

### Definition

- Geographic area codes (a.k.a. GAC, 043)
  - Provide for retrieval of cataloging records by area of geographic interest
  - Consist of lowercase alphabetic characters and hyphens

Geographic area codes, sometimes called GACs or referred to by their MARC field tag, 043, are codes that provide for broad retrieval of cataloging records by area of geographic interest.

They consist of lowercase alphabetical characters and hyphens.

**Definition**

- Geographic area codes (a.k.a. GAC, 043)
  - Provide for retrieval of cataloging records by area of geographic interest
  - Consist of lowercase alphabetic characters and hyphens

**Examples**

a	Asia
ew	Europe, Western
f-ao	Angola
n-us-ms	Mississippi

These examples show a variety of formats, from a single character for Asia to seven characters for Mississippi.

## Definition

- Geographic area codes (a.k.a. GAC, 043)
  - Exist for
    - Countries
    - First-order political divisions of China, the United States, Great Britain, Australia, and Canada
    - Selected regions
    - Selected geographic features
    - Outer space
    - Selected celestial bodies

There are geographic area codes for:

- every country;
- the first-order political subdivisions of China, the United States, Great Britain, Australia, and Canada;
- some regions, both international and within a single country;
- some major geographic features such as the Amazon River, the Rocky Mountains, and the Sahara;
- outer space, and
- some celestial bodies such as the sun and the planet Jupiter.

**Definition**

- Geographic area codes (a.k.a. GAC, 043)
- Are hierarchical

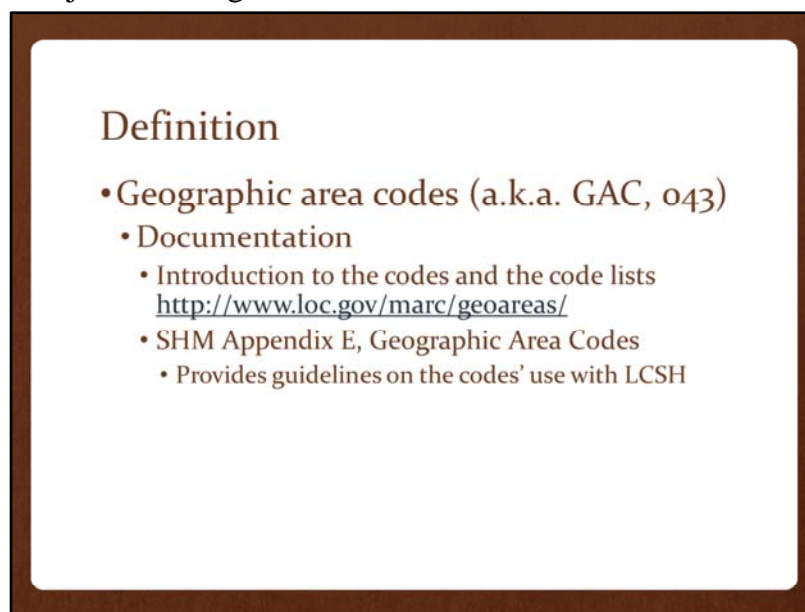
**Example**

n	North America
n-cn	Canada
n-cn-bc	British Columbia

The codes provide a hierarchical arrangement.

For example, North America has the code “n,” and the code for every place on that continent begins with the letter “n.”

Canada is in North America so its code is “n-cn,” and every place in Canada with a code begins with “n-cn,” such as British Columbia, which is assigned “n-cn-bc.”



**Definition**

- Geographic area codes (a.k.a. GAC, 043)
  - Documentation
    - Introduction to the codes and the code lists  
<http://www.loc.gov/marc/geoareas/>
    - SHM Appendix E, Geographic Area Codes
      - Provides guidelines on the codes' use with LCSH

The documentation for the geographic area codes, including an introduction to the list and the list of codes itself, is available on LC's website at the URL on the screen.

Geographic area codes can be used with any subject heading system, just as the MARC format can, so guidelines on the use of the codes with LCSH are provided in SHM Appendix E.

### MARC coding

- Assign the codes in the 043 field
  - Both indicators are undefined
  - Use subfield \$a, which is repeatable
  - Add trailing hyphens to the code if necessary to total seven characters

Geographic area codes are assigned in subfield \$a of the 043 field, and the subfield is repeatable so that multiple codes can be assigned. We will talk more about that later.

