Library of Congress Subject Headings

Module 6.15
Chronological Subdivisions Part 2:
Assigning the Subdivision –**History**

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Recap

- Chronological subdivisions
  - Cannot be used with every heading
  - Often preceded by the topical subdivision
    –**History**
    - The subdivision –**History** cannot be used with every heading

      Library science—History—18th century.

      Watercolor painting—18th century.

In the last module we discussed the styles and formats of chronological subdivisions. We also mentioned that chronological subdivisions cannot be assigned to every heading, but when they are used, they are often preceded by the topical subdivision —**History**.

Before we can talk about chronological subdivisions, then, we need to be clear on where —**History** can and cannot be used.

This module is based on instruction sheet H 1647, History.

The General Rule

From H 1647 sec. 1

1. General rule. Except as noted below, use the free-floating subdivision –**History** under topical headings, classes of persons, ethnic groups, uniform titles of sacred works, names of places, including jurisdictions that no longer exist, and corporate bodies, for descriptions and explanations of past events concerning the topic, group, sacred work, place, or organization.

In many cases a chronological subdivision must be preceded by the free-floating topical subdivision **—History**.

According to H 1647,

> [U]se the free-floating subdivision —**History** under topical headings, classes of persons, ethnic groups, uniform titles of sacred works, names of places, including jurisdictions that no longer exist, and corporate bodies, for descriptions and explanations of past events concerning the topic, group, sacred work, place, or organization.

That is a pretty long list of headings under which we can use the subdivision —**History**. But let's look more closely at them.

The General Rule

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Each of those categories, except for "topical" headings, has a separate pattern or free-floating list.

Approved Uses of –**History**

- Free-floating and pattern lists
  - H 1100, Classes of persons
  - H 1103, Ethnic Groups
  - H 1188, Sacred Works
  - H 1140, Names of Places
  - H 1105, Corporate Bodies

The subdivision —**History** appears in every one of them.

Approved Uses of –**History**

From H 1100, Classes of Persons

Sx **History** (H 1647)
Sx **History** Sy **16th century** (H 1647)
Sx **History** Sy **17th century** (H 1647)
Sx **History** Sy **18th century** (H 1647)
Sx **History** Sy **19th century** (H 1647)
Sx **History** Sy **20th century** (H 1647)
Sx **History** Sy **21st century** (H 1647)
History–Anniversaries, etc., see **–Anniversaries, etc.**
Sx **History** Sy **Sources** (H 2080)

For example, H 1100 contains the subdivision —**History** and also the free-floating century subdivisions.

Approved Uses of –**History**

From H 1188, Sacred Works

_Sx_	History
_Sx_	History of Biblical events
_Sx_	History of Biblical events _Sv_ Art
_Sx_	History of contemporary events

And H 1188 includes the subdivision —**History**, and also the more specialized subdivisions —**History of Biblical events** and —**History of contemporary events**.

Approved Uses of –**History**

- Examples

  Book editors—History.

  Brahman women—History.

  Kunda (African people)—History.

  Microsoft Corporation—History.

  Qur'an—History.

  Singapore—History.

  Hippo (Extinct city)—History.

All of these headings are possible.

Book editors are a class of persons, as are Brahman women. The Kunda are an ethnic group; Microsoft is obviously a corporate body, and the Qur'an is a sacred work. Singapore and Hippo are both jurisdictions.

We would like to emphasize a fine point: for most of this module, you will hear that headings that are inherently or intrinsically historical cannot have the subdivision —**History** added to them. Jurisdictions that no longer exist, such as the example of Hippo on this slide, are the *exception* to that rule.

Approved Uses of –**History**

•Examples

> **Construction industry—Employees— History.**
>
> **Great Britain. Royal Navy—Officers— History.**

When we talked in module 6.7 about normal rules for the assignment of more than one subdivision, we said that the addition changes the nature of the heading.

Therefore, we can also assign the subdivision **—History** when the class of persons is represented by a topical subdivision, as you can see in the examples

> **Construction industry—Employees—History**   and
> **Great Britain. Royal Navy—Officers—History**.

This is possible because there is nothing historical about the heading **Construction industry— Employees** or the heading for the officers of the British Royal Navy, and the nature of the headings have changed from an industry and a branch of the armed forces to classes of persons.

The General Rule

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Let's look again at the first couple of phrases of the general rule. They say,

> Except as noted below, use the free-floating subdivision —**History** under topical headings.

In module 4.1, we explained what a topical heading is. In short, it is any heading that is not
- a personal name,
- a corporate name,
- a geographic place,
- a title, or
- a name/title heading.

