

# 6XX Subject Access Fields

NHLA - Technical Services Committee

Angela Brown, Anne Murphy, Alex Planchak, Martha Simmons

April 26, 2022

# Basic Structure of a 6XX Field

Subject Added Entry: 600, 650, 651, 655, etc. field

## First Indicator

- These vary by type of heading
- 600: 0-surname, 1-forename, 3-family name
- 650, 651, 655: usually left blank

## Second indicator-Thesaurus (same across all headings)

- 0 LCSH
- 1 LC Subject headings for children's literature
- 2 Medical Subject Headings
- 7 Specified in subfield \$2
- And more!

```
600 10 $aOdenkirk, Bob,$d1962-
650 0 $aActors$zUnited States$vBiography.
650 0 $aComedians$zUnited States$vBiography.
650 0 $aTelevision comedy writers$zUnited States$vBiography.
650 0 $aTelevision producers and directors$zUnited States$vBiography.
655 7 $aBiographies.$2fast$0(OCoLC)fst01919896
655 7 $aAutobiographies.$2lcgft
```

## Subfield Codes (\$a, \$b, \$c, etc)

- Also varies by type of heading
- \$a-usually main part of heading (topical, genre, or name headings)
- \$d-dates
- \$v-form subdivision
- And more!

## 600: Personal Name

- Personal name used as a subject heading
- The work is about the person (i.e. a biography) or they are featured prominently in the work
- Subfields may be present (i.e. \$d date associated with person)
- May be subdivided (but not by Biography!)

# 600: Personal Name Examples

- **\$a Personal name - Mandatory**
  - 600 00 \$aBanksy. (Forename)
  - 600 10 \$aDoudna, Jennifer A. (Surname)
  - 600 13 \$aBlock family. (Family name)
- **\$b Numeration & \$c Titles and other words associated with a name**
  - 600 00 \$a\$aElizabeth\$bII, \$cQueen of Great Britain, \$d1926-
  - 600 10 \$aJackson, Percy\$c(Fictitious character)
- **\$d Dates associated with a name**
  - 600 10 \$aKing, Coretta Scott,\$d1927-2006.
  - 600 10 \$aSandford, John,\$d1944 February 23-
- **\$v Form and \$x General subdivisions**
  - 600 10 \$aFranklin, Rosalind,\$d1920-1958\$vFiction.
  - 600 10 \$aButler, Octavia E.\$xCriticism and interpretation.

**Library of Congress Subject Headings manual [instructions for free floating subdivisions](#) will indicate if the heading can be used for a name.**

# 650: Topical Term

Subject added entry in which the entry element is a topical term.

- First indicator: Level of subject (typically blank for “no information provided”)
- Second indicator: Thesaurus
  - 0 - Library of Congress Subject Headings
  - 1 - LC subject headings for children's literature
  - 4 - Source not specified
  - 7 - Source specified in subfield \$2
- Subfields
  - **\$a - Topical term or geographic name entry element**
  - \$v - Form subdivision
  - \$x - General subdivision
  - \$y - Chronological subdivision
  - \$z - Geographic subdivision

## 650: Topical Term Examples

650 \_0 ‡aTeenage mothers‡vJuvenile fiction.

650 \_1 ‡aTeenage mothers‡vFiction

650 \_7 ‡aBisexual disabled people.‡2homoit

650 \_0 ‡aAcceptance and commitment therapy‡vHandbooks, manuals, etc.

650 \_0 ‡aAmerican fiction‡xAfrican American authors‡xHistory and criticism.

650 \_0 ‡aLandscape painting, American‡y19th century.

650 \_0 ‡aPolitical activists‡zUnited States‡vBiography.

