England and France, and the Tappan Zee Bridge in New York State, also appear in LCSH.

**NAF or LCSH?**

- **Established in LCSH**
  - **Walls**
    - Antonine Wall (Scotland)**
    - Great Wall of China (China)**
  - **Ranches and camps**
    - Hacienda San Pedro (Bolivia)**
    - Camp Winnecook (Me.)**

Walls, including the Great Wall of China are found there, as are headings for ranches and camps like Camp Winnecook in Maine.

**NAF or LCSH?**

- **Established in LCSH**
  - **Extinct cities**
    - Delphi (Extinct city)**
    - Babylon (Extinct city)**
    - Pompeii (Extinct city)**
  - **Archaeological sites**
    - Kolovo Site (Russia)**
    - Partridge Creek Site (Va.)**
    - Tell el-Borg Site (Egypt)**

Headings for extinct cities and archaeological sites can be found in LCSH, too, including headings for Delphi, Babylon, and Pompeii, and any number of others that are not as well known.

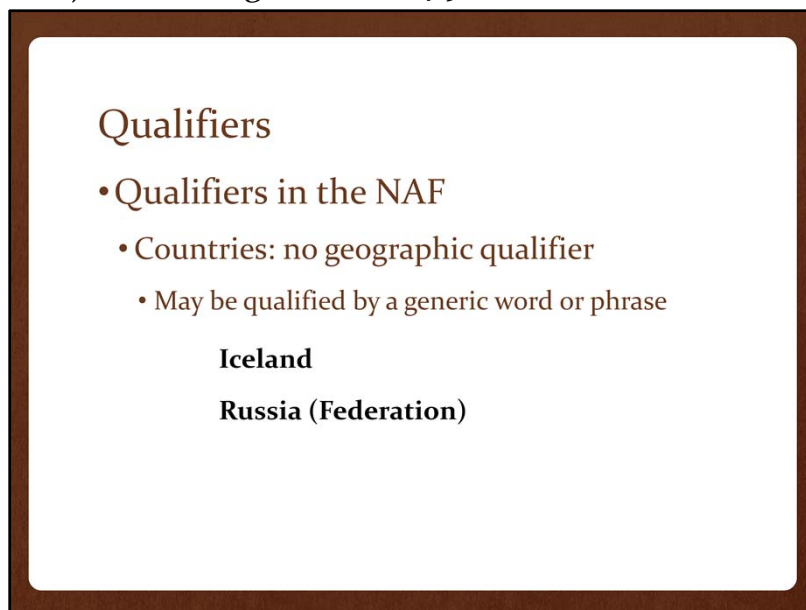
**NAF or LCSH?**

- **Established in LCSH**
  - **Regions**
    - **Africa, French-speaking Equatorial**
    - **Europe, Eastern**
    - **Lake District (Belarus)**
    - **New England**
    - **Paris Metropolitan Area (France)**

Non-jurisdictional regions like French-speaking equatorial Africa, Eastern Europe, and the Lake District in Belarus are also represented.

Some regions are not established, but may be created on-the-fly by catalogers such as the Paris Metropolitan Area. We will talk more about regions in Module 4.12.

Many more types of geographic headings are established in LCSH, too, and they are listed in H 405.



**Qualifiers**

- **Qualifiers in the NAF**
  - **Countries: no geographic qualifier**
    - May be qualified by a generic word or phrase

**Iceland**

**Russia (Federation)**

You may have noticed that most of the headings we have given as examples have a qualifier.

Some of them have a single place in the qualifier and others have two. Some of the qualifiers include a city, while others do not. And finally, others do not have a qualifier at all.

We would like give you a very brief overview of the rules for qualifiers, so that you have a general idea why the qualifier on a certain heading looks the way that it does. Having that knowledge will help you understand how to convert geographic headings into geographic subdivisions, a topic that we will cover in Unit 6.

Countries are not qualified by a place, but they may be qualified with a generic word or phrase, as seen in the heading for Russia on the screen. Qualifiers such as this disambiguate among countries with the same name, including historic countries.