Furthermore, it does not fall into any of the pattern or free-floating subdivision categories.

That leaves a lot of headings that are "topical," but the General rule starts with "Except as noted below."

That is *highly* significant because the general rule goes on to list several types of topical headings under which the subdivision —**History** cannot be used.

Prohibitions on Use of –**History**

• Headings that denote history

> **Economic history**
>
> **History, Modern**
>
> **Social history**
>
> **World politics**

Recall that one of the prohibitions on assigning free-floating subdivisions is that the **[heading]—[subdivision]** combination cannot be redundant. In module 6.2, for example, we saw that *Political parties—Political aspects* and *Recessions—Economic aspects* are not valid combinations because political parties are inherently political and recessions are inherently economic.

In the same way, the subdivision —**History** cannot be combined with a heading that is already historical, like **Economic history**; **History, Modern**; **Social history**; or **World politics**, because that would be redundant.

So we cannot assign the subdivision —**History**, but we can sometimes still assign a chronological subdivision.

Prohibitions on Use of –History

- Headings that denote history

  Economic history—To 1500
  Economic history—Medieval, 500-1500
  Economic history—15th century
  Economic history—16th century
  Economic history—1600-1750
  Economic history—1750-1918
  Economic history—20th century
    etc.

For example, under **Economic history** there are numerous specifically established subdivisions to choose from.

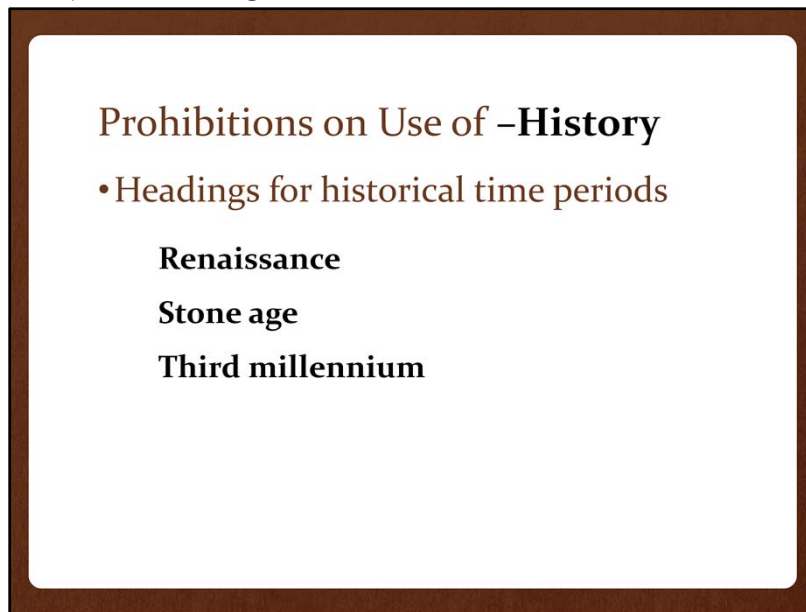**History, Modern** has a similar list, but unlike the list of subdivisions under **Economic history**, this one is limited almost exclusively to centuries.

On the other hand, the list of chronological subdivisions established under **World politics** consists almost exclusively of specific date spans.

Prohibitions on Use of –**History**

• Headings for historical time periods

Renaissance

Stone age

Third millennium

It would also be redundant to assign the subdivision —**History** with headings for historical time periods. Headings for periods like the Renaissance, the Stone Age, and the third millennium are inherently historical.

By the way, note that we are living in the third millennium, but the heading **Third millennium** is considered to be a historical time period because the third millennium will be historical when we enter the fourth millennium. It does not matter whether a time period occurred thousands of years ago, or if it is still ongoing. It is considered to be inherently historical either way.

Prohibitions on Use of –**History**

• Headings for historical time periods

Stone age (May Subd Geog)
    [GN768-776.52]
  BT Civilization
  NT Eoliths
     Mesolithic period
     Neolithic period
     Paleolithic period
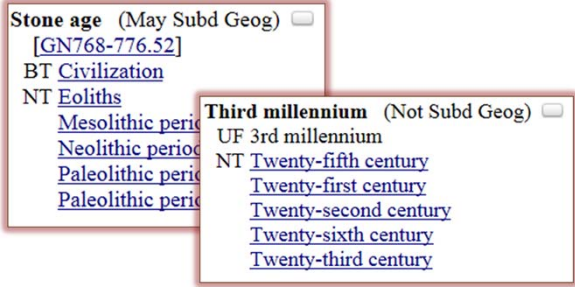   Paleolithic period, Lower

Headings that denote historical time periods do not have established chronological subdivisions, but they often do have a list of narrower terms that can be assigned for resources about particular parts of the period.

