

Still Searching: Databases and Search Tools for Subject Headings

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Online with the CMC: November 13, 2025



Hello all! Welcome to Online with the CMC. As Pam relayed, our topic today is Still searching: Databases and Search Tools for Subject Headings.



AGENDA

- ❖ Who we are
- ❖ Why subject headings are useful
- ❖ Library of Congress Subject Headings
- ❖ Alternate vocabularies
- ❖ Resources

2

Our agenda today includes telling you a bit about who we are. Then we'll briefly touch on what subject headings are. Next, we'll talk about different databases you can use to search for Library of Congress subject headings. Then, we'll look at some alternate vocabularies you can use for subject headings, where to find those, and how to search them. We'll finish up with our resources.

Who We Are: Barb Scoby



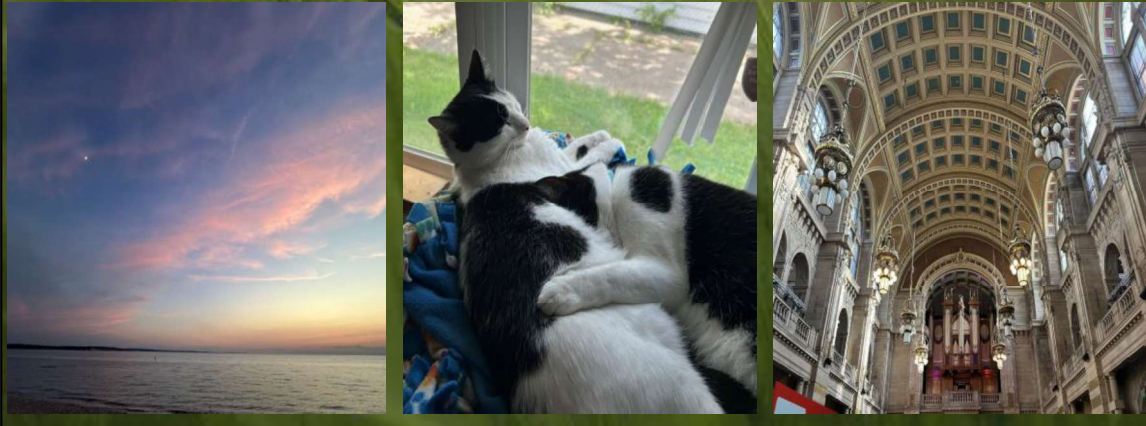
My latest
obsession
errr...
Hobby



Hello, I'm Barb Scoby. I have been with the CMC at IHLS since December 6th of 2021. Previously I was the county cataloger for Pinal County in Arizona. I also closed on my house here in Illinois on December 6th, 2021. It was a busy day! In 2024, I decided to plant a garden and soon discovered that the previous owners of the house had put down a layer of rock and then a layer of dirt over the entire property. Why??? This summer I realized that, well, some of these rocks were actually cool and that was the start of my dig sites throughout the property.

I am not the best at searching for subject headings and have a tendency to go down rabbit holes and waste time looking for the "perfect" subject heading. Improving my search skills is the reason why I jumped on board when Mary suggested this as a presentation topic. I've learned some tricks while doing research for this presentation and maybe I can learn some more tricks from you.

Who We Are: Mary Cornell



My name is Mary Cornell, and I am a CMC Cataloger here at the Cataloging Maintenance Center. I have been with the CMC for 4 years and before working here, I was a cataloger at a vendor, a technical services supervisor at a public library, and worked as an aide or assistant in technical services in public and academic libraries. Outside of professional work, I am a cat mom to two tuxedo cats, Merlin and Schroeder, dabble in amateur photography and writing, go for nature walks, watch loads of movies, and love to travel. The photos above are some examples: sunset photography over the Atlantic Ocean, Schroeder and Merlin cuddling, and the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum in Glasgow, Scotland from my travels.

SUBJECT HEADINGS



Why are subject headings useful to catalogers and searchers? Let's say that I am cataloging a book about a specific type of furniture. I call this object a couch; others call it a sofa; my relatives in Iowa call it a davenport.

If I didn't know about controlled vocabularies or the databases that contain these vocabularies (LCSH, MeSH, Homosaurus, etc.), I would probably put the word Couch in the 650 field and be done with it and move on. That would be cool, right?

