

Contents

Preface	vii
I Introduction	1
What is LCSH?	3
The format of LCSH	4
2 History and principles of LCSH	7
Early subject headings	7
Cutter's Rules	7
Subject cataloguing and the dictionary catalogue	9
LCSH in the catalogue	10
Major characteristics of LCSH	12
The Library of Congress and literary warrant	12
Bias in LCSH	13
3 Subject heading lists and the problems of language	15
Systematic and alphabetic approaches to information	15
Advantages of alphabetic systems	17
Disadvantages of alphabetic systems	17
Controlled indexing languages	24
Standards for document description	25
4 Format and display of LCSH	27
Filing and alphabetization	27
Non-alphabetic characters	28
Punctuation	30
Typography	31
Notes and references under headings	32

IV ESSENTIAL LIBRARY OF CONGRESS SUBJECT HEADINGS

5	The choice and form of headings	41
	Where do LCSH headings come from?	41
	Cutter's Rules and the choice of preferred terms	43
	Vocabulary control in LCSH: selection of terms	44
	Vocabulary control in LCSH: form of terms	51
	More complex headings	57
	Punctuation of headings	60
6	Content analysis	65
	The problem of 'aboutness'; indexer consistency and subjectivity	65
	Where to look for content	66
	Constructing the document description	70
	Significant concepts	72
	Common categories of terms	73
	Ordering the subject string	76
7	Assigning main headings	81
	Content analysis and LCSH	81
	Analytical cataloguing	81
	Finding appropriate headings	82
	Cross-references	84
	Selecting headings	88
	Organizing headings on a record	93
8	Structured headings	97
	The nature of structured headings	97
	The format of structured headings	99
	Categories of subdivisions	99
9	Topical subdivisions	103
	Presentation of topical subdivisions	103
	Forming the structured heading	105
	Pattern headings	108
10	Geographic subdivisions	117
	When to use geographic subdivisions	117
	The format of geographically subdivided headings	118
	Place authorities and the form of geographic names	119

Forming the geographic subdivision	120
Using more than one geographic subdivision	124
Geographic subdivisions with topical subdivisions.....	125
Main headings with geographic elements	127
11 Free-floating subdivisions	131
The scope and range of free-floating subdivisions.....	133
Combining free-floating and geographic subdivisions.....	138
Persons.....	139
Common subject subdivisions	142
More complicated uses of free-floating subdivisions	145
12 More complex headings:	
combining the different types of subdivisions	153
Geographic subdivisions combined with free-floating subdivisions.....	153
Topical subdivisions combined with geographic subdivisions	156
Topical subdivisions combined with free-floating subdivisions	159
Combinations of topical, geographic, and free-floating subdivisions.....	160
13 Chronological headings and subdivisions	163
Free-floating subdivisions for history.....	163
Main headings with period aspects.....	164
14 Name headings	169
What constitutes a name heading?.....	169
Personal names	171
Corporate names.....	177
Geographic names	179
Named historical events	185
Named objects and entities	187
15 Literature and the arts.....	191
Headings for literature.....	191
Non-literary texts	198
Headings for art.....	200
Headings for performing arts and media.....	204
Practical subject cataloguing in the arts	207

16	Headings for music	209
	General works about music: period and place	210
	Genre, topics and themes.....	211
	Musical forces and works about them.....	213
	Instrumental music.....	214
	Music for particular forms	216
	Vocal music	218
	Works about composers and musicians	221
	Specific works of music	222
	Recordings and printed music for individual works.....	225
17	Classification Web	229
	The composition of Classification Web	229
	Layout and format.....	230
	Getting started.....	231
	Searching and browsing.....	231
	Other features	237
18	LCSH in the online world	239
	The Library of Congress catalogue.....	239
	Accessing the LC catalogue: bibliographic records	239
	Other online versions of LCSH	247
19	Bibliography	251
	General books on LCSH.....	251
	Library of Congress publications	251
	Current information on LCSH.....	252
	History and principles of subject heading lists	252
	Bias in LCSH	252
	Classification Web.....	253
	Current developments in LCSH	253
20	Glossary	255
	Index.....	271