Trailing hyphens are appended to the code if necessary to total seven characters.

### MARC Coding

Place	Assigned code	043 field
Cyprus	a-cy	043 ## \$a a-cy---
Europe	e	043 ## \$a e-----
Hudson Bay	n-cn	043 ## \$a n-cn---
Wyoming	n-us-wy	043 ## \$a n-us-wy
Southern Hemisphere	xc	043 ## \$a xc-----

The code for Cyprus consists of four characters, so when it is entered into the 043 field three hyphens have to be added to the end to total seven characters.

The code for Europe has to have six hyphens added, while the one for Hudson Bay needs two.

Wyoming's code is already seven characters long, so trailing hyphens are not added.

The code for the Southern Hemisphere is two characters, so five hyphens are added.



### Relation to Subject Headings

- Assign codes that correspond to
  - Geographic subject headings
  - Geographic subdivisions
  - Implied geography in other headings

Codes are assigned to correspond to the geographic places that are explicitly or implicitly in the subject headings that have been assigned to the resource.

Clearly, then, codes that represent the places in geographic subject headings (that is, the 651 fields) and also the geographic subdivisions should be added to bibliographic records.

Less obviously, other subject headings *imply* place, and geographic area codes are assigned for those, too. They include the places where languages are spoken, the location of buildings, and more. We will give you several examples in a few moments.

### Relation to Subject Headings

- Assign as many codes as necessary to reflect the geographic focus of the subject headings
  - If a large number of codes would be required, consider assigning one or more broader codes that would include all of the individual places

You should assign as many codes as necessary to reflect the geographic focus of the subject headings, whether that focus is explicit or implied. However, doing so sometimes would require a large number of codes to be assigned. If that is the case, consider assigning one or more broader codes that would include all of the individual places instead of codes for each individual place.

Relation to Subject Headings

- Geographic headings

```
043 ## $a nw-----  
651 #0 $a West Indies $x Foreign  
      economic relations.
```

In the heading **West Indies—Foreign economic relations**, the geographic element is West Indies.

The code for West Indies is “nw” with five trailing hyphens.

## Relation to Subject Headings

- Geographic headings

```
043 ## $a nw-----
```

```
651 #0 $a West Indies $x Foreign  
economic relations.
```

```
043 ## $a f-tz---
```

```
651 #0 $a Tanzania $x History $y  
1964-
```

In the heading **Tanzania—History—1964-**, we assign the geographic area code for Tanzania.

Relation to Subject Headings

- Geographic subdivisions

```
043 ##$a e-uk-en
650 #0 $a Pavements $x Cracking
      $z England.
```

Geographic *subdivisions* are coded, too.

In this example, we are coding for England.

## Relation to Subject Headings

- Geographic subdivisions

```
043 ##$a e-uk-en
650 #0 $a Pavements $x Cracking
      $z England.

043 ## $a a-ii---
650 #0 $a Agricultural implements
      $z India.
```

And in this heading, the geographic subdivision is India.

## Relation to Subject Headings

- Coding for local entities
  - Assign the code for the country or first-order political subdivision

```
043 ## $a a-le---  
651 #0 $a Beirut (Lebanon) $x  
Economic conditions.
```

Oftentimes, the subject heading includes a local place that does not have a geographic area code. In that case, assign the code for the next highest level of jurisdiction possible. In most cases, that is the country.

For example, there is not a geographic area code for Beirut, Lebanon, so we assign the code for Lebanon as a whole.

**Relation to Subject Headings**

- Coding for local entities
  - Assign the code for the country or first-order political subdivision

```
043 ## $a a-le---  
651 #0 $a Beirut (Lebanon) $x  
      Economic conditions.  
  
043 ## $a n-us-tx  
650 #0 $a Universities and colleges  
      $z Texas $z Houston.
```

There are a several countries (China, the United States, Great Britain, Australia, and Canada) that have codes specific to their first-level administrative divisions, that is, the states of the United States and Australia, the constituent countries of Great Britain, and the provinces of Canada and China.

For those countries, assign the code for the first-level division. The heading **Universities and colleges—Texas—Houston** is coded for Texas, which is the U.S. state that includes Houston.



