Library of Congress Subject Headings

Module 6.18
Multiple Subdivisions

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Multiple Subdivisions

• More than one subdivision in a heading

Television programs—United States— History—20th century.

• Subdivisions that automatically give free- floating status to analogous subdivisions

Computers—Religious aspects— Buddhism, [Christianity, etc.]

The phrase "multiple subdivision" can refer to two completely different situations in LCSH.

First, it is synonymous with the phrase "more than one subdivision," as in the heading string **Television programs—United States—History—20th century**, which has four components (1 heading and 3 subdivisions). Throughout this training we have tried to avoid using the phrase "multiple subdivision" it in that way, because "multiple subdivision" has another, very specific meaning within LCSH.

Multiple subdivisions are special types of subdivisions that automatically give free-floating status to analogous subdivisions used under the same heading. In the example **Computers—Religious aspects—Buddhism, [Christianity, etc.]**, the multiple subdivision is **—Buddhism, [Christianity, etc.]**.

This second meaning of "multiple subdivision" is the topic of this module.

Multiple Subdivisions

- Established
  - Under specific headings

    Subject headings—Aeronautics, [Education, Latin America, Law, etc.]

  - In lists of free-floating and pattern subdivisions

    From H 1188, Sacred Works
      —Concordances, French, [German, etc.]

Multiple subdivisions may be established under specific headings, and they also sometimes appear in lists of free-floating and pattern subdivisions. Before we talk more about the purpose and use of multiple subdivisions, we would like to show you how to identify them.

Although there are a few exceptions, multiple subdivisions that are established under specific headings can usually be identified by:

- square brackets,
- the list of topics in the subdivision, and
- the use of etc. as the final element before the closing bracket.

Characteristics of Multiple Subdivisions

• Established in free-floating and pattern lists

  • Always contain square brackets

H 1105, Corporate Bodies
—**Explosion, [date]**

H 1110, Names of Persons
—**Characters**—[*name of
individual character*]

Multiple subdivisions that are established in free-floating and pattern lists vary in format, but they always include square brackets.

A common situation is the presentation of a word or a phrase, followed by the word "date" in square brackets. Examples are **—Explosion, [date**], which is used under corporate bodies, and **—Inauguration, [date]**, which is used under names of individual people and appears in H 1110.

Another subdivision in H 1110 shows a different format, in which the entire subdivision is in brackets. The subdivision —**Characters** can be used under names literary authors for general resources about their characters. It can be further subdivided to indicate a particular character because of the multiple subdivision **—[name of individual character]**.

Characteristics of Multiple Subdivisions

• Established in free-floating and pattern
  lists
   • Always contain square brackets

    H 1140, Names of Places
        —**Annexation to** [. . .]

Another format that you will see occasionally is the one depicted in this example.

The square bracket with the ellipsis indicates that the cataloger should provide the name of the jurisdiction to which a place was annexed.

Characteristics of Multiple Subdivisions

• Established in free-floating and pattern lists

  • Always contain square brackets

    H 1140, Names of Places
      —**Annexation to** [. . .]

    H 1200, Wars
      —**Personal narratives, American,**
        [French, etc.]

Finally, it is common to see multiples that are established in free-floating and pattern lists include an opening word or phrase before the list begins, as in the example —**Personal narratives, American, [French, etc.]**, which is authorized by H 1200, Wars.

Again, though, no matter where the multiple subdivision is established or in what format, it will always include square brackets.

Assignment of Multiple Subdivisions

• Not authorized for use and cannot be assigned to resources

Names, Personal—Scottish, [Spanish, Welsh, etc.]