Why could this be problematic? Suppose a sofa or davenport person were searching the catalog? Eh, they'll figure out eventually that they should search by couch, right? In this case, they probably would, but not all concepts are so straightforward. I will show you an example of more complex concepts in a few slides.

Definition of subject heading from:

<https://www.librarianshipstudies.com/>

Subject Heading is defined as the most specific word or group of words that captures the essence of the subject or one of the subjects of a book or other library material (e.g. serial, sound recording, moving image, cartographic material, manuscript, computer file, e-resource etc.) which is selected from a subject heading list containing the preferred subject access terms (controlled vocabulary) and assigned as

an added entry in the bibliographic record which works as an access point and enables the work to be searched and retrieved by subject from the library catalog database. Subject headings are also used in a bibliography and index.

- The controlled vocabulary identifies synonyms terms and selects one preferred term among them to be used as the subject heading. For homonyms, it explicitly identifies the multiple concepts expressed by that word or phrase. In short, vocabulary control helps in overcoming problems that occur due to the natural language of the document's subject. Hence, if vocabulary control is not exercised different indexers or the same indexer might use different terms for the same concept on different occasions for indexing the documents dealing with the same subject and also use a different set of terms for representing the same subject at the time of searching. This, in turn, would result in 'mis-match' and thus affect information retrieval. Cross-references are used with headings to direct the user from terms not used as headings to the term that is used, and from broader and related topics to the one chosen to represent a given subject.
- A subject heading may be subdivided by the addition of form subdivisions, geographical subdivisions, chronological subdivisions, and topical subdivisions to add greater specificity or add a parenthetical qualifier to add semantic clarification.

SUBJECT HEADINGS CONT.

OCLC Connexion - [LC Authority File Search List: lc: {"couches"}]

Record	Description
1	Couches (France) [151]
2	Sofas [150] [CHILDREN'S]
3	Sofas [150]

Rec stat	n	Entered	19940607	Replaced	19940
Type	z	Upd status	a	Enc lvl	n
Roman	■	Ref status	a	Mod rec	
Govt agn	■	Auth status	a	Subj	a
Series	n	Auth/ref	a	Geo subd	i
Ser num	n	Name	n	Subdiv tp	n

010	sh 94004016
040	OrPS ꞑc DLC
053	NK2736 ꞑc Decorative arts
150	Sofas
450	Couches
450	Davenports (Sofas)
450	Divans (Sofas)
550	ꞑw g ꞑa Living room furniture
670	Work cat.: An encyclopedia of sofas, 1989: ꞑb p. 7.
670	Web. 3: ꞑb p. 517.

So, if I, as the cataloger, **had** consulted a controlled vocabulary (in this case, Library of Congress Subject Headings), I would have discovered that the term Sofas is the preferred term and that the other terms I named are cross-referenced with this term. Plus the term Divans. I had forgotten about that one!

Connexion

COUCHES COUCH*

ord	Description
1	Couches (France) [151]
2	Sofas [150] [CHILDREN'S]
3	Sofas [150]

COUCH

ord	Description
1	Couch family [100]
2	Edcouch (Tex.) [151]
3	Phyla canescens [150]
4	Quitch-grass [150]

SOFAS SOFA*

ord	Description
1	3473 sofa (Eames furniture) [150]
2	Eames leather and teak sofa [150]
3	Eames sofa compact [150]
4	Sofas [150] [CHILDREN'S]
5	Sofas [150]

SOFA

ord	Description
1	3473 sofa (Eames furniture) [150]
2	Eames leather and teak sofa [150]
3	Eames sofa compact [150]
4	Status of forces agreements [150]