## Relation to Subject Headings

- Influence of one nation on another
- Code for both

```
043 ## $a a-ja--- $a e-gx---  
650 #0 $a Philosophy, Japanese $x  
      German influences.  
  
043 ## $a s-ag--- $a f-----  
651 #0 $a Argentina $x Civilization  
      $x African influences.
```

Sometimes resources are about the influence that one nation or civilization has on another. In that case, assign geographic area codes for *both*. The codes for Japan and Germany correspond to the subject heading **Philosophy, Japanese—German influences**.

Sometimes a geographic heading is used in such cases, as in **Argentina—Civilization—African influences**. Geographic area codes for Argentina and Africa are both assigned.

And note that the subfield \$a is repeated: one subfield \$a for each geographic area code that is assigned.

**Relation to Subject Headings**

- Named entities

```
043 ## $a a-ja---  
610 2# $a Century Tower (Tokyo,  
      Japan)  
  
043 ## $a n-us-il  
651 #0 $a Chicago Skyway (Chicago,  
      Ill.)
```

Named entities such as buildings, roads, parks, waterways, and so forth, are assigned codes that indicate their location. The Century Tower, an office building, is in Tokyo, Japan, so the geographic area code is for Japan.

The Chicago Skyway is an express highway in the city of Chicago, in the U.S. state of Illinois. It is coded for Illinois.

**Relation to Subject Headings**

- **Named entities**
  - For government agencies, code the jurisdiction served

```
043 ## $a u-at---  
610 10 $a Australia. $b Department  
      of Business and Consumer  
      Affairs.  
  
043 ## $a e-uk-wl  
610 20 $a Cardiff Free Libraries.
```

Some named entities that appear in subject headings are corporations or government agencies. Government agencies are coded for the jurisdiction that they serve, whether or not the agency is entered under the name of the jurisdiction.

The Australian Department of Business and Consumer Affairs is coded for Australia.

Cardiff Free Libraries is a government agency, but its name is entered directly (meaning that the subfield \$a does not consist solely of the jurisdiction's name).

The geographic area code for the jurisdiction served is still added – although in this case, the agency is at the city level, so we code for the country, Wales.

**Relation to Subject Headings**

- Entities located in several jurisdictions
  - Assign a code for each jurisdiction

```
043 ## $a a-ii--- $a a-bg---  
651 #0 $a Ganges River (India and  
Bangladesh) $x Navigation.
```

Sometimes entities – particularly geographic features – are located in two or more jurisdictions. In that case, assign a geographic area code for each of the jurisdictions.

The Ganges River is in Bangladesh and India, so the codes for Bangladesh and India are both assigned. In this case, the subject heading for the Ganges includes the jurisdictions through which it flows, but this rule would still apply if the heading did not include the jurisdictions.

**Relation to Subject Headings**

- Entities located in several jurisdictions
  - Assign a code for each jurisdiction

```
043 ## $a a-ii--- $a a-bg---  
651 #0 $a Ganges River (India and  
      Bangladesh) $x Navigation.  
  
043 ## $a n-us-wv $a n-us-md  
      $a n-us-va $a n-us-dc  
651 #0 $a Potomac River $x Navigation.
```

The heading for the Potomac River is simply Potomac River.

The river rises in the U.S. state of West Virginia and flows through the states of Maryland and Virginia, as well as Washington, D.C., before emptying into the Chesapeake Bay.

All three of the states and Washington are given geographic area codes.

## Relation to Subject Headings

- Entities located in several jurisdictions
  - Assign a code for each jurisdiction
    - But some features have codes of their own

```
043 ## $a fl-----  
651 #0 $a Nile River $x Navigation.  
  
043 ## $a ea-----  
650 #0 $a Mountaineering $z Alps.
```

It is always a good idea to check the geographic code list for geographic features, because some of them have their own codes.

The Nile River and the Alps both do, as do the Rocky Mountains, the Yellow River, and others.

If the feature has its own code, just assign that code; do not also assign the codes for the individual jurisdictions.

### Relation to Subject Headings

- Historic jurisdictions, empires, etc.
- Assign codes that correspond to the modern-day jurisdictions or areas

```
043 ## $a mm-----  
650 #0 $a Mortality $z Byzantine  
      Empire.
```

Historic jurisdictions, kingdoms, and so forth should be coded for the modern-day jurisdictions or areas that match the extent of the historic ones.

Sometimes it is best to code for the general area controlled by the historic jurisdiction.