The square brackets indicate that the subdivision cannot be assigned to the resource as-is. This is despite the fact that they are coded as valid headings and appear in boldface type in Classification Web.
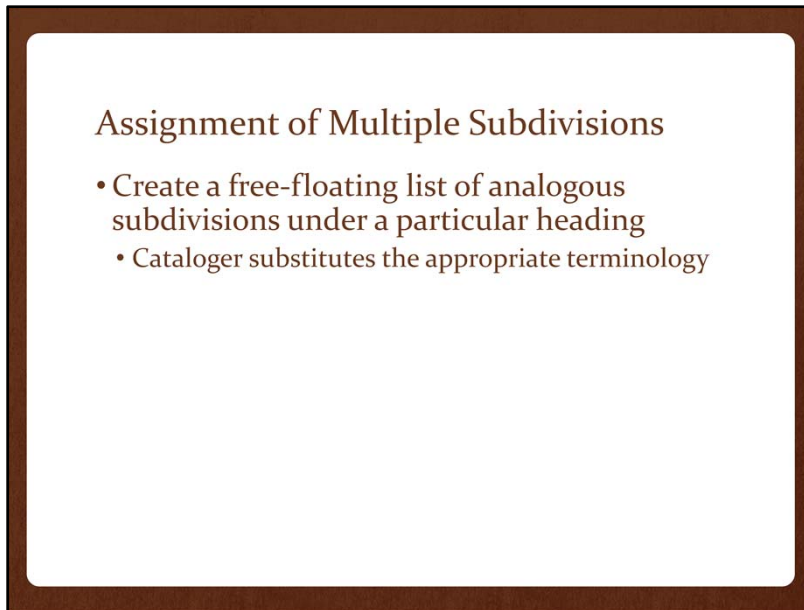
Assignment of Multiple Subdivisions

• Not authorized for use and cannot be
  assigned to resources

Names, Personal—Scottish, [Spanish, Welsh, etc.]

From H 1110, Names of Persons

$v Juvenile humor
$v Juvenile poetry
$x Kidnapping, [date]   (H 1078)
$x Knowledge $x Agriculture, [America, etc.]

In the lists of free-floating and pattern subdivisions they also appear like any other subdivision, but again, they cannot be assigned as-is.

Assignment of Multiple Subdivisions

- Create a free-floating list of analogous subdivisions under a particular heading
  - Cataloger substitutes the appropriate terminology

These subdivisions are intended to create a free-floating list of subdivisions under a particular heading, or category of headings in the case of the multiple subdivisions that appear in free-floating and pattern lists of subdivisions.

The cataloger substitutes the appropriate terminology to make a valid **[heading]—[subdivision]** combination.

Assignment of Multiple Subdivisions

- Create a free-floating list of analogous subdivisions under a particular heading
  - Cataloger substitutes the appropriate terminology

✗ **Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919—Inauguration, [date]**

✓**Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919—Inauguration, 1901.**

✓**Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919—Inauguration, 1905.**

Here is an example.

Theodore Roosevelt was the 26th president of the United States, and served two terms.

The multiple subdivision **—Inauguration**, followed by **[date]** appears in H 1110, the free-floating list of subdivisions for names of persons.

The heading *Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919—Inauguration, [date]* cannot be assigned, but two valid headings can be created: one each for the date of his two inaugurations.

Assignment of Multiple Subdivisions

- Multiple subdivision consists of a list of words or phrases

That was an obvious one, because the multiple subdivision said to insert a date. But what if the multiple subdivision consists of words?

It will be easiest to explain the procedure by using an example. Say that you are cataloging a resource about the relationship between Taoism and Christianity.

Assignment of Multiple Subdivisions

- Multiple subdivision consists of a list of words or phrases

Taoism—Relations

Taoism—Relations—Buddhism, [Confucianism, etc.]

You search for the heading **Taosim** and find the multiple subdivision **—Buddhism, [Confucianism, etc.]** under **Taoism—Relations**.

Your first question should be what the concepts in the list have in common. Buddhism and Confucianism are both religions.

Next, ask yourself whether Christianity is analogous to Buddhism and Confucianism. In other words, is Christianity a religion?

Yes, it is, so we can substitute **Christianity** for the multiple subdivision.

Assignment of Multiple Subdivisions

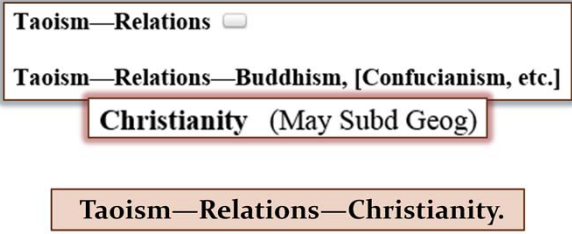- Multiple subdivision consists of a list of words or phrases

Taoism—Relations

Taoism—Relations—Buddhism, [Confucianism, etc.]
Christianity   (May Subd Geog)

But wait – first we have to search the concept of Christianity to determine how it is established in LCSH.

