
Contents

Preface	xiii
Acknowledgments	xvii

1

Subject Analysis in Library Catalogs

1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Brief History of LCSH	3
1.3 Basic Principles	6
1.4 Topical Subject Headings	14
1.5 Names in Subject Headings	25
1.6 Maintaining LCSH as a Controlled Vocabulary	30
1.7 Plan of This Book	34
References	35

2

Subject Authority Records in the Machine-Readable LCSH

2.1 Introduction	38
2.2 Brief History of the USMARC Format for Authority Data	40
2.3 USMARC Format for Authorities	43
2.4 Variable Control Fields in the USMARC Format for Authorities	49
2.5 Variable Data Fields in the USMARC Format for Authorities	51
2.6 Variable Data Fields Used in the Machine-Readable LCSH	55
2.7 Synthesis and Summary	72
References	75

3

Subject Information in Bibliographic Records

3.1 Introduction	78
------------------	----

3.2	Brief History of the USMARC Format for Bibliographic Data	78
3.3	USMARC Format for Bibliographic Data	79
3.4	Subject Indexes and Subject Information in Variable Data Fields	86
3.5	Sparseness of Subject Terms in Bibliographic Records	98
3.6	Synthesis and Summary	101
	References	104

4

Subject Heading Compatibility between LCSH-mr and Bibliographic Files

4.1	Introduction	105
4.2	Why Assigned Headings Are Not in LCSH-mr	106
4.3	A Compatibility Study of Machine-Readable Subject Heading Files	107
4.4	Subject Headings Failing to Match Authority File Headings	111
4.5	Ensuring a Quality Bibliographic Database	119
4.6	Synthesis and Summary	120
	References	121

5

Studies of the Subject Queries Users Enter into Online Systems

5.1	Introduction	123
5.2	Transaction Log Analyses of Users' Subject Terms	124
5.3	Unanswered Questions about the Subject Terms Users Enter into Online Catalogs	131
5.4	Subject Terms Used in the Transaction Log Study	132
5.5	Methods Used for Computer Analyses of Subject Terms	138
5.6	Manual Analyses of Subject Access Points	139
5.7	Synthesis and Summary	148
	References	149

6

An Overview of User Queries

6.1	Introduction	151
6.2	A Computer Analysis of User Queries	151
6.3	Subject Searches and Initial Access Points	156
6.4	Legitimacy of Subject Terms	158
6.5	Access Points Discarded from Manual Analyses	159

6.6 Synthesis and Summary	163
Reference	164

7

Queries for Topical Subjects That Are Likely to Succeed

7.1 Introduction	165
7.2 Subject Searches and Initial Access Points	166
7.3 Original-Match Categorization	166
7.4 Exact Matches	167
7.5 "Almost Exact" Matches	173
7.6 Spelling Categories	175
7.7 Plural and Singular Forms	177
7.8 Partial Matches of LCSH-mr Minus Qualifiers	180
7.9 Synthesis and Summary	182
References	184

8

Other Queries Likely to Succeed

8.1 Introduction	185
8.2 Queries for Geographic Names	186
8.3 Queries for Corporate Names	192
8.4 Synthesis and Summary	197
References	198

9

Queries for Topical Subjects Not Likely to Succeed

9.1 Introduction	199
9.2 Queries Matching the First Two Words of LCSH-mr	199
9.3 Queries Matching the First Word and Three-Letter Stem of Second Word of LCSH-mr	205
9.4 Queries Matching the First Word of LCSH-mr	207
9.5 LCSH-mr Words Embedded in Queries	213
9.6 Queries Composed of Words Not Found in LCSH-mr	214
9.7 Combinations of Categories	215
9.8 Synthesis and Summary	217

10

Other Queries Not Likely to Succeed

10.1 Introduction	221
-------------------	-----

10.2	Queries for Personal Names	222
10.3	Queries for Personal Names with Topical Subjects	227
10.4	System Requirements for Personal Name Searching	230
10.5	Queries for Geographic Names with Topical Subjects	233
10.6	Synthesis and Summary	239
	References	240

11

The Exact Approach to Subject Searching

11.1	Introduction	241
11.2	Generating Entries for the Searchable Index	242
11.3	Preferring the Exact Approach to Alphabetical Browsing	245
11.4	Browsing Using the Exact Approach	247
11.5	The Exact Approach for Personal Names	252
11.6	Implementing the Exact Approach in Online Systems	254
11.7	Synthesis and Summary	260
	References	265

12

Choosing among Existing Subject Search Approaches as Responses to User Queries

12.1	Introduction	266
12.2	The Alphabetical Approach to Subject Searching	268
12.3	Keyword-in-Heading Approaches to Subject Searching	276
12.4	Keyword-in-Record Approaches to Subject Searching	285
12.5	When Existing Approaches Fail	290
12.6	Subject Searching Approaches for Personal Names	293
12.7	Synthesis and Summary	298
	References	300

13

Search Trees for Subject Searching

13.1	Introduction	301
13.2	Initial Search Tree	303
13.3	Search Tree Featuring the Exact Approach	303
13.4	One-Word Queries	312
13.5	Remaining Queries	315
13.6	Search Trees for Personal-Name Queries	323

13.7 Synthesis and Summary	326
References	329

14

The Future of Subject Headings for Online Information Retrieval

14.1 Introduction	330
14.2 Is LCSH Here to Stay?	331
14.3 Future of the LCSH System	334
14.4 Recommended Changes to Optimize the Use of Search	
Trees	339
References	341

Appendices

Appendix A

SULIRS Subject Search	343
-----------------------	-----

Appendix B

ORION Subject Search	344
----------------------	-----

Appendix C

LS/2000 Subject Search	346
------------------------	-----

Appendix D

Multiple-Heading Match Categories	352
Index	355