# 651: Geographic Name

- Specific geographic name used as a subject heading
- The work is about the location or the location is featured prominently in the work.
- Includes jurisdictions and settlements i.e. places people live(d) (e.g. countries, ancient cities, refugee camps, ranches), recreational areas (e.g. parks), astronomical bodies (e.g. comets), natural features (e.g. seas), and more!
  - See also 610 Subject--Corporate Name (businesses, religious orgs.) and 650 Subject--Topical Terms (fictional locations).
- Subfields may be present. Common subfields are **\$a Geographic name** (Mandatory); **\$v Form subdivision** (genres such as fiction, humor & literature and forms such as poetry, graphic novels, & maps); **\$x General subdivision** (general topics); **\$y Chronological subdivision** (period of time); **\$z Geographic subdivision** (additional geographic location)

# 651: Geographic Name Examples

- **\$a Geographic name - Mandatory**
  - \$a 651\_0 \$aOrion Nebula.
  - Don't put parenthetical qualifying information in a separate subfield e.g. 651\_0 \$aPompeii (Extinct city) not 651\_0 \$aPompeii\$(Extinct city)
- **\$v Form subdivision**
  - 651\_0 \$aNess, Loch (Scotland)\$vComic books, strips, etc.
  - Subdivisions can be repeatable e.g. 651\_0 \$aUnited States\$vBiography\$vHumor.
- **\$x General subdivision**
  - 651\_0 \$aAntarctica\$xDiscovery and exploration.
  - 651\_0 \$aSturgeon Lake Cree Nation\$xHistory≠v Sources.
- **\$y Chronological subdivision**
  - 651\_0 \$alraq\$xHistory\$y2003-
  - Usually occurs with a \$x General subdivision e.g. 651\_0 \$aJapan\$xSocial life and customs\$y1912-1945\$vComic books, strips, etc.
- **\$z Geographic subdivision**
  - Usually occurs with a \$x General subdivision e.g. 651\_0 \$aJapan\$xForeign relations≠zKorea (South)



# 69X: Local Subject

- Used to assign added subject headings, terms, or class numbers which are not authorized or don't follow standard guidelines. May be constructed with controlled and uncontrolled headings and terms. Note: 69X fields are not indexed.
- Follow the same pattern of indicators, subfield codes, and input conventions as other subject heading fields:
  - 650 for 690 (topical term)
  - 651 for 691 (geographic name)
  - 600 for 696 (personal name)
  - 610 for 697 (corporate name)
- Subfields may be present. **\$2 Source of subject heading or term = \$2local**

# 691: Local Subject Examples

- 690 --Topical Term:
  - 690 \_7 \$aManchester City Library New Hampshire Room Collection\$2local
  - 690 \_7 \$aSummer Beach Reads display.\$2ATL
- 691 --Geographic Name: 691 \_7 \$aHeads Pond, Hooksett (N.H.)\$2local
- 696 --Personal Name: 696 17 \$aDoe, Jane, E.,\$d1892-1978.\$2GMILCS
- 697 --Corporate Name: 697 27 \$aNew Hampshire Fisher Cats (Baseball team)\$2local
- 698 --Meeting Name: 698 07 \$aNew Hampshire Library Association Conference.\$2local
- **Note on 591 (local note) field:** Local, site-specific, notes should not be added as a 500 (general note) tag because they don't refer to all copies of an item. Instead, these notes should be added as a 591 tag with a local designation. e.g. 591 \_\_ \$aNashua copy donated in memory of Geordi La Forge.

## 655: Genre/Form

- A term that describes the style, plot, theme, or physical characteristic of a work's intellectual content. This field is repeatable.
- The term describes what the work “is” rather than what it is “about”.
- Use of these terms is established by convention among the bibliographic community such as libraries, publishing communities, etc.
- The first indicator choice on this heading is between, blank or 0, and used for basic or faceted headings.
- The second indicators (0 - 7) determine the thesaurus used for the term.