DAVENPORTS DAVENPORT*

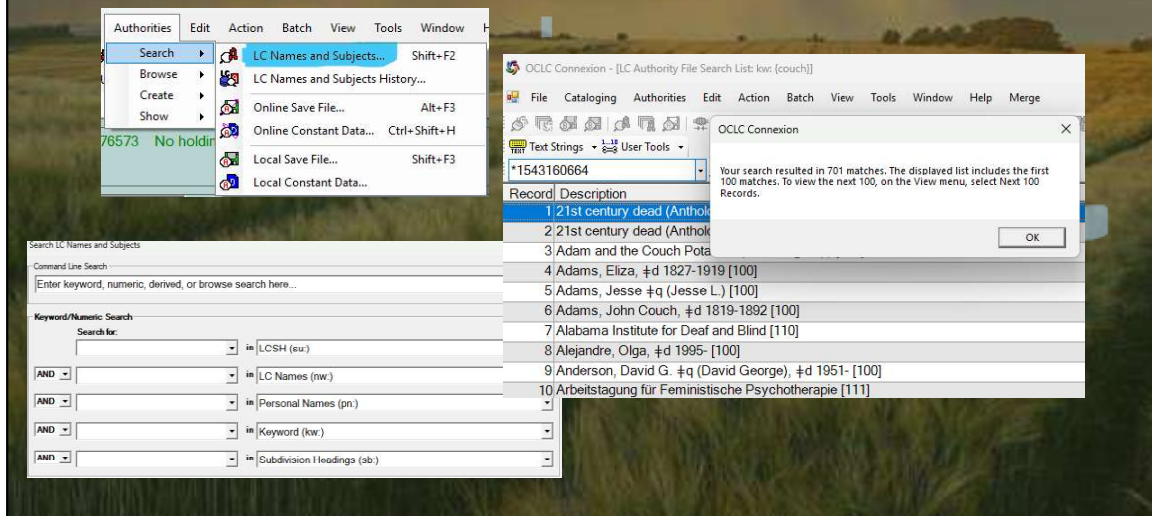
ord	Description
1	Davids Island (N.Y.) [151]
2	Sofas [150] [CHILDREN'S]
3	Sofas [150]

DAVENPORT

Record	Description
1	Bromley-Davenport family [100]
2	Bromley family [100]
3	Davenport (Calif.) [151]
4	Davenport family [100]
5	Davenport (Fla.) [151]
6	Davenport (Idaho) [151]
7	Davenport (Iowa) [151]
8	Davenport (Iowa) +v Maps [151]
9	Davenport (N.D.) [151]
10	Davenport (N.Y.) [151]

My go to database to search for subject headings is LCSH and I access it through OCLC Connexion. Before I show you my example, I want to point out that while using the various databases does make the job of assigning subject headings much easier, these databases aren't capable of knowing exactly what you are looking for because they can't read your mind - I truly hope that never becomes a thing! Any comment on that, Eric? - so you need to be careful in your searches. The difference between your results when you type in a word versus when you add an s or a wildcard like * to the end of the word is apparent in the examples on this slide.

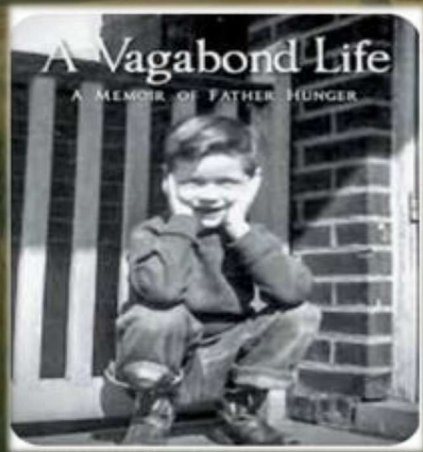
Connexion Cont.



To search in Connexion, click on the Authorities tab, then Search, then LC Names and Subjects. There are 22 options for searching that can be seen and selected when you click the down arrows. The searches that I use most often are the five you see in the screen shot. **I have another "caution when searching" tidbit to relay to you. Doing a keyword search using a simple word like couch will give you hundreds and sometimes even thousands of results and most of the results aren't helpful. If you have more than 100 search results, you will get a pop-up box (as shown in the slide) that shows the total number of results and instructs you how to view all results (view -> next 100 records or view -> previous 100 records.) I did stumble on a shortcut for viewing results. If you press the down arrow, it will scroll through the results, but, it requires a delicate touch. Sometimes when you are jamming on down the list with the down arrow, it will zip you right back to the beginning.

Connexion Cont.