The **Stone Age**, for example, has NTs for several anthropological periods.

Prohibitions on Use of –History

- Headings for historical time periods

Stone age (May Subd Geog)
[GN768-776.52]
BT Civilization
NT Eoliths
Mesolithic perio
Neolithic perio
Paleolithic peri
Paleolithic peri

Third millennium (Not Subd Geog)
UF 3rd millennium
NT Twenty-fifth century
Twenty-first century
Twenty-second century
Twenty-sixth century
Twenty-third century

And the heading **Third millennium** has narrower terms for centuries in the millennium, including several centuries that have not occurred yet, but are considered to be inherently historical. Those headings were likely established either for forecasts of future events, or for science fiction.

Prohibitions on Use of –**History**

- Headings for historical events
  - Established in the Name Authority File

    Congress of Vienna (1814-1815)

    Olympic Games (18th : 1964 : Tokyo, Japan)

    World Cup (Soccer) (2014 : Brazil)

The subdivision —**History** cannot be used under headings for historical events that are established in the Name Authority File.

Headings for such things as peace conferences, sporting events, meetings of associations, and so on, cannot be subdivided by —**History**.

Prohibitions on Use of –**History**

- Headings for historical events
  - Established in LCSH

    Afghan War, 2001-

    Black Hills War, 1876-1877

    Carnival Fire, Roseau, Dominica, 1963

    Hurricane Andrew, 1992

    Milazzo, Battle of, Milazzo, Italy, 1860

The same is true of events established in LCSH, including events like wars, fires, hurricanes, battles, and so forth.

Events are explicitly historical, so using the subdivision —**History** would be redundant. This is true even when an event, such as the war in Afghanistan, is ongoing.

Which brings up an important exception to the nature of the heading being changed by the addition of a subdivision.

Prohibitions on Use of –**History**

• Headings for historical events

Syria—History—Civil War, 2011- —
Refugees.

Afghan War, 2001- —Refugees.

It is easiest to explain this with some examples.

Headings for individual wars are covered by H 1200, Wars (meaning, H 1200 is the free-floating list of subdivisions that may be used under wars). The subdivision —**Refugees** was added to the headings for the Syrian Civil War and the Afghan War on your screen, using the provisions in H 1200.

Doing so would normally turn those headings into a class of persons headings for the purposes of further subdivision, and H 1200 even has a footnote indicating that we can further subdivide by the subdivisions in H 1100, class of persons. As we have seen, the subdivision —**History** appears in H 1100.

We cannot use the subdivision —**History**, though, because wars are events and events cannot be subdivided by —**History**, even if there is an intervening subdivision.

Prohibitions on Use of –**History**

• But…

✗ Syria—History—Civil War, 2011- —
Refugees—History.

✗ Afghan War, 2001- —Refugees—History.

✓ Syria—History—Civil War, 2011- —
Refugees.

✓ Afghan War, 2001- —Refugees.

The headings are therefore assigned without the subdivision —**History**.

Yet another category of headings with which you cannot use the subdivision —**History** is much more amorphous. These are headings that have an "obvious" historical connotation, or that have been treated as inherently historical.

Headings that are qualified by a particular time period such as **Classical antiquities** and **Tournaments, Medieval** clearly fall into this category. So do concepts that imply chronology, such as **Kitchen middens**, which are archaeological remains of domestic waste, and **Dinosaurs**.

Using the subdivision —**History** would be redundant, and a historical treatment of the concepts in these types of headings should be assigned the un-subdivided heading.

Prohibitions on Use of –**History**

- Do not use under
  - Personal names
  - Names of families, including dynasties and royal houses

    Christie, Agatha, 1890-1976

    Toney family

    Liechtenstein, House of

    Umayyad dynasty

We are coming to the end of the prohibitions now, we promise!

Personal names cannot be subdivided by —**History** because while people have history, it is not in the same sense that a concept has history.

Names of families, dynasties, and royal houses cannot be subdivided by —**History**, either, because they are treated as inherently historical in LCSH.

Taking it one step further, the subdivision —**History** cannot be used with name/title headings, either. The only exception is sacred works, with which it *can* be used.

That is the last prohibition for *headings*.

Prohibitions on Use of –**History**

- Do not use under
  - Subdivisions that represent events

    Solar eclipses—1854

    Argentina—History—Peronist Revolt, 1956

    China—History—Civil War, 1945-1949

But there are also restrictions on the use of the subdivision —**History** after other *subdivisions*.

