

Jurisdictional Mergers and Splits H 710

BACKGROUND: Over the course of their history, jurisdictions are likely to be renamed, be reorganized, merge with other jurisdictions, divide into multiple jurisdictions, be conquered, become independent, and in other ways change their names and organizational structure. The area included within a single jurisdiction may also vary over time. Cataloging practice for subject headings is to use the latest name for a jurisdiction as long as the territorial identity remains essentially unchanged (see H 708). Where the territorial identity has changed, usually because of mergers or splits, previous practice was to use the latest name for scientific topics and the earlier and/or later names (according to coverage of the work) for historical, political or cultural topics. Subject usage in such cases was recorded in specific information/history references in the name authority records. When these information references were discontinued in 1981, the distinction in subject usage between scientific and other topics was gradually abandoned. This instruction sheet explains current subject heading practice for jurisdictions that have merged or split.

1. General principles. For situations where jurisdictions have merged or split, various headings may be appropriate depending on the area and the time period being discussed. In general, assign subject headings that correspond to the physical extent of the area being discussed.

2. Mergers.

a. Pre-merger coverage. For the area corresponding to the post-merger jurisdiction, assign the heading for the post-merger jurisdiction. Assign this heading even though the jurisdiction did not exist for the pre-merger time period. For an area corresponding to one of the pre-merger jurisdictions, assign the heading for the pre-merger jurisdiction.

Example 1: The nation of Somalia was formed in 1960 by the merger of British Somaliland and Italian Somaliland. The heading **Somalia** is used for the pre-merger period for works discussing the area corresponding to the present nation. The heading **British Somaliland** is used for works on the area corresponding to that jurisdiction. The heading **Italian Somaliland** is used for works on the area corresponding to that jurisdiction.

Example 2: Germany did not exist as a jurisdiction until the 19th century, but the heading **Germany** is used for earlier coverage of the area now known as Germany. Headings for the various jurisdictions that preceded the formation of Germany are used for works discussing those areas individually.

H 710 Jurisdictional Mergers and Splits

2. *Mergers.* (Continued)

b. Post-merger coverage. For the area corresponding to the post-merger jurisdiction, assign the heading for the post-merger jurisdiction. For an area corresponding to one of the pre-merger jurisdictions, assign the heading for the pre-merger jurisdiction. Assign the heading for the pre-merger jurisdiction even if the jurisdiction no longer exists or the heading is not valid for descriptive access for that time period.

Example: Malaya merged with other jurisdictions in 1963 to form the nation of Malaysia. The heading **Malaysia** is used for works on the entire nation. The heading **Malaya** is used for works discussing the area corresponding to the former jurisdiction Malaya, even though there is no longer any jurisdiction corresponding to that area.

3. *Splits.*

a. Name of earlier jurisdiction not reused by later jurisdiction.

(1) Pre-split coverage. For the area corresponding to the pre-split jurisdiction, assign the heading for the pre-split jurisdiction even if that jurisdiction no longer exists. For an area corresponding to one of the post-split jurisdictions, assign the heading for the post-split jurisdiction.

Example: The nation of Czechoslovakia split into the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The heading **Czechoslovakia** is used for works on the entire nation for the pre-split period. The heading **Czech Republic** is used for works on the area corresponding to that jurisdiction. The heading **Slovakia** is used for works on the area corresponding to that jurisdiction.

3. *Splits.*

a. Name of earlier jurisdiction not reused by later jurisdiction. (Continued)

(2) **Post-split coverage.** For the area corresponding to the pre-split jurisdiction, assign the heading for the pre-split jurisdiction if the name is still in use for the region. If the former jurisdictional name is no longer in common use as a name for the region, assign an equivalent subject heading, or assign the headings for the post-split jurisdictions. For an area corresponding to one of the post-split jurisdictions, assign the heading for the post-split jurisdiction.

Example 1 (name still used for region): The former French province of Normandy no longer exists, having been divided into several jurisdictions. However the name is still commonly used to refer to the geographic region corresponding to the province. The heading **Normandy** is used for works on the region corresponding to the former province. Headings for the various jurisdictions now included within the region of Normandy are used for works on the jurisdictions individually.

Example 2 (equivalent subject heading): The former administrative grouping of French territories known as French Equatorial Africa was divided into the four independent nations of Chad, Central African Republic, Gabon and Congo (Brazzaville). These four nations are now referred to collectively as French-speaking Equatorial Africa. The subject heading **Africa, French-speaking Equatorial** is used for works on this area in its entirety. The headings for the present nations are used for works on those nations individually.

Example 3 (no equivalent heading): The nation of Czechoslovakia split into the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The name of the former nation is no longer commonly used to refer to the Czech Republic and Slovakia collectively for the post-split period. The two headings **Czech Republic** and **Slovakia** are used for works on the two nations collectively for the post-split period. The heading for the individual nation, **Czech Republic** or **Slovakia**, is used for works on one of the nations treated individually.

H 710 Jurisdictional Mergers and Splits

3. *Splits.* (Continued)

b. Name of earlier jurisdiction retained by one of the later jurisdictions.

(1) *Pre-split coverage.* For the area corresponding to the pre-split jurisdiction, assign the heading for the pre-split jurisdiction. For an area corresponding to one of the post-split jurisdictions, assign the heading for the post-split jurisdiction.

Example: The state of Virginia originally included the area now comprising the state of West Virginia. The heading **Virginia** is used for works on the pre-split period discussing the area corresponding to the present Virginia and West Virginia collectively. The heading **Virginia** is also used for works on the pre-split period discussing the area corresponding to the present state of Virginia. The heading **West Virginia** is used for works on the pre-split period discussing the area now included in the present state of West Virginia.

(2) *Post-split coverage.* For the area corresponding to the pre-split jurisdiction, assign headings for all post-split jurisdictions. For an area corresponding to one of the post-split jurisdictions, assign the heading for the post-split jurisdiction.

Example: The present nations of Pakistan and Bangladesh were previously provinces of a larger nation called Pakistan. The two headings **Pakistan** and **Bangladesh** are used for works discussing the two nations together for the post-split period. The heading for the individual nation, **Pakistan** or **Bangladesh**, is used for works on one of the nations treated individually.

4. Geographic subdivision usage. Subject headings for merged or split jurisdictions follow the normal procedures for use as geographic subdivisions. For place names using the practice of indirect subdivision, assign the name as a subdivision following the name of the country where currently located, regardless of the time period covered. For detailed instructions see H 830.

5. Special or complex situations. Because there are a variety of ways in which jurisdictions may be merged, split, or otherwise reorganized, the above instructions may not apply in every case. In exceptional or complex situations, subject usage notes may be added to name authority records according to the procedures in H 432, or scope notes may be added to subject authority records. For instructions on Germany, see H 945; for Soviet Union, see H 1023; for Yugoslavia, see H 1055.