Library of Congress Subject Headings



- Lack of fatherly attention
- Families – despair resilience
- Impact

```
600 1 0 Smith, Michael Byron +x Biography.
600 1 0 Smith, Michael Byron +x Family.
650 0 Dysfunctional families.
650 0 Father and child.
650 0 Paternal deprivation +x Children +x Psychological aspects.
650 0 Psychic trauma +x Children.
650 0 Fathers and sons.
650 0 Conduct of life.
```

I cataloged *A Vagabond Life: A Memoir Of Father Hunger* by Michael Byron Smith for the Collinsville Library. From the book subtitle and the blurb on the back cover, I selected the following topics:

Lack of fatherly attention

Families – despair/resilience

Impact on

The green box on the bottom right shows the subject headings that I ended up using. In the next slide I will discuss my search and thought process when I selected some of the subject headings.

Connexion Cont.



Keyword/Numeric Search
 Search for:
 fathers in LCSH (su.)

Record	Description
1	Absentee fathers [150]
2	Abusive men [150]
3	African American fathers [150]
4	African American single fathers [150]
5	African American teenage fathers [150]
6	Alcoholic fathers [150]
7	Apostolic Fathers [150]
8	Birthfathers [150] [CHILDREN'S]
9	Birthfathers [150]
17	Custody of children [150]
18	Custody of children [150] [CHILDREN'S]
19	Desert Fathers [150]
20	Desert Fathers ÷v Quotations [150]
21	Divorced fathers [150]
22	Divorced fathers ÷v Fiction [150]
23	Electra complex [150] [CHILDREN'S]
24	Electra complex [150]
25	Father and child [150]

ARN 3896424

Rec stat	c	Entered	19950609	Replaced	19990520144511.1
Type	z	Upd status	a	Enc lvl	n
Roman	■	Ref status	a	Mod rec	■
Govt agn	■	Auth status	a	Subi	a
Series	n	Auth/ref	a	Geo subd	i
Ser num	n	Name	n	Subdiv tp	n
				Rules	n

010 sh 95004658

040 AzTeS ÷c DLC ÷d DLC

150 Absentee fathers

450 Absent fathers

450 Noncustodial fathers

550 ÷w g ÷a Fathers

550 Custody of children

670 Work cat.: Crowell, B. Comparing noncustodial mothers and fathers on measures of self-esteem and depression, 1994: ÷b p. 4 (noncustodial fathers)

670 Márquez, V. Absentee fathers, 1994.

670 LC database, April 20, 1999 ÷b (absent fathers)

680 ÷i Here are entered works on fathers who have voluntarily or involuntarily relinquished custody of their natural born children after having kept them for a period of time after birth.

Lack of fatherly attention

****Father hunger** - When I initially started cataloging this book, I was under the incorrect assumption that it was a memoir written by Father Hunger, a member of the clergy. Father hunger is actually defined in psychology as the longing that a child may experience for their father, who is emotionally, physically, or psychologically distant. ******

So I chose to search only the word Fathers in my first search. (This slide does not include all of the results from my search. I did a little cut and paste.) Absentee fathers was at the top of the list. I thought "Well, that sounds like a good match" but, when went into the authority record for absentee fathers and read the 680 Scope Note, I saw that this subject heading is used in relation to the physical custody of children and I needed one that applied to the emotional absence of a father. With the exception of the father and child subject heading, the other headings in the search results revealed nothing useful. Just as I was getting really frustrated, the word paternal popped into my head and voila! I searched by the word paternal and found Paternal deprivation.

Families – despair/resilience - I chose Dysfunctional families. ******

Impact on - I found myself going down the rabbit hole on this one so I made myself stop and settled for adding \$x Children and \$x Psychological aspects after Paternal deprivation.

I was looking for a heading that expressed effect on children or how it might impact their behavior and emotions as they become adults. I even checked MeSH headings to see if there was anything applicable there. I am still curious if there is that perfect subject heading out there so let me know if you have any suggestions.

****Wikipedia, Nov. 12, 2009 ¶b** ("A dysfunctional family is a family in which conflict, misbehavior and even abuse on the part of individual members of the family occur continually and regularly, leading other members to accommodate such actions. Children sometimes grow up in such families with the understanding that such an arrangement is normal. Dysfunctional families are primarily a result of co-dependent adults, and also affected by the alcoholism, substance abuse, or other addictions of parents, parents' untreated mental illnesses/defects or personality disorders, or the parents emulating their own dysfunctional parents and dysfunctional family experiences.")