For example, the Byzantine Empire controlled much of what we now think of as the Mediterranean region. Therefore, we code it that way. “mm” is for the Mediterranean.

### Relation to Subject Headings

- Historic jurisdictions, empires, etc.
- Assign codes that correspond to the modern-day jurisdictions or areas

```
043 ## $a mm-----  
650 #0 $a Mortality $z Byzantine  
      Empire.  
  
043 #0 $a f-ua--- $a a-su--- $a  
      aw-----  
600 30 $a Mamelukes.
```

On the other hand, sometimes it makes sense to code modern-day jurisdictions. The Mameluke dynasty existed from the 13<sup>th</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup> centuries and controlled much of what is today called Egypt and Saudi Arabia, as well as the entire Middle East. We will code for all three.

“f-ua” is the code for Egypt,  
“a-su” is the code for Saudi Arabia, and  
“aw” is for the Middle East.

Coding for the Middle East as a whole is more cost- and time-effective than coding for the countries that together constitute the Middle East.



**Relation to Subject Headings**

- Events

```
043 ## $a nwbf--- $a n-us-la $a
      n-us-fl
650 #0 $a Hurricane Andrew, 1992.

043 ## $a f-so---
650 #0 $a Mogadishu, Battle of,
      Mogadishu, Somalia, 1993
```

The location where an event occurred is also assigned a geographic area code.

Hurricane Andrew hit the Bahamas and the U.S. states of Louisiana and Florida in 1992, so those three places are coded.

The Battle of Mogadishu occurred in Somalia, so we assign the geographic area code for Somalia.

Relation to Subject Headings

- Literature: Literary criticism
  - Assign codes to represent the provenance of the literature

```
043 ## $a ncho---  
650 #0 $a Honduran poetry $x History  
and criticism.
```

So far, we have talked mostly about headings that clearly are geographic or have a geographic aspect to them.

We also assign geographic area codes for headings that are not so clearly geographic. Headings for literature fall into that category.

Geographic area codes are assigned to literary criticism – that is, resources *about* literature – in order to represent the place where the literature was written.

The heading **Honduran poetry—History and criticism** indicates that the resource is about poetry from Honduras.

Honduras is therefore coded in the 043 field.

## Relation to Subject Headings

- Literature: Literary criticism
  - Assign codes to represent the provenance of the literature

```
043 ## $a ncho---
```

```
650 #0 $a Honduran poetry $x History  
and criticism.
```

```
043 ## $a a-iq---
```

```
650 #0 $a Arabic literature $z Iraq  
$x History and criticism.
```

In the case of **Arabic literature—Iraq—History and criticism**, the location in which the literature was written is provided in a geographic subdivision.

Following the general principle of assigning a code for each geographic subdivision, Iraq is assigned. There is no geographic area code for Arabic literature because Arabic is not a place, it is a language.

## Relation to Subject Headings

- Literature: Belles lettres
  - Assign codes to reflect places brought out in the subject headings, if provided
  - Do not assign codes for nationality of the author(s)

```
043 ## $a e-it---
```

```
651 #0 $a Rome (Italy) $v Poetry.
```

```
[author is American]
```

The situation is quite different for resources that *are* belles lettres – that is, that are fiction, drama, or poetry. Codes are not assigned to bring out the nationality of the author. Geographic area codes are assigned only if topical headings that include a geographic element were assigned.

In the example on your screen, the resource is a collection of poetry about Rome, Italy, by an American author.

The only code assigned is for Italy (representing Rome, Italy). There is no code assigned to show that the author is American.