## Qualifiers

- Qualifiers in the NAF
  - Places within a country: generally qualified by the country
    - Bavaria (Germany)**
    - Hanoi (Vietnam)**

Places within a country are generally qualified by the country, such as the state of Bavaria and the city of Hanoi, which are qualified by Germany and Vietnam, respectively.

**Qualifiers**

- **Qualifiers in the NAF**
  - Places within a country: generally qualified by the country
  - *Exception:* places in Canada, the United States, and Great Britain

**Alberta**  
**Missouri**  
**Scotland**

There are three exceptions to the general rule.

The provinces of Canada and the states of the United States are not qualified by country, and the countries that comprise Great Britain are not qualified, either.

**Qualifiers**

- **Qualifiers in the NAF**
  - Places within a country: generally qualified by the country
  - *Exception:* places in Canada, the United States, and Great Britain

**Vancouver (B.C.)**  
**Quantico Marine Corps Base (Va.)**  
**Ennis (Ireland)**

Local places in Canada, the United States, and Great Britain are qualified by the province, state, or constituent country as appropriate. The names of the states and provinces of the U.S. and Canada are often abbreviated, as you can see here.

There are other rules for specific situations, but that is the general policy for the Name Authority File.



**Qualifiers**

- **Qualifiers in LCSH**
  - Generally follow the same rules as in the NAF
  - Feature in a single jurisdiction

**Great Wall of China (China)**

Now let's talk about the rules for the qualifiers for geographic headings in LCSH. For the most part, they are the same as the RDA instructions for qualifying geographic access points that are established in the NAF. There are some differences, though, because subject headings for geographic features have some issues that access points for jurisdictions do not.

For example, in LCSH there are many geographic headings that represent features in two or more places.

Headings for features in one jurisdiction have a single jurisdiction in the qualifier, as we would expect.

**Qualifiers**

- **Qualifiers in LCSH**
  - Generally follow the same rules as in the NAF
  - Feature in a single jurisdiction
    - Great Wall of China (China)**
  - Feature in two jurisdictions
    - Azov, Sea of (Ukraine and Russia)**

But headings for features in two jurisdictions, like the Sea of Azov, have two jurisdictions in the qualifier.

**Qualifiers**

- **Qualifiers in LCSH**
  - Feature in three or more jurisdictions
    - Alps**
    - Appalachian Trail**
  - *Exception: some rivers*
    - Morava River (Czech Republic-Austria and Slovakia)**

Headings for features in three or more jurisdictions, such as the Alps and the Appalachian Trail, do not generally have a qualifier.

Some do, though. Headings for rivers, and other things like rivers such as creeks and streams, in particular, may have qualifiers that are more involved because they flow from place to place and often form jurisdictional boundaries.

The qualifier on the Morava River indicates that it begins in the Czech Republic and then forms the border between Austria and Slovakia, where it ends.

**Qualifiers**

- **Qualifiers in LCSH**
  - **Bridges and tunnels that connect two cities**
    - Channel Tunnel (Coquelles, France, and Folkestone, England)**
    - New Bedford-Fairhaven Bridge (Fairhaven and New Bedford, Mass.)**

The headings for some man-made features have their own distinct rules.

For example, a bridge or tunnel that connects two cities is qualified by the two cities, which are usually listed in alphabetical order.

## Qualifiers

- Qualifiers in LCSH
  - Features in cities
    - Arenbergpark (Vienna, Austria)**
    - Broadway (New York, N.Y.)**
    - Farragut Square (Washington, D.C.)**
    - Misery, Mount (Lincoln, Mass.)**

Man-made features in cities are qualified by the name of the city, and so are some natural features in cities.



**Qualifiers**

- **Qualifiers in LCSH**
  - May include a generic word or phrase

**Pilot Mountain (Surry County, N.C. :  
Mountain)**

The qualifiers for some headings may include a generic word or phrase to disambiguate the feature from some other entity with the same name in the same jurisdiction.

Pilot Mountain is qualified by the name of the county and also by the word “mountain” because there are other mountains named Pilot Mountain in North Carolina, and there is also a town named Pilot Mountain in Surry County.