Library of Congress: Linked Data Services



CATALOGING
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Statewide Cataloging Support

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Linked Data Services

Search id.loc.gov

Search Library of Congress Subject Headings

GO

Search in: LC Subject Headings (LCSH)

Library of Congress Subject Headings

Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) has been actively maintained since 1898 to catalog materials held at the Library of Congress. By virtue of cooperative cataloging, other libraries around the United States also use LCSH to provide subject access to their collections. In addition, LCSH is used internationally, often in translation. LCSH in this service includes all Library of Congress Subject Headings, free-floating subdivisions (topical and form), Genre/Form headings, Children's (AC) headings, and validation strings* for which authority records have been created. The content includes a few name headings (personal and corporate), such as William Shakespeare, Jesus Christ, and Harvard University, and geographic headings that are added to LCSH as they are needed to establish subdivisions, provide a pattern for subdivision practice, or provide reference structure for other terms. This content is expanded beyond the print issue of LCSH (the "red books") with inclusion of validation strings. *Validation strings: Some authority records are for headings that have been built by adding subdivisions. These records are the result of an ongoing project to programmatically create authority records for valid subject strings from subject heading strings found in bibliographic records. The authority records for these subject strings were created so the entire string could be machine-validated. The strings do not have broader, narrower, or related terms.

URIs

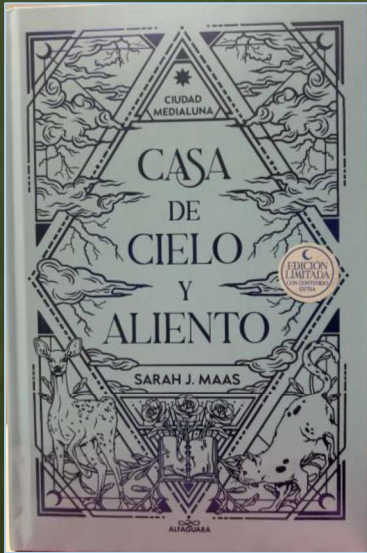
- <http://id.loc.gov/authorities/subjects>
- <http://id.loc.gov/authorities/conceptscheme>

Scheme Members

- LCSH Collection - Authorized Headings
- LCSH Collection - General Collection
- LCSH Collection - Children's Headings
- LCSH Collection - May Subdivide Geographically Indirect
- LCSH Collection - Term Permitted to be Directly Subdivided Geographically
- LCSH Collection - Subdivisions
- LCSH Collection - Topic Subdivisions
- LCSH Collection - Genre/Form Subdivisions
- LCSH Collection - Temporal Subdivisions
- LCSH Collection - Geographic Subdivisions
- LCSH Collection - Language Subdivisions

We're going to look at two different database options next from the Library of Congress. Our first database looks at a database available through the Library of Congress, their Linked Data Service. With this database, you can search everything from the Library of Congress' collection, BIBFRAME instances, works, etc. You can utilize it as well to search for subject headings. As you can see in the list of scheme members, this includes not only topical headings, but also geographic headings, children's, subdivisions, and more. Next, we're going to show you how to utilize this database by searching for a specific item's subject headings.

Linked Data Service Cont.



- Imaginary wars and battles \$v Fiction.
- Ethics \$v Fiction.
- Insurgency \$v Fiction.
- Fairies \$v Fiction.

As an FYI, not all of my examples will be items we've cataloged. This example is one we have cataloged, and it was cataloged for Mattoon Public Library. Our example is Casa de cielo y aliento, the Spanish translation of House of sky and breath by Sarah J. Maas. We're going to pick out just a few of the subject headings that pertain to this item. The four subject headings we pulled from this are Imaginary wars and battles, Ethics, Insurgency, and Fairies, all with a subfield v of Fiction. We're going to show our search process for the first two headings, Imaginary wars and battles and Ethics.

Linked Data Service Cont.



