

Linear Jurisdictional Name Changes H 708 in Name Authority Records

BACKGROUND: *It is subject cataloging policy to assign as a subject heading or as a geographic subdivision, only the latest name of a political jurisdiction that has had one or more earlier names, as long as the territorial identity remains essentially unchanged. For example, although both **Ceylon** and **Sri Lanka** are valid as name headings, only **Sri Lanka** is used in subject cataloging. When a particular heading for a jurisdiction is not valid for use as a subject heading because a later name is used, a statement to that effect should appear in a 667 field in the name authority record for the earlier heading. The 667 field is labeled **SUBJECT USAGE**. Example:*

```
151 ## $a Ceylon
667 ## $a SUBJECT USAGE: This heading is not valid for use as a
      subject. Works about this place are entered under Sri
      Lanka.
```

1. Searching the name authority file. When in doubt as to whether a given geographic name heading is valid for use as a subject heading, first search the LC Database to determine whether a decision has already been made and recorded in a 667 **SUBJECT USAGE** field. If this field is found in the authority record for the heading in question, follow the instructions as presented in the record.

2. Adding usage decisions to name authority records. Add a 667 **SUBJECT USAGE** field to new and existing geographic name headings for former names of political jurisdictions if the former name cannot be used as a subject heading because a later name is used.

3. Jurisdictional mergers and splits. See H 710.