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# Library of Congress Subject Headings

Module 6.13  
Geographic Subdivisions Part 6:  
Subdivision Information in MARC 21 Authority Records  
Geographic Entities in Cities

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Policy and Standards Division  
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## Recap and Plan

- Previous two modules
  - General instructions guiding the format of geographic subdivisions
  - Rules for the “exceptional countries”
    - United States
    - Canada
    - Great Britain

In the previous two modules, we explained the general rules for formulating geographic subdivisions and the rules related to the exceptional countries of Great Britain, Canada, and the United States.

In this module, we will discuss some special fields that appear in MARC 21 authority records for jurisdictions and geographic features

## Recap and Plan

- This module
  - MARC 21 authority fields 781 and 667
  - Geographic headings that may not be used as geographic subdivisions

Throughout this training, we have been trying 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 jurisdictions and geographic features include information that will make your life easier as you apply geographic subdivisions.

In this module, we will also discuss some circumstances under which a geographic heading may not be used as a geographic subdivision.

### MARC 21 Field 781

- Contained in most authority records for jurisdictions and geographic features
- Provides the heading reformulated as a geographic subdivision

MARC 21 field 781 can be found in most authority records for jurisdictions or geographic features. It contains the proper way to reformulate a heading as a geographic subdivision.

MARC 21 Field 781

Heading: **Columbia River**

781 field: \$z **Columbia River**

The 781 field in the record for the **Columbia River** is identical to the heading for the river because there is no qualifier on the heading.

**MARC 21 Field 781**

**Heading: Columbia River**

**781 field: \$z Columbia River**

**Heading: Low Mountain (Navajo County, Ariz.  
: Mountain)**

**781 field: \$z Arizona \$z Low Mountain (Navajo  
County : Mountain)**

For the next example we have to remember the rules for exceptional countries. In this case, Arizona is a state of the United States, so we have to move it to the first position. The rest of the heading becomes the second piece of the geographic subdivision.

MARC 21 Field 781

Heading: **Cape Town (South Africa)**

781 field: **\$z South Africa \$z Cape Town**

In this example, **Cape Town (South Africa)**, the country – South Africa – is the first part of the subdivision, and the rest of the heading is the second part.

## MARC 21 Field 781

Heading: **Cape Town (South Africa)**

781 field: **\$z South Africa \$z Cape Town**

Heading: **Rio de Janeiro (Brazil : State)**

781 field: **\$z Brazil \$z Rio de Janeiro (State)**

We see in the heading for Rio de Janeiro that there is a generic qualifier in addition to the qualifier for the country, Brazil. Brazil is removed from the qualifier and becomes the first part of the geographic subdivision, and the generic qualifier stays with the name of the local place in the second portion.

Now, you may be asking yourself, “If this information is in the authority record, why did I just spend all of this time learning the rules?” Well, the answer is simple. Sometimes the 781 field is missing, and you have to know how to make a geographic subdivision. Plus, some of you may be doing authority work for jurisdictions and geographic features, or you may do so someday. If that is the case, you will be expected to include a 781 field if it is pertinent.

Sometimes a 781 field is not pertinent, though, because some geographic headings cannot be used as geographic subdivisions. The authority records provide assistance with that, too.



### MARC 21 Field 667

- Included when the geographic heading cannot be used as a geographic subdivision

“This heading is not valid for use as a geographic subdivision.”

Authority records for geographic headings that cannot be used as geographic subdivisions have the following note in the 667 field:

This heading is not valid for use as a geographic subdivision.

These authority records will not have a 781 field. It is an either/or situation: either 781 or 667, but not both.

This begs the question: when wouldn't a geographic heading be eligible for use as a geographic subdivision?

**Geographic Entities in Cities (SHM H 720)**

- **Cannot be used as geographic subdivisions**
- **Neighborhoods and developments**
  - 6e Arrondissement (Paris, France)**
  - Upper Northwest (Washington, D.C.)**
  - Watts (Los Angeles, Calif.)**
  - Zeeburg (Amsterdam, Netherlands)**

Geographic headings for entities within cities are not eligible for use as geographic subdivisions, because we can geographically subdivide only to the level of a city or town. Neighborhoods or sections of cities cannot be used as geographic subdivisions.