Now that we know that Christianity is established in LCSH as **Christianity**, we can use the established form to complete the heading **Taoism—Relations—Christianity**.

Note that the heading **Christianity** may be subdivided geographically, but the subdivision —**Christianity** cannot be.

The subdivision notation on the multiple subdivision takes precedence. Few, if any, multiple subdivisions may be subdivided geographically.

Assignment of Multiple Subdivisions

• Multiple subdivision consists of a list of words or phrases
  • Example 2
    Resource about subject headings for the discipline of biology

Here is another example.

This time we are cataloging a resource that consists of subject headings appropriate for the discipline of biology.

Assignment of Multiple Subdivisions

- Multiple subdivision consists of a list of words or phrases
  - Example 2

    Resource about subject headings for the discipline of biology

    Subject headings—Aeronautics, [Education, Latin America, Law, etc.]

When we search LCSH for the concept of subject headings, we find the heading **Subject headings**, which has the multiple subdivision **—Aeronautics, [Education, Latin America, Law, etc.]**.

First we ask:
- What do the concepts in the multiple subdivision have in common?
  The answer is that they are all subjects.

- Is the discipline of biology analogous to any of the concepts listed?
  Yes, because biology is a discipline, and **Law** and **Education** are also disciplines.

Assignment of Multiple Subdivisions

- Multiple subdivision consists of a list of words or phrases
  - Example 2

    Resource about subject headings for the discipline of biology

    Subject headings—Aeronautics, [Education, Latin America, Law, etc.]
    Biology (May Subd Geog)

Next we search LCSH to find the heading for biology and find that it is (logically enough) **Biology**.

Assignment of Multiple Subdivisions

• Multiple subdivision consists of a list of words or phrases
  • Example 2

  Resource about subject headings for the discipline of biology

  Subject headings—Aeronautics, [Education, Latin America, Law, etc.]
  Biology (May Subd Geog)

  Subject headings—Biology.

We should therefore compose the LCSH string **Subject headings—Biology** for the resource that is a list of subject headings for biology.

To summarize, the general procedure for using multiple subdivisions is:

1. Search the topic to determine whether a multiple subdivision has been established

2. Ask what the topics in the list have in common

3. Ask whether the concept you want to bring out is analogous to the topics in the list

4. Search the concept in LCSH to determine the established form, and

5. Substitute the established form of the concept for the multiple subdivision to make a valid **[heading]—[subdivision]** combination.

Now, we just said that is the *general* procedure. There are times when you need to modify the form of the authorized heading for the concept you are using in place of the multiple subdivision.

Assignment of Multiple Subdivisions

- Modifying the form of the heading
  - Example 1

An English-Arabic, Arabic-English dictionary

English language—Dictionaries—French, [Italian, etc.]

This time we are cataloging a bilingual English-Arabic, Arabic-English dictionary.

Searching LCSH, we find that the heading **English language—Dictionaries** has been established, and that has the multiple subdivision **—French, [Italian, etc.]**.

By the way, in case you have not guessed, the multiple was established under **English language** because **English language** is the pattern heading for languages. The same multiple subdivision can therefore be found in H 1154, the pattern instruction sheet for languages, and in the free-floating list of subdivisions in Classification Web.

So, let's go through our checklist.

First, what do the words in the multiple subdivision have in common? They are all languages. Arabic is also a language, so we can substitute the Arabic language for the multiple.

Assignment of Multiple Subdivisions

• Modifying the form of the heading
  • Example 1

An English-Arabic, Arabic-English dictionary

English language—Dictionaries—French, [Italian, etc.]
Arabic language (May Subd Geog)

Note that the heading for the Arabic language is **Arabic language**, but the multiple does not include the word "language."

Follow the style of the multiple by taking the authorized form for the language itself (**Arabic**) and drop the word language.

Assignment of Multiple Subdivisions

- Modifying the form of the heading
  - Example 1

An English-Arabic, Arabic-English dictionary

English language—Dictionaries—French, [Italian, etc.]

