
Library of Congress Subject Headings

Module 6.4
Pattern Subdivisions

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Pattern Subdivisions Defined

- Topical and form subdivisions developed for use under particular categories of subject headings or name headings used as subjects
- Established in LCSH under one or more representative headings for each category (i.e., the “pattern”)
- May be used under other headings that fit the category, similar to free-floating subdivisions

So far in this unit we have discussed free-floating subdivisions. We would now like to turn our attention to pattern subdivisions.

Pattern subdivisions are a special type of free-floating subdivision, and they are used in the same way as free-floating subdivisions. The difference is in how they are established.

Pattern subdivisions are topical and form subdivisions that are established under representative headings in LCSH. They may be used on a free-floating basis with other headings that belong to the same category as the representative heading.

Pattern Subdivisions Defined

- Example

Corn—Harvesting

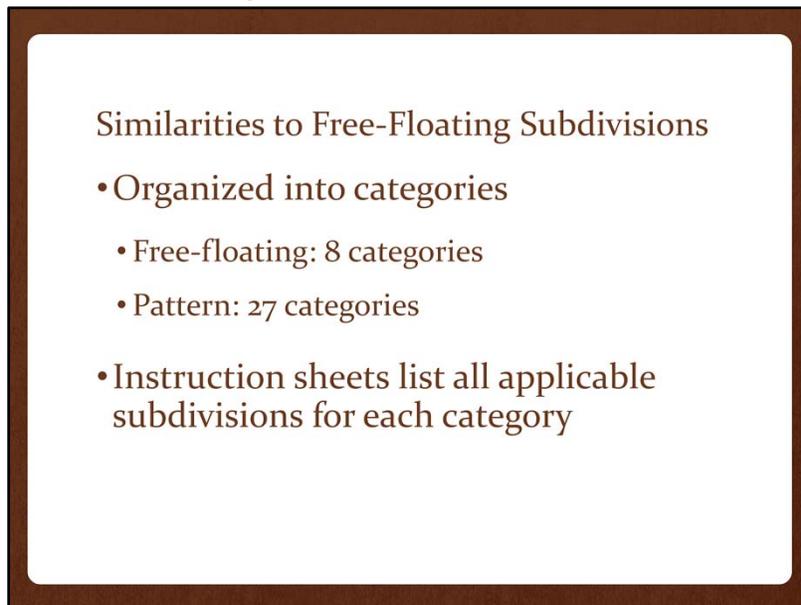
For example, **Corn—Harvesting** is established. **Corn** is the pattern heading for plants and crops, so the subdivision can also be used with any other heading that is a plant or crop that can be harvested.

Pattern Subdivisions Defined

- Example
 - Corn—Harvesting**
 - Lettuce—Harvesting**
 - Tomatoes—Harvesting**

The headings **Lettuce—Harvesting** and **Tomatoes—Harvesting** can therefore be created without being specifically established.

Now that you know what *can* be done, let's explore *how* it is done.



Similarities to Free-Floating Subdivisions

- Organized into categories
 - Free-floating: 8 categories
 - Pattern: 27 categories
- Instruction sheets list all applicable subdivisions for each category

Like the free-floating subdivisions that we have already covered, pattern subdivisions are divided into categories. There are many more pattern categories than free-floating categories, though; there are 27 pattern categories, compared to eight categories of free-floating subdivisions.

Also like free-floating subdivisions, the pattern subdivisions are listed in SHM instruction sheets, one category per sheet.

The instruction sheets are as follows.

Pattern Instruction Sheets	
H 1146	Animals
H 1147	Art
H 1149	Chemicals
H 1149.5	Colonies
H 1150	Diseases
H 1151	Individual educational institutions
H 1151.5	Types of educational institutions
H 1153	Industries
H 1154	Languages

Animals
Art
Chemicals
Colonies
Diseases
Individual Educational Institutions
as well as
Types of Educational Institutions
Industries
Languages

Pattern Instruction Sheets

H 1154.5	Legal topics
H 1155	Legislative bodies
H 1155.2	Literary authors: groups of literary authors
H 1155.6	Literary works entered under author
H 1155.8	Literary works entered under title
H 1156	Literatures
H 1158	Materials
H 1159	Military services
H 1160	Musical compositions

- Legal Topics
- Legislative Bodies
- Literary Authors: Groups of Literary Authors
and then
- Literary Works Entered under Author
and
- Literary Works Entered under Title
and then
- Literatures
- Materials
- Military services
- Musical compositions