It cannot be used under chronological subdivisions that represent events. That is true whether or not the heading already includes the subdivision —**History**.

Prohibitions on Use of –**History**

• Do not use under

  • Subdivisions that denote history or that have traditionally been regarded as being explicitly or implicitly historical

    • List in H 1647 sec. 9

There is also a long list of topical subdivisions under which —**History** cannot be assigned. It is in section 9 of instruction sheet H 1647. Some catalogers print that list out and tape it to a wall in their work area so that they can consult it quickly and easily.

Many of the subdivisions on that list clearly denote history. Others are treated as inherently historical in LCSH, and still others simply have special rules.

Let's look at that list.

Prohibitions on Use of –**History**

From H 1647 sec. 9

—**Annexation to** [. . .]

—**Anniversaries, etc.**

—**Antiquities**

—**Art**

—**Centennial celebrations, etc.**

—**Chronology**

—**Church history**

—**Civilization**

—**Description and travel**

—**Discovery and exploration**

—**Economic conditions**

—**Economic policy**

—**Foreign economic relations**

—**Foreign relations**

An annexation is clearly a historical event, so assigning the subdivision —**History** along with it is unnecessary.

—**Church history** is obviously historical.

—**Civilization**, —**Economic conditions**, —**Foreign economic relations**, and —**Foreign relations** also have an element of history to them, and LCSH treats them as inherently historical.

Moving back up the list, we used to be able to subdivide —**Description and travel** chronologically without interposing the subdivision —**History**, but that practice ended in the 1990s, and —**Description and travel** cannot be subdivided chronologically any longer.

We find similar situations on the next slide.

Prohibitions on Use of –**History**

From H 1647 sec. 9

—**Genealogy**

—**Geography**

—**Gold discoveries**

—**Historical geography**

—**Historiography**

—**History**

—**History, Local**

—**History, Military**

—**History, Naval**

—**History of doctrines**

—**Illustrations**

—**Intellectual life**

—**Kings and rulers**

—**Military policy**

—**Military relations**

—**Origin**

—**Genealogy** is a branch of history, so there is no need to use the subdivision —**History**.

It is clear why you would not use —**History** with the subdivision —**History** or any of those other subdivisions that start with the word history, right?

—**Civilization** and —**Foreign relations**, —**Intellectual life**, —**Military policy**, and —**Military relations** are treated as inherently historical, making the further subdivision —**History** unnecessary and redundant.

Prohibitions on Use of –**History**

From H 1647 sec. 9

—**Politics and government**

—**Portraits**

—**Queens**

—**Relations**

—**Religion**

—**Religious life and customs**

—**Rural conditions**

—**Social conditions**

—**Social life and customs**

—**Social policy**

We saw earlier that the heading **World politics** is inherently historical. The analogous subdivision used under names of places, —**Politics and government**, is also inherently historical.

And so are the subdivisions —**Religion**, —**Religious life and customs**, —**Rural conditions**, and —**Social conditions**, among others.

Prohibitions on Use of –**History**

- Most subdivisions in H 1647 sec. 9 can be followed directly by chronological subdivisions

  Canada—Intellectual life—20th century.

  Egypt—Religion—332 B.C.-640 A.D.

  Korea (South)—Politics and government—2002-

Like headings that denote history, many of the subdivisions on the list can have chronological subdivisions. The subdivisions need to be specifically established for a particular heading, or they may occasionally appear in pattern and free-floating lists of subdivisions.

Prohibitions on Use of –**History**

- Special rules for particular disciplines and forms
  - Explained in the instruction sheets for the disciplines and/or
  - Presented in clear patterns in LCSH

Art	Philosophy
Film	Television programs
Literature	Video recordings
Music	

There are also special rules about the use of the subdivision —**History** with headings representing art, film, literature, music, television program, and video forms and genres, and also with headings in the discipline of philosophy.

SHM instruction sheets for each discipline should be consulted, and/or LCSH should be checked for clear patterns that have been developed over time.

Summary

- Subdivision –**History** can be used under
  - Classes of persons
  - Ethnic groups
  - Uniform titles of sacred works
  - Names of places
  - Corporate bodies
  - Topics
    - Except for headings and subdivisions that are inherently historical or treated as historical

In summary, the subdivision —**History** can be used under

- Classes of persons,
- Ethnic groups,
- Uniform titles of sacred works,
- Names of places, and
- Corporate bodies.

It may also be used under topical headings and subdivisions, as long as they are not inherently historical or treated as historical in LCSH.