Arabic language (May Subd Geog)

English language—Dictionaries—Arabic.

The heading becomes **English language—Dictionaries—Arabic**.

We are not done yet, though.

Assignment of Multiple Subdivisions

- Modifying the form of the heading

  From H 1540, Dictionaries

  1.b. Dictionaries in two languages. If a dictionary gives the terms of one language in terms of another, assign the heading **[*name of first language*]—Dictionaries—[*name of second language*]**. … If the second language is also given in terms of the first, assign an additional heading with the languages reversed. … Omit the word **language** or **dialect** in formulating the subdivision following **—Dictionaries** …

The instruction sheet on dictionaries, H 1540, says in section 1.b,

> If a dictionary gives the terms of one language in terms of another, assign the heading **[*name of first language*]—Dictionaries—[*name of second language*]**…

> If the second language is also given in terms of the first, assign an additional heading with the languages reversed…

> Omit the word language or dialect in formulating the subdivision following **—Dictionaries**….

Assignment of Multiple Subdivisions

- Modifying the form of the heading
  - Example 1

An English-Arabic, Arabic-English dictionary

English language—Dictionaries—French, [Italian, etc.]
Arabic language   (May Subd Geog)

English language—Dictionaries—Arabic.
Arabic language—Dictionaries—English.

Following those instructions, we also have to assign

Arabic language—Dictionaries—English.

Note that there is not a multiple established under **Arabic language—Dictionaries**.

We can assign the heading we need because **English language**, where the multiple is established, is the pattern heading for languages.

Here is an example that requires a bit more manipulation of the authorized heading that will be used in place of the multiple.

This resource is about Oliver Twist, one of the well-known characters of Charles Dickens.

To catalog this resource we first find the authorized forms of name for Dickens and Oliver Twist, which are both established in the NAF.

But we should not just assign those two headings as subjects. Instead, let's look in the SHM to see if it gives us any information about cataloging critical works about fictitious characters.

Assignment of Multiple Subdivisions

• Modifying the form of the heading

From H 1610, Fictitious Characters

5.b. Works about the character or the named group of characters. Assign a subject heading without further subdivision to general nonfiction works about a fictitious character or group of characters. …

For works on the use of a fictitious character by an individual author, assign also a heading of the type **[*name of author*]—Characters—[*name of character*]** (cf. H 1110).

H 1610, Fictitious Characters, says in section 5.b,

> Assign a subject heading without further subdivision to general nonfiction works about a fictitious character or group of characters…

> For works on the use of a fictitious character by an individual author, assign also a heading of the type **[*name of author*]—Characters—[*name of character*]**.

This instruction is telling us that we have to assign the subject heading for Oliver Twist, and also a heading for Dickens, subdivided by —**Characters**, and further subdivided by the name of the character.

You see the very last element here is a reference to H 1110, which is the free-floating list of subdivisions used under names of persons. We should go look at that instruction sheet and see if there are any further instructions.

Assignment of Multiple Subdivisions

- Modifying the form of the heading

  From H 1100, Names of Persons

  $x **Characters** *$x* [***name of individual character***]
  Use for works about specific named characters of a
  literary author. Use the name of the character in
  uninverted form, for example, **—Characters—Julius
  Caesar**. ... If the character is fictitious, assign an
  additional heading for the character, in accordance with H
  1610.

Under the entry —**Characters—[*name of individual character*]**, H 1110 says,

> Use for works about specific named characters of a literary author. Use the name of the
> character in uninverted form, for example, **—Characters—Julius Caesar**…

> If the character is fictitious, assign an additional heading for the character in accordance with
> H 1610.

Assignment of Multiple Subdivisions

- Modifying the form of the heading
  - Example 2

A resource about Charles Dickens' character Oliver Twist

Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870

Twist, Oliver (Fictitious character)

Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870—Characters —Oliver Twist.

Twist, Oliver (Fictitious character)

By following the SHM instructions, we assign two headings:

Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870—Characters—Oliver Twist
and
Twist, Oliver (Fictitious character)

Notice the format of the subdivision for Oliver Twist. As the instruction sheet stated, we assigned it in uninverted form.

