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Library of Congress Subject Headings for Environmental Sources: An Update

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In the two years since I first reported on this subject ([see the EGJ issue 7, November 1997](#)), the Library of Congress has continued to add new headings to its subject headings list. They have been joined by libraries around the country and around the world who contribute new headings and cross references when they need them for cataloging through the Subject Authority Cooperative Program (SACO). Libraries need no longer provide insufficient subject access when waiting for LC to establish an appropriate heading. Many libraries seem still to be reluctant to do this, though. Of the 28 new environmental headings in the last two years, six headings were contributed by the University of Washington in Seattle and none by other libraries.

Some of the more significant additions to the list have been in the area of conservation management. Among the headings added have been **Agrobiodiversity** and **Agrobiodiversity conservation**, **Bioregionalism**, **Ecological assessment (Biology)**, **Marine biological diversity** and **Marine biological diversity conservation**, **Pesticides—Risk mitigation**, **World Heritage areas**, and an interesting trio of **Remnant vegetation**, **Remnant vegetation conservation**, and **Remnant vegetation management**. **Environmental justice** has at long last been added to the list (along with the inevitable **Environmental lawyers**), as has **Political ecology** and **Women ecologists**. Some headings are still missing from the list, such as Ecocide, Ecoterrorism, and Workplace recycling programs. Libraries acquiring works on these subjects should establish new headings as needed, as well as check their holdings to see if they have earlier works needing the headings.

A new environmental subdivision was approved as well. **--Effect of forest management on** has been added to the list of subdivisions that are free-floating under the names of animals. It seems that it would also be useful under the names of plants, but it remains for LC or another library to suggest that it be authorized for that usage as well.

Some changes have been made in existing headings. Headings relating to press coverage and public relations have been changed from their

previous awkward constructions to simpler forms, specifically **Environmental protection in the press** has been changed to **Environmental protection—Press coverage, Public relations--Conservation of natural resources** was changed to **Conservation of natural resources--Public relations**, and similarly **Public relations--Water pollution control** was changed to **Water--Pollution--Public relations**. In all of these cases, cross-references were provided from the old form of the heading for the new. Two years ago, the heading **Man—Influence on nature** was cancelled in favor of the existing heading **Nature—Influence of human beings on**. As of May 6, 1999, a search in OCLC on the heading **Man—Influence on nature** still retrieves 222 records. On Weekly List 14-97, LC did at least add a cross reference from **Human beings—Influence on nature**, since the heading **Man** was changed to **Human beings**, would be machine-flipped to that heading in an automated heading correction program. Still, there is no direct reference from the old heading to the new, so that a researcher familiar with the old heading would find only an indirect route in connecting it with the new heading. LC does not make a cross reference from an obsolete heading with a subdivision, so here the niceties of thesaurus structure win out over practical common sense.

In June 1999, the Library of Congress suspended publication of its Weekly Lists, the publication that lists new and changed headings, while it prepares to convert to a new online system. They are continuing to create and accept new headings, and all of these changes will be compiled when the publication resumes in the fall. These changes to LC's online systems should help the library more easily change headings and manage large changes. However, don't look for changes in the scope of headings such as **Ecology** or the establishment of broad and ambiguous concepts like Environment. Changes in usage such as this would require much more sophisticated analysis, possibly even recataloging of numerous works—well beyond the capabilities of the most sophisticated online system. As much as users may be dissatisfied or confused by Library of Congress usage of these particular headings, the reasons behind such restricted usage is sound (see my previous paper), and user's do need to keep some of the quirks of the Library of Congress Subject Headings in mind to make the most of their local library's resources.

For an explanation of the abbreviations in the following list, as well as a discussion of subject heading practice, see my previous article.

New headings (1997-June 1999)

Agrobiodiversity [May Subd Geog]

UF Agricultural biological diversity

BT Agricultural ecology

BT Biological diversity

Work cat.: 98-38771: Srivastava, J. Integrating biodiversity in agricultural intensification, 1998: CIP galley (Agrobiodiversity--that portion of biodiversity used directly or indirectly in agricultural production)

LC Class no.: S494.5.A43

sh 98004914

Agrobiodiversity conservation [May Subd Geog]

UF Conservation of agrobiodiversity

BT Agricultural conservation

BT Biological diversity conservation

sh 98004915

Animal sanctuaries [May Subd Geog]

UF Sanctuaries, Animal

BT Animal welfare

NT Wildlife refuges

NT Game reserves

RT Animal shelters

Web. 3: (sanctuary 4: a place of refuge for birds or for game or other animals)

sh 97-1974

Bioregionalism [May Subd Geog]

BT Environmentalism

BT Human ecology

Envtl. encyc.: p. 92 (def.: Philosophy of living that stresses harmony with nature and the integration of humans as part of the natural ecosystem, involves living off the land, without damaging the environment or relying on industrial machines or products) ; Green encyc.: p. 40 (def.: An environmental approach, a philosophy ... closely related to deep ecology, social ecology)

LC Class no.: GE43

sh 98002706

Buffer zones (Ecosystem management) [May Subd. Geog]

UF Areas, Buffer (Ecosystem management)
UF Buffer areas (Ecosystem management)
UF Buffer strips (Ecosystem management)
UF Buffers (Ecosystem management)
UF Strips, Buffer (Ecosystem management)
UF Zones, Buffer (Ecosystem management)
BT Ecosystem management
sh 99003878

Contaminated forests [May Subd Geog]

UF Polluted forests
BT Environmental degradation
BT Forests and forestry
sh 99-2839

Ecological assessment (Biology) [May Subd Geog]

Here are entered works on estimating and evaluating the effects that human activities have on living organisms and their habitats. Works on estimating and evaluating the actual or potential hazards that toxic substances pose to an ecosystem are entered under Ecological risk assessment.

