

Parenthetical Qualifiers in Subject Headings H 357

1. General rules. When proposing a term or phrase as a new subject heading, it may be necessary to use a parenthetical qualifier if the term or phrase has more than one dictionary definition. Add the qualifier to the term to indicate which of the several definitions is intended for the heading in question.

a. Names of disciplines. In general, qualify the heading by names of disciplines or topics, especially if the heading represents a concept. *Examples:*

```
150 ## $a Analysis (Philosophy)
150 ## $a Antennas (Electronics)
150 ## $a Indexation (Economics)
150 ## $a Slimes (Mining)
150 ## $a Candlewicking (Embroidery)
150 ## $a Risers (Founding)
150 ## $a Hulas (Music)
```

b. Categories of objects. If the heading designates a kind of object, qualify by the category to which the object belongs, if appropriate. *Examples:*

```
150 ## $a Cuffs (Clothing)
150 ## $a Trunks (Luggage)
150 ## $a Plates (Tableware)
150 ## $a Lasers (Sailboats)
```

c. Phrase headings vs. qualifiers. In many cases the parenthetical qualifier can be avoided by adding an adjectival qualifier to create a phrase heading instead. Prefer phrase headings of this type to parenthetical qualifiers. *Examples:*

```
150 ## $a Mathematical analysis
[not 150 ## $a Analysis (Mathematics)]
```

```
150 ## $a Chemical bonds
[not 150 ## $a Bonds (Chemistry)]
```

d. Commonly accepted meanings. Do not add a qualifier to a term used in its commonly accepted meaning even though it may have other meanings as well, although obscure. For example, the heading **Holsters**, referring to leather cases for pistols, need not be qualified because this is the commonly understood meaning of the term. Its other meaning, as used in the field of steel manufacturing, is not widely known.

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2. Removing ambiguity or elucidating a term or phrase. A parenthetical qualifier may also be used to remove ambiguity or to make more explicit a word or phrase that is obscure. A word or phrase is usually not considered to be obscure if it is found in a general English-language dictionary. *Examples:*

```
150 ## $a Duty (The English word)
150 ## $a Seal finger (Disease)
150 ## $a Atari 400 (Computer)
```

3. Categories of headings routinely qualified. Some categories of headings, particularly for named entities, are routinely qualified by standard parenthetical qualifiers. *Examples:*

```
150 ## $a Arulo (Artificial language)
150 ## $a Hausa (African people)
150 ## $a BASIC (Computer program language)
```

4. Special applications of general concepts. Do not add parenthetical qualifiers to a general concept to designate a special application of that concept. **Vibration (Marine engineering); Symmetry (Biology)** are examples of headings that violate this rule. Bring out special applications of a concept by one of the following techniques:

- **"In" headings.** Establish an "in" type heading, for example, **Radio in education.**

*Note: An "in" heading is not always satisfactory, as in the case of those "in" headings where the primary interest centers on the field of application. For example, **Vibration in marine engineering** would be a less useful heading than **Ships–Vibration, or Marine engines–Vibration.***

- **Phrase headings.** Establish a phrase heading, for example, **Medical thermography.**
- **Subdivisions.** Subdivide the principal topic, for example, **Photography–Scientific applications.**

5. Geographic headings. For parenthetical qualification of geographic headings, see H 810.

6. Buildings and other structures. For parenthetical qualification of headings for buildings and other structures, see H 1334, sec. 3.

7. Medium of performance of musical works. For instructions on the use of parenthetical qualifiers when indicating the medium of performance of musical works, see H 1917.5.