In LCSH, we use the qualifiers to make headings for geographic features unique. In this way, we disambiguate among features that have the same name.

There are also other rules that cover specific situations, but these are the general rules that cover probably 80-85 percent of the qualifiers on geographic headings in LCSH.

### Geographic Headings: Instruction Sheets

- H 690, Formulating Geographic Headings
- H 708, Linear Jurisdictional Name Changes in Name Authority Records
- H 710, Jurisdictional Mergers and Splits
- H 713, First Order Political Divisions of Countries
- H 715, Extinct Cities
- H 720, City Sections
- H 760, Geographic Regions
- H 790, Areas Associated with Cities
- H 800, Rivers, Valleys, Watersheds, etc.
- H 810, Qualification of Geographic Headings

Most of the instruction sheets that you will need to consult in order to propose or assign geographic subject headings are provided in several instruction sheets between H 690 and H 810.

Some of the modules in this training will focus on particular instruction sheets.

- Module 4.10 is about linear jurisdictional name changes and jurisdictional mergers, which are covered in H 708 and H 710.
- Jurisdictional splits, which is also covered in H 710, is the subject of Module 4.11.
- In Module 4.12 we discuss the rules in H 760, Geographic Regions, and H 790, Areas Associated with Cities.

And of course, we covered the general rules for qualification of geographic headings in H 810, just a moment ago.

**Geographic Headings: Instruction Sheets**

- H 910, Place as a Theme in Art, Literature, Motion Pictures, etc.
- H 1530, Description and Travel
- H 1564, Discovery and Exploration
- H 1629, Foreign Relations
- H 1925, Parks, Reserves, National Monuments, etc.
- H 1942, Politics and Government
- H 2055, Social Conditions
- H 2098, Streets and Roads

Other instruction sheets that are not specifically about places may be pertinent to any discussion of geographic headings.

For example, H 1530 explains how to catalog resources about travel to and within particular places, and resources that are descriptions of that travel.

### Geographic Subdivisions: Instruction Sheets

- H 830, Geographic Subdivision
- H 832, Geographic Subdivision to the City Level
- H 835, Geographic Subdivision Information in Name Authority Records
- H 836, Geographic Subdivision Information in Subject Authority Records
- H 860, Subdivisions Further Subdivided by Place
- H 870, Interposition of Geographic Subdivisions

There are also several instruction sheets that explain how – and when – to convert a geographic heading to a geographic subdivision. They are instruction sheets H 830-H 870.

We will cover the use of geographic subdivisions in great detail in modules 6.8-6.13. Module 6.9 in particular explains how to know whether to use a geographic heading or a geographic subdivision.

**Instruction Sheets about Specific Places**

- H 925, China and Taiwan
- H 928, Congo
- H 945, Germany
- H 955, Great Britain
- H 975, Hawaii
- H 978, Hong Kong
- H 980, Jerusalem, Gaza Strip, Golan Heights, West Bank, and Palestine
- H 985, Latin America
- H 987, Malaysia and Malaya
- H 990, New York (N.Y.)
- H 1023, Soviet Union
- H 1045, Vatican City
- H 1050, Washington (D.C.)
- H 1055, Yugoslavia

The SHM also includes fourteen instruction sheets about specific places with confusing or complicated histories or diplomatic situations.

The instruction sheets usually provide a brief political history of the place and then provide information on how to use the geographic headings associated with the place, how to use those headings as geographic subdivisions, and sometimes other information, too.

Let's briefly examine one of those instruction sheets.

## Instruction Sheets about Specific Places

### From H 928, Congo

***BACKGROUND:** In 1997, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which had been called Zaire during the period 1971-1997, reverted to its previous name. As a result, there are now two countries called Congo, represented by the headings **Congo (Brazzaville)** and **Congo (Democratic Republic)**. This instruction sheet provides guidelines on the assignment of these two headings as subjects, as well as on usage of the term **Congo** as a geographic qualifier and the term **Congolese** as an adjectival qualifier.*

The background statement for H 928, Congo, provides a concise history. It says

In 1997, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which had been called Zaire during the period 1971-1997, reverted to its previous name. As a result, there are now two countries called Congo, represented by the headings **Congo (Brazzaville)** and **Congo (Democratic Republic)**. This instruction sheet provides guidelines on the assignment of those two headings as subjects, as well as on the usage of the term **Congo** as a geographic qualifier and the term **Congolese** as an adjectival qualifier.