Pattern Instruction Sheets	
H 1161	Musical instruments
H 1164	Organs and regions of the body
H 1180	Plants and crops
H 1185	Religions
H 1186	Religious and monastic orders
H 1187	Christian denominations
H 1188	Sacred works
H 1195	Sacred works
H 1195	Land vehicles
H 1200	Wars

Musical Instruments
Organs and Regions of the Body
Plants and Crops
Religions
 as well as
Religious and Monastic Orders
Christian Denominations
 and
Sacred Works
Land Vehicles
 and finally
Wars

Pattern Instruction Sheets

- Introductory paragraph: “Types of headings covered by the pattern”
 - Defines scope of the category
 - Provides examples
- Conflict statement
- Special provisions

Like instruction sheets listing free-floating subdivisions, the instruction sheets that list pattern subdivisions contain an introductory paragraph that defines the scope of the category. The paragraph indicates what types of headings are and are not included, and provides examples.

The instruction sheets then contain a conflict statement, just as most of the instruction sheets for free-floating subdivisions do.

The pattern instruction sheets may also contain special provisions for assigning subdivisions in that category.

Pattern Instruction Sheets

- **Entries in alphabetical lists of subdivisions**
 - Subdivisions in boldface type
 - References to other instruction sheets
 - Scope notes and usage instructions
 - Notation about geographic subdivision
 - MARC coding
- Cross-references in regular type

Like lists of free-floating subdivisions, entries for pattern subdivisions are in boldface type. The entries provide references to:

- other instruction sheets,
- scope notes and usage instructions, and
- notation indicating whether the subdivision can be geographically subdivided.

They also provide the MARC coding, and there are some cross-references from non-preferred terms in regular type.

Pattern Instruction Sheets

- List of the pattern heading(s) for the category

The diagram shows two overlapping boxes representing pattern instruction sheets. The top box is for 'H 1180 Plants and Crops' with the pattern 'PATTERN: Corn'. The bottom box is for 'H 1147 Animals' with the pattern 'PATTERN: Fishes; Cattle'.

The pattern instruction sheets are different from instruction sheets for free-floating subdivisions in two important ways.

First, the initial line of the instruction sheets indicates the pattern heading or headings. These are the headings under which all of the pattern subdivisions are established in LCSH.

As you can see on the screen, there is a single pattern for plants and crops, **Corn**.

There are two patterns for animals: **Fishes** and **Cattle**. Why two? Well, some subdivisions are appropriate for land animals, and others are appropriate for animals that live in the water.

Tangentially, the instruction sheets for categories that have multiple pattern headings include a statement indicating which heading is preferred when establishing new subdivisions. That way, most of the subdivisions end up in one place. The additional pattern heading or headings are provided for exceptional cases.

Pattern Instruction Sheets

- List of the pattern heading(s) for the category

From H 1154:

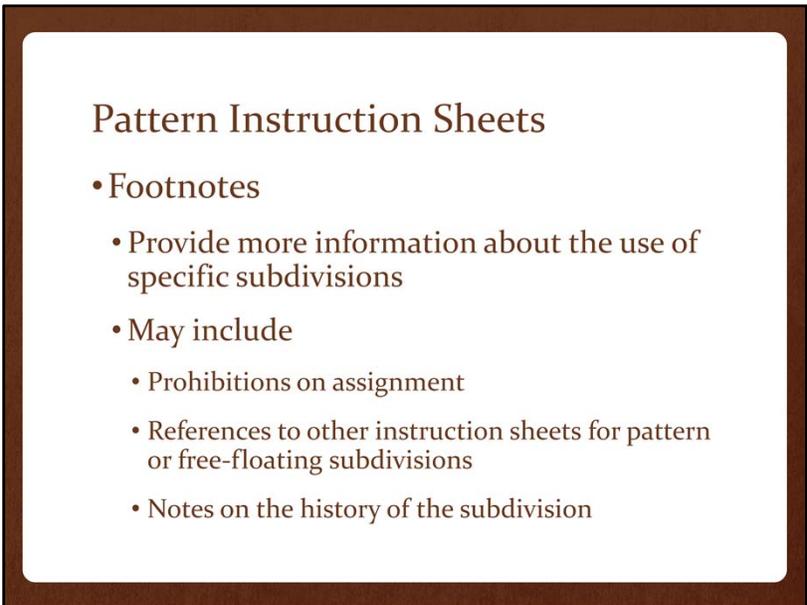
NEW SUBDIVISIONS: Establish new subdivisions under **English language**, if possible, or if it is not possible, under **French language** for individual languages or **Romance languages** for groups of languages. Subdivisions listed below which are not valid under **English language** are indicated by a footnote.