UF Biological evaluation of environmental impacts
UF Ecological damage assessment (Biology)
BT Applied ecology
BT Environmental impact analysis
BT Nature—Effect of human beings on
RT Ecological surveys
LC Class no. QH541.15.E22
sh 97-1893

Ecomuseums [May Subd Geog]

BT Museums
sh 99-1066

Environmental lawyers [May Subd Geog]

BT Lawyers

sh 98-7635

Environmental justice [May Subd Geog]

Here are entered works on equal protection from environmental and health hazards for all people regardless of race, income, culture, or social class.

UF Eco-justice
UF Environmental justice movement
UF Global environmental justice
BT Environmental policy
BT Environmentalism
BT Social justice
sh 97-2483

Environmental law (Islamic law) [May Subd Geog]

BT Islamic law
sh 98-403

Habitat surveys [May Subd Geog]

BT Ecological surveys
LC Class no.: QH541.15.S95
sh 98-6790

Incentives in soil conservation

BT Soil conservation
LC Class no.: S627.I54
sh 99004264

Industrial ecology [May Subd Geog]

Here are entered works on optimizing the industrial materials cycle through design and production processes in order to minimize waste, pollution, and costs.

BT Materials management
LC Class no.: TS161
sh 96-1064

Integrated solid waste management [May Subd Geog]

UF Integrated waste management

BT Refuse and refuse disposal

Env. eng. dict.: Integrated solid waste management (A practice of using several alternative waste management techniques to manage and dispose of specific components of the municipal solid waste stream.

Waste management alternatives include source reduction, recycling, composting, energy recovery and landfilling)

sh 96-699

Marine biological diversity [May Subd Geog]

UF Marine biodiversity

BT Biological diversity

LC Class nos.: QH91.8.B6 (General), QH92-QH95.59 (Local, by body of water), QH101-QH198 (Local, by region, etc.)

sh 99-2126

Marine biological diversity conservation [May Subd Geog]

UF Conservation of marine biological diversity

UF Marine biodiversity conservation

BT Biological diversity conservation

BT Marine resources conservation

LC Class nos.: QH76-QH77 (Local, by region, etc.), QH91.8.B6 (General), QH92-QH95.59 (Local, by body of water)

sh 99-2127

Marine biological diversity conservation--Law and legislation [May Subd Geog]

sn 99-2606

Pesticide waste [May Subd. Geog]

UF Unusable pesticide

UF Waste pesticide

BT Pesticides

BT Waste products

LC Class no.: TD1066.P47

sh 98-321

Pesticides--Risk mitigation [May Subd Geog]

UF Hazard mitigation of pesticides

UF Pesticide hazard mitigation

UF Pesticide risk mitigation

UF Risk mitigation of pesticides

BT Pollution

Work cat.: 96-114601: Final report : Aquatic Risk Assessment and Mitigation Dialogue Group, 1994: cover (Pesticide risk assessment & mitigation) p. 7 (Risk mitigation involves remediation or mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate source contamination and adverse environmental impact)

sh 96-4693

Political ecology [May Subd Geog]

BT Social ecology

RT Green movement

Dict. of political analysis, 1982 (the study of the relationship of a political system to its environment)

LC Class no.: JA75.8

sh 98-945

Remnant vegetation [May Subd Geog]

UF Native vegetation remnants

UF Remnant native vegetation

UF Remnants of native vegetation

UF Remnants of vegetation

UF Vegetation remnants

BT Fragmented landscapes

BT Plant communities

sh 99-36

Remnant vegetation conservation [May Subd Geog]

BT Plant conservation

LC Class no. QK86

sh 99-86

Remnant vegetation management [May Subd Geog]

BT Vegetation management

LC Class no. QK86

sh 99-51

Watershed restoration [May Subd Geog]

UF Restoration of watersheds

BT Restoration ecology

BT Watershed management

sh 99-4194

Dunster, J. Dict. of natural resource management, c1996 (watershed restoration: improving current conditions of watersheds to restore degraded fish habitat and provide long-term protection to aquatic and riparian resources)

LC database, May 26, 1999 (watershed restoration; restoration of watershed)

Watershed restoration—Law and legislation [May Subd Geog]

BT Environmental law

sh 99-4462

Women ecologists [May Subd Geog]

BT Ecologists

BT Women biologists

sh 98-6873

World Heritage areas [May Subd Geog]

UF World Heritage sites

RT Cultural property

RT Historic sites

RT Natural areas

70 Work cat.: 97-215262: Australia. Parliament. House of Representatives. Standing Committee on Environment, Recreation, and the Arts. Managing Australia's world heritage, c1996: p. iii (World Heritage areas) p. 1 (World heritage is a term applied to sites of outstanding universal cultural or natural significance which are included on the World Heritage List. As of December 1995 there were 469 properties on the World Heritage List, including 350 cultural sites, 102 natural sites and 17 mixed sites ... The Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (the World Heritage Convention) was adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in 1972 ... In order to qualify for inclusion on the World Heritage List, a nominated area must meet specific criteria which are

contained in the Convention.)
sh 98-794

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