The 6th Arrondissement is a neighborhood in Paris, France.

Watts is a city section (or neighborhood) of Los Angeles.

**Geographic Entities in Cities (SHM H 720)**

- Entities in cities cannot be used as geographic subdivisions
- Natural geographic features that are qualified by the city

**Saint-Martin Canal (Paris, France)**

**Wenyu River (Beijing, China)**

Natural geographic features that are qualified by a city cannot be used as geographic subdivisions, either.

**Geographic Entities in Cities (SHM H 720)**

- **Entities in cities cannot be used as geographic subdivisions**

- **Parks, reserves, streets, bridges, etc.**

**Central Park (New York, N.Y.)**

**Red Square (Moscow, Russia)**

**Rodeo Drive (Beverly Hills, Calif.)**

**Sydney Harbour Bridge (Sydney, N.S.W.)**

Neither can man-made features and structures that are established as geographic headings, such as parks, streets, bridges, squares, and the like.

### Geographic Entities in Cities (SHM H 720)

- Heading assignment
  - Assign a heading for the topic subdivided by the city
  - Assign the heading for the entity in the city

Instead of using a geographic subdivision that includes the entity in the city, we assign two headings: one is the heading for the topic subdivided by the city, and the other is the heading for the entity within the city. Here is an example.

## Geographic Entities in Cities (SHM H 720)

- Heading assignment
  - Assign a heading for the topic subdivided by the city
  - Assign the heading for the entity in the city

*A resource about employees of Central Park in New York City*

**Parks** (May Subd Geog)   
[\[SB481-486\]](#)  
UF County parks  
Parklands

The heading **Parks** can be subdivided geographically.

## Geographic Entities in Cities (SHM H 720)

- Heading assignment
  - Assign a heading for the topic subdivided by the city
  - Assign the heading for the entity in the city

*A resource about employees of Central Park in New York City*

**Parks** (May Subd Geog)   
[\[SB481-486\]](#)  
UF County parks  
Parklands

**Parks—Employees**   
UF Parks—Officials and employees  
NT [Park rangers](#)  
[Women park employees](#)

But the heading **Parks—Employees** cannot be. The geographic subdivision should be interposed between the heading **Parks** and the subdivision —**Employees**.

Now we have to figure out how to formulate the geographic subdivision for New York City.

### Geographic Entities in Cities (SHM H 720)

- Heading assignment
  - Assign a heading for the topic subdivided by the city
  - Assign the heading for the entity in the city

*A resource about employees of Central Park in New York City*

The screenshot shows a search interface with several elements:

- A search box containing "Parks (May Subd Geog) [SB481-486]" with a dropdown arrow.
- A list of results including "UF County parks" and "Parks—Employees" with a dropdown arrow.
- A highlighted heading: "Heading: **New York (N.Y.)**"
- A highlighted 781 field: "781 field: **\$z New York (State) \$z New York**"

First we will look up the heading, and find that it is **New York** with **(N.Y.)** as a qualifier.

If we look at the 781 field in that record – or we remember the rules we discussed in the last module – we know that the subdivision will be in the form —**New York (State)**—**New York**.



Geographic Entities in Cities (SHM H 720)

- Heading assignment
  - Assign a heading for the topic subdivided by the city
  - Assign the heading for the entity in the city

*A resource about employees of Central Park in New York City*

**Parks—New York (State)—New York—  
Employees.**

Our heading is therefore: **Parks—New York (State)—New York—Employees.**

To bring out the fact that the resource is about employees in Central Park in particular, not employees of any and all parks in New York City, we assign the heading for the park.

### Geographic Entities in Cities (SHM H 720)

- Heading assignment
  - Assign a heading for the topic subdivided by the city
  - Assign the heading for the entity in the city

*A resource about employees of Central Park in New York City*

**Parks—New York (State)—New York—  
Employees.**

**Central Park (New York, N.Y.)**

**Central Park** qualified by **(New York, N.Y.)**.