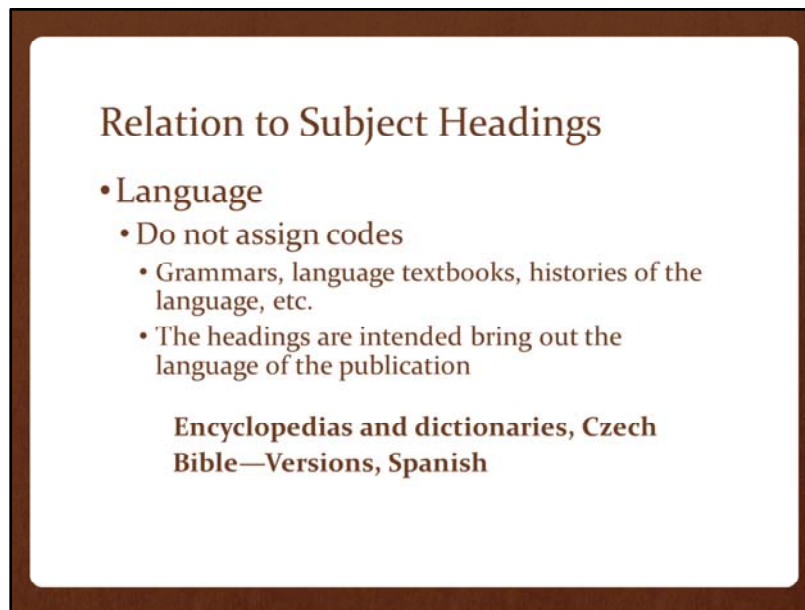
**Relation to Subject Headings**

- **Language**
  - Code the location of the language if the resource deals with the geographic aspects of the language

```
043 ## $a n-us---  
650 #0 $a Hebrew language $z United  
States $x Accents and  
accentuation.
```

Headings for languages also sometimes require the addition of a geographic area code. This is true only if the resource is about the geographic aspects of the language. It might be about dialects, or a study of the geographic distribution of the language, or something similar.

The heading **Hebrew language—United States—Accents and accentuation** reflects the resource’s thesis that Hebrew as spoken in the United States is accented differently from Hebrew spoken elsewhere. There is a geographic element, and the geographic area code for the United States is assigned.



**Relation to Subject Headings**

- **Language**
  - Do not assign codes
    - Grammars, language textbooks, histories of the language, etc.
    - The headings are intended bring out the language of the publication

**Encyclopedias and dictionaries, Czech  
Bible—Versions, Spanish**

The assignment of a language heading does not automatically mean that a geographic area code should be assigned. Geographic area codes are never assigned for grammars of the language, textbooks for learners of the language, linguistic histories, phonological studies, and so forth.

Geographic area codes are also never assigned when the heading includes a language qualifier to represent the language of the resource.

**Encyclopedias and dictionaries, Czech** would be assigned to an encyclopedia or dictionary in the Czech language, which has no bearing on the contents of the resource.

Likewise, the heading **Bible—Versions, Spanish** has nothing to do with Spain and is not assigned a geographic area code.

**Relation to Subject Headings**

- Ethnic groups and nationalities
  - Permanent residents and citizens: assign a code for the present location of the group

```
043 ## $a n-us---  
650 #0 $a Russian Americans $x  
      Ethnic identity.  
  
043 ## $a f-za---  
650 #0 $a Ambo (Zambian people)
```

The last group of headings that we will discuss in this module is ethnic groups and nationalities.

If the members of an ethnic group are permanent residents or citizens of a place, a heading is assigned for the place. The geographic area code that corresponds to the subject heading **Russian Americans** is the code for the United States – not the code for Russia. Russian Americans are citizens and/or permanent residents of the United States, not Russia.

The Ambo are a native ethnic group of Zambia, so the code for Zambia is assigned.

**Relation to Subject Headings**

- Ethnic groups and nationalities
  - Foreign members of a population: assign codes for the place of origin and the current location

```
043 ## $a n-us--- $a e-un---  
650 #0 $a Russian Americans $z  
      Ukraine.
```

The situation is different for temporary or foreign members of a population. For these headings, we assign codes for the place where the group originated and their current location.

On the previous slide, Russian Americans was assigned the geographic area code for the United States. But if the resource is about Russian Americans who are in Ukraine, and the subject heading reflects that focus, two codes are assigned: one for the United States and another for Ukraine.



**Relation to Subject Headings**

- Ethnic groups and nationalities
  - Foreign members of a population: assign codes for the place of origin and the current location

```
043 ## $a a-io--- $a n-us-dc
650 #0 $a Indonesian students $z
      Washington (D.C.)
```

Headings for groups of people qualified by nationality (such as **Indonesian students** on your slide) are assigned to resources about that group in a location other than their country of origin.

**Indonesian students** is assigned to students who are from Indonesia but studying outside Indonesia. Here, the heading indicates that they are studying in Washington, D.C.

Geographic area codes are assigned for both Indonesia and Washington.