For example, the pattern instruction sheet for languages, H 1154, has three patterns: **English language**, **French language**, and **Romance languages**.

New subdivisions are established under **English language** when possible, so that the most complete list of subdivisions in LCSH is in one place.

The heading **French language** is provided as an alternate because English is a Germanic language and French is a Romance language, and the language groups have different grammatical elements.

Romance languages is provided so that subdivisions that are pertinent only to language groups, such as the subdivision —**Mutual intelligibility**, can be proposed as pattern subdivisions.



Pattern Instruction Sheets

- Footnotes
 - Provide more information about the use of specific subdivisions
 - May include
 - Prohibitions on assignment
 - References to other instruction sheets for pattern or free-floating subdivisions
 - Notes on the history of the subdivision

Coming back from our tangent, the second difference between pattern heading and free-floating subdivision lists is the provision of footnotes.

The footnotes in the pattern instruction sheets provide more information about the assignment of specific subdivisions. They serve the same purpose as scope and usage notes, but can sometimes go into great detail. They can also provide prohibitions on the assignment of a particular subdivision, references to other instruction sheets, and even notes on the history or establishment of that subdivision.

Unlike footnotes in a book, which can sometimes be skipped without loss of information, footnotes in the SHM perform a vital function and should always be read and applied.

In the Cataloger's Desktop version of the SHM, the presence of a footnote is indicated with a green-colored hyperlink. Hover your mouse over the link and the footnote will appear in a pop-up window. If you are using the PDFs, footnotes are indicated in the normal way, through the use of superscript numbers.

Pattern Instruction Sheets

- Footnotes

H 1159 : Military Services
PATTERNS:
United States—Armed Forces
United States. Army
United States. Navy
United States. Air Force
United States. Marines

The pattern instruction sheet for Military Services, H 1159, contains wide array of footnotes.

According to the opening paragraph, H 1159 covers the military services at the national and state or province level. There are five patterns, covering the four branches of the military and a general heading covering the military in general, **United States—Armed Forces**. There are so many pattern headings because some subdivisions are pertinent only to a particular branch.

Pattern Instruction Sheets

- Footnotes

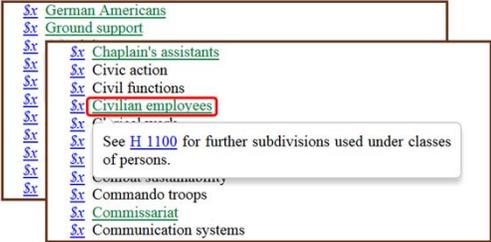
[\\$x German Americans](#)
[\\$x Ground support](#)
[\\$x Gunners](#)
[\\$x Headquarters](#)
[\\$x Hispanic Americans](#)
[\\$x History](#)
[\\$x History \\$y 16th century](#)

Use only under air forces; use **-Aviation-Ground support** under other military services.

For example, in the footnote we can find that the subdivision –**Ground support** can be used only under air forces, and we have to use a different subdivision for other military services.

Pattern Instruction Sheets

- **Footnotes**



The screenshot shows a list of subject headings, each preceded by a small icon. The heading 'Civilian employees' is highlighted with a red box. A callout box points to this heading, containing the text: 'See H 1100 for further subdivisions used under classes of persons.'

- [German Americans](#)
- [Ground support](#)
- [Chaplain's assistants](#)
- [Civic action](#)
- [Civil functions](#)
- [Civilian employees](#)
- [Communication systems](#)
- [Commando troops](#)
- [Commissariat](#)
- [Communication systems](#)

The subdivision —**Civilian employees** has a very common type of footnote.

It states that —**Civilian employees** can be further subdivided by subdivisions from H 1100, Classes of Persons.