We also removed the qualifier "fictitious character" because it was redundant when used after the subdivision —**Characters**.

Commonalities within Multiple Subdivisions

• Consider the multiple subdivision in the context of other established subdivisions

Names, Personal (May Subd Geog)

Names, Personal—Aboriginal Australian

Names, Personal—Hispanic American

Names, Personal—Islamic

Names, Personal—Scottish, [Spanish, Welsh, etc.]

Throughout this module, we have indicated that it is important to ask yourself what the words or phrases in the list have in common, and we have used simple examples in which the answer is pretty obvious. It is obvious often, but asking the question is a good habit because the answer is not always clear at first glance. Sometimes you need to look at the context of the other subdivisions used with the heading to understand what the multiple subdivision means.

Take this subset of subdivisions used with **Names, Personal**, for example.

Names, Personal has the subdivisions **—Aboriginal Australian**, **—Hispanic American** and —**Islamic**. It also has the multiple **—Scottish, [Spanish, Welsh, etc.]**.

Let's think about what the multiple means. It clearly does not refer to American ethnic groups. It also does not refer to religion. But the words Scottish, Spanish, and Welsh can be adjectives for people living in Scotland, Spain, and Wales, respectively, or they can be names of languages. Which are they here?

To answer that question, we have to look at the main heading. **Names, Personal** can be subdivided geographically, therefore, the multiple must be referring to languages.

Commonalities within Multiple Subdivisions

- Consider the multiple subdivision in the context of other established subdivisions

  Personal names in Finland
  Heading: **Names, Personal—Finland.**

  Personal names in the Finnish language
  Heading: **Names, Personal—Finnish.**

A resource about personal names given to children in Finland (regardless of the ethnicity or the language of the name) is assigned the heading **Names, Personal—Finland**.

A resource about Finnish-language names, however, is assigned the heading **Names, Personal— Finnish**.

Commonalities within Multiple
  Subdivisions

• Multiples used with –**Religious aspects**

—**Religious aspects—Baptists,**
    [Catholic Church, etc.]

—**Religious aspects—Buddhism,**
    [Christianity, etc.]

The most frequently seen multiple subdivisions in LCSH are those that are used under the subdivision —**Religious aspects**. They are close in meaning, and are another example of why it is good to consider the commonalities among the concepts in the multiple.

These subdivisions, —**Religious aspects—Baptists, [Catholic Church, etc.]** and —**Religious aspects—Buddhism, [Christianity, etc.]**, are sometimes misunderstood.

Commonalities within Multiple
   Subdivisions

• Multiples used with –**Religious aspects**

   —**Religious aspects—Baptists,
      [Catholic Church, etc.]**
   Individual Christian denominations (H 1187)

   —**Religious aspects—Buddhism,
      [Christianity, etc.]**
   Individual religions or sects (H 1185)

The multiple subdivision **—Baptists, [Catholic Church, etc.]** applies only to Christian denominations, not to Christianity in general, or to other religions, or to the sects of other religions.

The multiple subdivision **—Buddhism, [Christianity, etc.]** is just the opposite. It is used to finish a heading with an individual religion. It can also be used to finish a heading with a sect of a religion other than those sects that are Christian.

Instructional Scope Notes

- Scope notes that allows for free-floating subdivision of the heading as described in the note
  - Serve the same purpose as multiple subdivisions

Comets (Not Subd Geog)
  [QB717-732]
  This heading may be subdivided by date,
    e.g. Comets—1835.

Before we end this module, we want to mention a special type of scope note that serves the same purpose that multiple subdivisions do.

These scope notes provide special instructions indicating that a heading can be subdivided by date. Those dates can be assigned in a free-floating fashion.

Further Information

- H 1090, Multiple Subdivisions

- H 1095-1200, the free-floating and pattern lists of subdivisions

  - Often provide instructions for the use of multiple subdivisions listed in them

For more information on multiple subdivisions, please consult H 1090, the instruction sheet specifically about them.

The free-floating and pattern instruction sheets are also helpful. They often provide instructions on the use of the multiple subdivisions established within them. We saw an example of that from H 1110, during our examination of the resource about Oliver Twist.