## Relation to Subject Headings

- Ethnic groups and nationalities
  - Used as a qualifier: code for the group or nationality

043 ## \$a e-fr---

650 #0 \$a Painting, French \$y 19th  
century.

043 ## \$a e-ne---

650 #0 \$a Humanitarian assistance,  
Dutch.

Some topical headings are qualified by an ethnic group or nationality, as in the two examples on the screen.

Those bibliographic records will also have geographic area codes that reflect the place indicated by the qualifier.

## Relation to Subject Headings

- Ethnic groups and nationalities
  - Used as a qualifier: code for the group or nationality
  - If it deals with an area outside the area normally associated with the people, code for both places

```
043 ## $a e-ne--- $a d-----  
650 #0 $a Humanitarian assistance,  
      Dutch $z Developing  
      countries.
```

If the heading with the qualifier includes a geographic subdivision because the resource is about an area outside the area normally associated with the people, we code for both places.

In this example, the resource is about humanitarian assistance provided by the Dutch to developing countries. The geographic area codes for both the Netherlands and developing countries are provided.

### Additional Information

- *Subject Headings Manual*
  - Appendix E
    - Provides specific rules that are not covered in this module
  - Instruction sheets for specific types of resources
  - Instruction sheets for particular places

We have discussed high-level rules for using geographic area codes in certain situations in this module, but Appendix E of the SHM provides more specific rules that we did not cover, and it also provides additional examples. We strongly encourage you to consult it regularly.

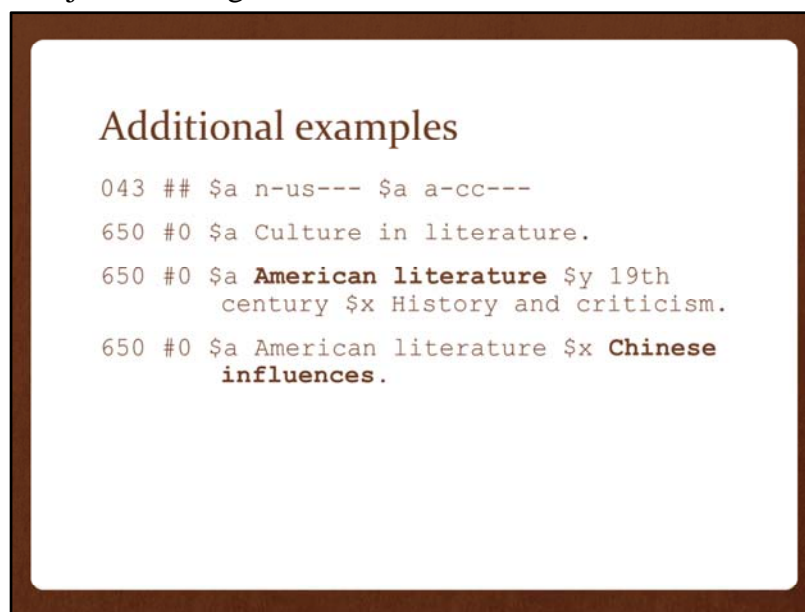
In addition, other SHM instruction sheets provide guidance for assigning geographic area codes to specific types of resources. You may also recall that there is an entire section of the SHM – instruction sheets H 925-1055 – devoted to explaining how to catalog resources about places with complicated political histories, such as Congo and Yugoslavia. Those instruction sheets usually provide lists of the geographic area codes pertinent to those places, with explanations on their use. Again, we strongly encourage you to make use of that guidance.

### Additional Examples

```
043 ## $a n-cn--- $a ew-----  
610 10 $a Canada. $b Canadian Army.  
      $b Canadian Division, 1st.  
650 #0 $a World War, 1914-1918 $x  
      Regimental histories $z Canada.  
650 #0 $a World War, 1914-1918 $x  
      Campaigns $z Western Front.
```

We have been looking at individual headings and how they relate to geographic area codes. Therefore, before we end this module, we would like to provide you with two examples of full heading arrays.

The resource cataloged in this first example was about the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Division's activities on the Western Front in World War I. Geographic area codes were assigned for both Canada and the Western Front, reflecting the two geographic subdivisions and the jurisdiction governing the Canadian Army.



This resource was about the influence that Chinese culture had on 19<sup>th</sup> century American literature, and how that culture was portrayed in the literature.

Geographic area codes were assigned to reflect the literature being discussed – American – and also the Chinese influence.