Pattern Instruction Sheets

- Footnotes



[Sx](#) German Americans
[Sx](#) Ground support
[Sx](#) [Sx](#) Chaplain's assistants
[Sx](#) [Sx](#) Civic action
[Sx](#) [Sx](#) Civil functions
[Sx](#) [Sx](#) Civilian employees
[Sx](#) [Sx](#) Management
[Sx](#) [Sx](#) Maneuvers
[Sx](#) [Sx](#) Mascots
[Sx](#) [Sx](#) Masters-at-arms
[Sx](#) [Sx](#) **Medals, badges, decorations, etc.**
[Sx](#) [Sx](#) Do not use under *[place]*-Armed Forces; use **Military decorations-[place]**.
[Sx](#) [Sx](#) ~~Medical personnel~~ [Sx](#) Malpractice
[Sx](#) [Sx](#) Medical supplies

And we find that the subdivision —**Medals, badges, decorations, etc.**, cannot be used under geographic headings subdivided by —**Armed Forces**.

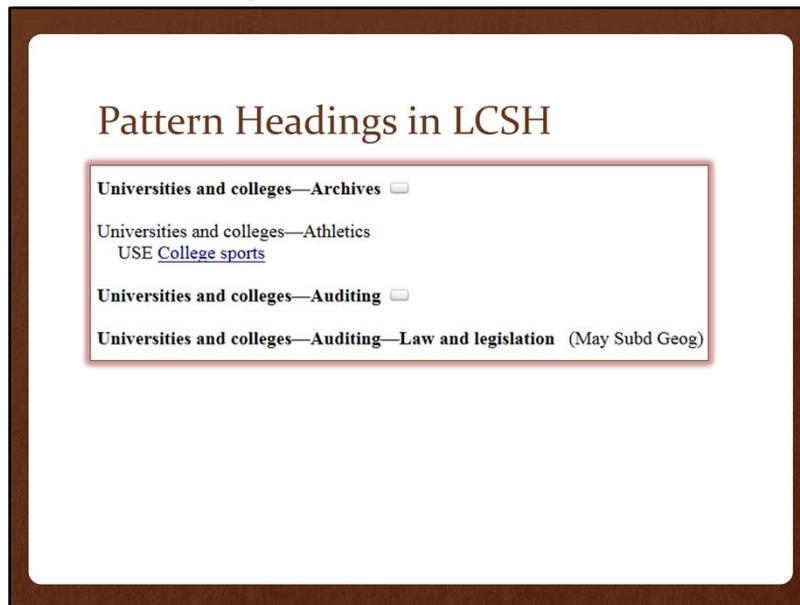
Instead, we have to use the heading **Military decorations**, subdivided by place.

Pattern Headings in LCSH

- Pattern subdivisions are established under the pattern heading(s) for the applicable category
- Search the pattern in LCSH to find the subdivisions applicable to the category

As we have said, pattern subdivisions are established under pattern headings in LCSH itself, and this single fact is the biggest difference between free-floating and pattern subdivisions.

On a practical level, this means that if you know the pattern for a particular category, you can search it in LCSH to find the list of subdivisions pertinent to the category.



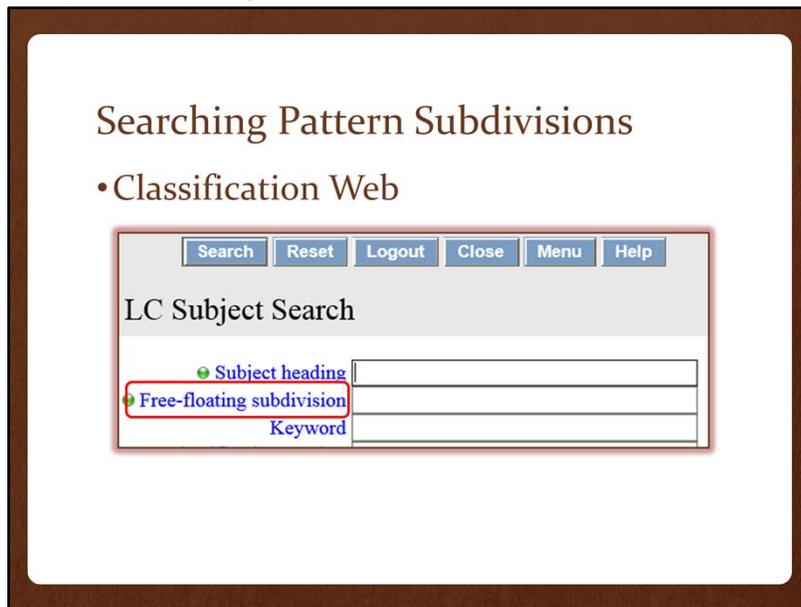
Let's look at some subdivisions established under **Universities and colleges**, for example. **Universities and colleges** is the pattern heading for types of educational institutions (which is instruction sheet H 1151.5).