**Instruction Sheets about Specific Places**  
**From H 928, Congo**

*This instruction sheet provides guidelines on the assignment of these two headings as subjects, as well as on usage of the term **Congo** as a geographic qualifier and the term **Congolese** as an adjectival qualifier.*

It then goes on to explain what is covered by this instruction sheet by saying, “This instruction sheet provides guidelines on the assignment of these two headings as subjects, as well as on usage of the term **Congo** as a geographic qualifier and the term **Congolese** as an adjectival qualifier.”

Instruction Sheets about Specific Places  
From H 928, Congo

1. Congo (Democratic Republic)
2. Congo (Brazzaville)
3. (Congo) as a geographic qualifier
4. Congolese as an adjectival qualifier
5. Geographic area codes

We will not go through the entire instruction sheet here, but the section titles give you a fair idea of its contents.

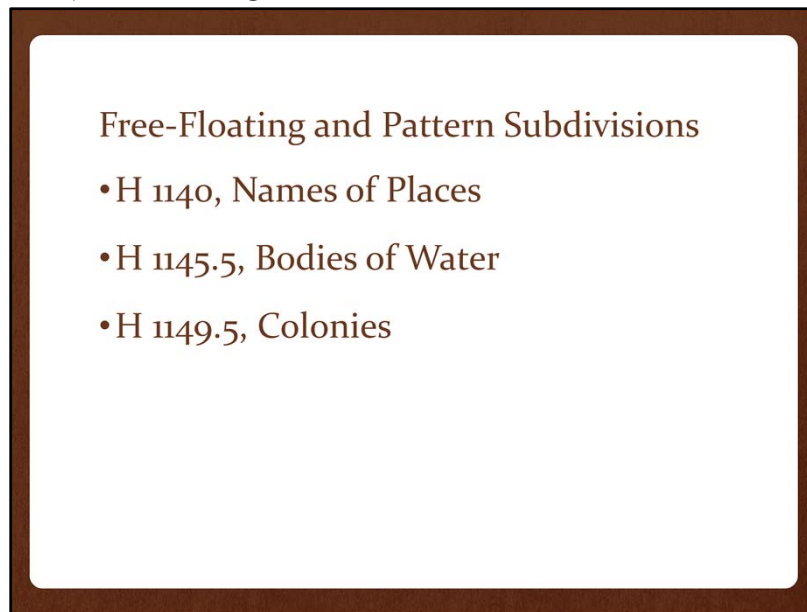
Sections 1 and 2 discuss the appropriate uses of the headings **Congo (Democratic Republic)** and **Congo (Brazzaville)** as main headings and as geographic subdivisions.

Section 3 discusses the use of **Congo** as a geographic qualifier, and explains that there are times when **Congo (Democratic Republic)** and/or **Congo (Brazzaville)** are used instead.

Section 4 does the same thing, but this time for the adjectival qualifier **Congolese**.

And section 5 lists the geographic area codes for both countries named Congo. We have not discussed geographic area codes yet; they will be covered in the unit on the MARC format.





Geographic headings can often be subdivided topically, chronologically, or by form.

H 1140, H 1145.5, and H 1149.5 all contain free-floating and pattern subdivisions that are specifically intended to be used under headings for geographic places.

### Free-Floating and Pattern Subdivisions

- H 1095, Free-Floating Subdivisions:  
Form and Topical Subdivisions of  
General Application
  - “Use under subjects”
  - “Use under names of countries, cities, etc.”

Some of the subdivisions listed in H 1095 are also pertinent to headings for geographic places.

They include those subdivisions that have the instruction “Use under subjects” and those whose scope note otherwise indicates that the subdivision can in fact be used with geographic headings.