# 655: Genre/Form Examples

## 655 \_0 #aAlphabet books

This is a basic genre heading example where the first indicator is blank. The second indicator zero identifies that it is taken from the Library of Congress Subject Headings Thesaurus and there is only one heading listed in the subfield \$a

## 655 \_4 #aFables#vAdaptations

This is a basic genre/form heading however this heading includes a form (\$v) subdivision. The second indicator 4 determines that there is no source information listed for the heading.

## 655 \_7 #aHistorical fiction.#2gsafd

## 655 \_7 #aFiction.#2lcgft

These two examples are a basic genre heading where the second indicator 7 requires a subfield #2 which lists the source.

The first example is from: “Guidelines on subject access to individual works of fiction, drama, etc.” 2nd edition, 2000 (Chicago: American Library Association).

The second example is from: “Library of Congress genre/form terms for library and archival materials” (Washington, DC: Library of Congress, Cataloging Distribution Service).

## 655 07 #c k #b laminate #c m #b marblewood (wood) #c v #a busts (sculpture) #2 aat

This heading is a faceted heading. Faceted headings can be a Non-focus term, or a Facet/hierarchy designation form designated by the thesaurus.

# Most Common Authority Files

**Library of Congress Authorities** - <https://authorities.loc.gov>

- Subject Authority Headings
- Name Authority Headings
- Title Authority
- Name/Title Authority Headings
- Keyword Authorities (All)
- Genre/Form Authority headings exist in LC Authorities, but the term does not appear as a link option in the drop down list.
- LC Annotated Children's Catalog subject headings are found within the authority file searches and appear in 650 headings with a second indicator 1.
  - Eg. 650 \_1 †aBeavers
  - See: <https://www.loc.gov/aba/cyac/childsubjhead.html>

**Library of Congress Genre/Form Terms** - For a PDF list and link to the manual see:

<https://www.loc.gov/aba/publications/FreeLCGFT/freelcgft.html> page last updated 04/08/2022

**GSAFD** - *Guidelines on subject access to individual works of fiction, drama, Etc.*, 2nd edition, 2000 (Chicago: American Library Association).

(Best to visit: <https://www.ala.org/core/sections/metadata-and-collections/sac-subcommittee-on-faceted-vocabularies> to keep abreast of changes.)

# Other Controlled Vocabularies

[FAST](#) - Faceted Application of Subject Terminology (#2fast)

[MeSH](#) - Medical Subject Headings (#2mesh)

[BISAC](#) - Book Industry Standards and Communications (#2bisacsh)

[Homosaurus](#) - LGBTQ+ vocabulary (#2homoit)

RVM - Répertoire de vedettes-matière - French language subject headings (650 \_6)

Bilindex - Spanish language subject headings (#2bidex)

Sears List of Subject Headings (#2sears)

Local headings (\$2local or something like #2GMILCS)

And more: <https://www.loc.gov/standards/sourcelist/subject.html>

# Local Catalogs: What to keep, add and/or delete?

- **What to keep?**
  - Controlled vocabularies/thesauruses (LCSH, LCGFT, LC Children's headings, etc)
- **What to add?**
  - Missing subject/genre headings
  - Local headings i.e. 650 \_7 Authors, New Hampshire.\$2GMILCS
- **Consider deleting:**
  - Duplicate headings
  - Headings with spelling errors
  - Local headings from another institution
- **Gray areas for deletion**
  - FAST, BISACs
  - Machine generated headings

*Best Practice: do not delete legitimate subject/genre headings*

# Resources

- [Basic Subject Cataloging Using LCSH Course](#)
- [Bibliographic Formats & Standards 6XX fields](#)
- [LC Genre/Form Terms](#)
- [LCSH Approved Monthly Lists](#)
- [MARC21 Format for Bibliographic Data: 6XX - Subject Access Fields-General Information](#)
- [LC Subject Heading Manual](#)
- [LC Subject Heading Manual-Free-Floating subdivisions](#)
- **GSAFD** - *Guidelines on subject access to individual works of fiction, drama, etc.*, 2nd edition, 2000 (Chicago: American Library Association)



Questions?