This is the way it looks in LCSH itself. The subdivisions —**Archives**, —**Auditing**, and —**Auditing—Law and legislation** are established.

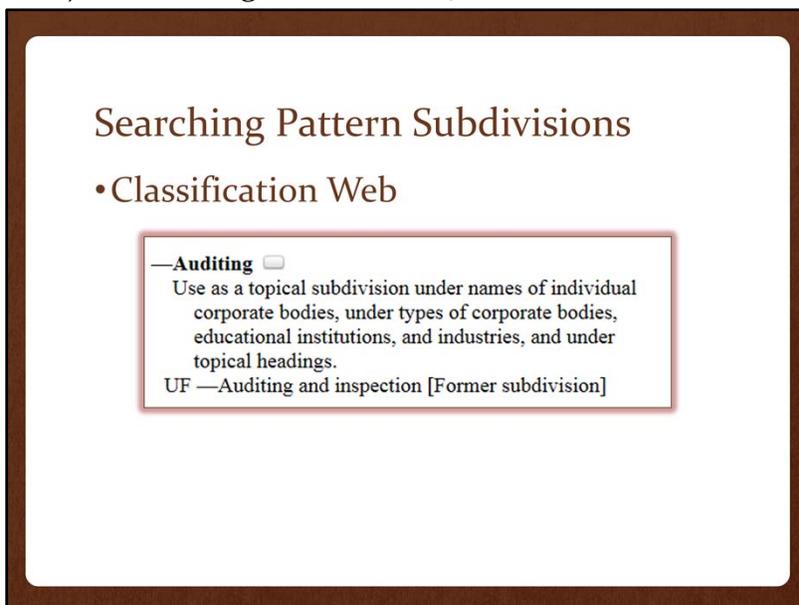
The screenshot shows a portion of the Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) interface. It features a title 'Pattern Headings in LCSH' and two distinct boxes. The upper box contains the heading 'Universities and colleges—Archives' with a small square icon, followed by 'Universities and colleges—Athletics' and the instruction 'USE College sports'. The lower box contains 'Universities and colleges—Auditing' with a small square icon, and 'Universities and colleges—Auditing—Law and legislation (May Subd Geog)'. Below these are several subdivisions, each preceded by a blue '\$x' symbol: 'Archives', 'Auditing', 'Auditing \$x Law and legislation (May Subd Geog)', 'Business man...', 'Chapel exerc...', 'Communication topics.', and 'Communication systems \$x Computing sci (May Subd Geog)'. A tooltip is visible over the 'Chapel exerc...' entry, containing the text 'See H 1154.5 for further subdivisions used under legal'.

This is the way the same subdivisions look in the SHM.

As you can see, the list of subdivisions matches, but the SHM does something that LCSH does not do: it gives you a footnote that indicates what other subdivisions may be used under —**Auditing—Law and legislation**.



Subdivisions established under pattern headings can also be found in the list of subdivisions in Classification Web. They are interfiled with the free-floating subdivisions, and are searched the same way.



The image shows a screenshot of a 'Classification Web' entry for 'Auditing'. The title 'Searching Pattern Subdivisions' is at the top. Below it is the heading '• Classification Web'. A red-bordered box contains the following text: '—Auditing' followed by a small square icon, then a paragraph: 'Use as a topical subdivision under names of individual corporate bodies, under types of corporate bodies, educational institutions, and industries, and under topical headings.' and finally 'UF —Auditing and inspection [Former subdivision]'.

Here is the entry for the subdivision —**Auditing**, which we saw in the previous example.

As you can see, the entry indicates the categories of headings to which the subdivision can be added: names of individual corporate bodies, types of corporate bodies, educational institutions, and industries, and topical headings.

This entry does not take the place of the instruction sheets. Instead, this entry shows you that the subdivision is valid and which free-floating and pattern instruction sheets to review to find additional information.

Pattern Subdivisions May Be Used If...

- The subdivision is appropriate to the heading being assigned
- The subdivision is not redundant with the heading
- The subdivision accurately reflects the contents or form of the resource
- There is no conflict in LCSH

The same criteria that govern the application of free-floating subdivisions govern the application of pattern subdivisions.

To review, these are

- The subdivision must be appropriate to the heading being assigned.
- The subdivision and heading cannot be redundant.
- The combination of the heading and subdivision must accurately reflect the content or form of the resource.
- And, the combination of the heading and the subdivision must not be assigned if it is an established USED FOR reference to an authorized heading.