The Library of Congress > Linked Data Service

Refined by: [GO](#) [RESET](#) [ALPHA SORT](#)

[Subject Headings](#) ✕

Results: 1-3 of 3

	Label	Dataset	Type	Subdivision	Identifier
Refine your results					
Scheme					
Subject Headings					
Type					
Authority					
Simple Type					
Topic					
Complex Subject					
Complex Type					
Collection					
LCSH - Authorized					
LCSH - Complex					
	1. Imaginary wars and battles	LC Subject Headings (LCSH)	Topic SimpleType Authority		sh85064465
	2. Imaginary wars and battles in literature	LC Subject Headings (LCSH)	Topic SimpleType Authority		sh94004968
	3. Imaginary wars and battles--Fiction	LC Subject Headings (LCSH)	ComplexSubject ComplexType Authority		sh2008104271

Our first subject heading for searching – Imaginary wars and battles gave us a few results. What I found most intriguing is we not only got the general heading for Imaginary wars and battles, but also the heading for Imaginary wars and battles – Fiction. This means, we have a heading already created for the full heading we would need for our item. The two dashes between Imaginary wars and battles and Fiction, mean this is not only already an established heading, but also a heading with Fiction established as a form subdivision as well.

Linked Data Service Cont.



The Library of Congress > Linked Data Service

Refine your results

Scheme No values

Type No values

Collection No values

Created Date No values

Modified Date No values

ethics -- fiction **GO** **RESET** **ALPHA SORT**

Results: 1-0 of 0

Label	Dataset	Type	Subdivision	Identifier
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Results: 1-0 of 0

Do you need [assistance with your search?](#)

Our second subject heading is Ethics. After learning in our last search that I may be able to find Ethics – Fiction by searching that way, I am going to start by searching for Ethics that way first. So as you can see, Ethics – Fiction isn't an authorized subject heading. This doesn't mean it's unavailable to use. Let's try just searching Ethics on our next slide.

Linked Data Service Cont.



Refined by: Subject Headings X

ethics GO RESET

Results: 1-20 of 360

	Label	Dataset	Type	Subdivision	Identifier
1.	Ethics	LC Subject Headings (LCSH)	Topic SimpleType Authority		sh85045096
	Deontology ; Ethics, Primitive ; Ethology ; Moral philosophy ; Morality ; Morals ; Philosophy, Moral ; Science, Moral ; Ethics, Primitive				
2.	Ethics	LC Subject Headings (LCSH)	Topic SimpleType Authority	General Subdivision	sh00005644
	Biography--Character ; Knowledge--Ethics ; Moral ideas ; Religion and ethics ; Biography--Character ; Religion and ethics				
3.	Ethics, Ganda	LC Subject Headings (LCSH)	Topic SimpleType Authority		sh85045099
	Ethics, Baganda ; Ganda ethics ; Ethics, Baganda				
4.	Fundamental option (Ethics)	LC Subject Headings (LCSH)	Topic SimpleType Authority		sh85052368
	Option, Fundamental (ethics)				

Refine your results

Scheme

- Subject Headings X

Type

- Authority 360
- Complex Subject 210
- Complex Type 210
- Simple Type 150
- Topic 150

Collection

- LCSH - General 360
- LCSH - Authorized 357
- LCSH - Geo May Subdivide 120
- LCSH - Subdivisions 3
- LCSH - Topic 3
- PH - Names of Persons 2
- PH - Classes of Persons 1
- PH - Ethnic Groups 1

By searching just Ethics, we do produce the subject heading Ethics that is in our record. Two takeaways from this search stand out. For one, there are a great number of authority records that populate when we search for Ethics, so we will need to be careful when choosing a subject heading that populates these many results (when in doubt, read the scope note/check related terms, narrower terms). Second, I want to point out the left side of the screenshot that shows us the 'Type' section. For a search with these many results, we can narrow down what populates by choosing a Type. Subject headings are authority records, so I would choose that Type, 'authority' to narrow our search results.

Authorities (Beta)



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 Statewide Cataloging Support



Authorities **BETA**

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[Online catalog](#)
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[English](#)

Search authorities



Library of Congress Authorities provides around 500,000 authority records for subject headings and genre/form terms, as well as over 11 million name authority records for persons, organizations, places, and meetings/conferences. Also included are bibliographic headings pulled from the Library of Congress Catalog as additional references to support the work of catalogers. *Library of Congress Authorities* is a free service allowing users to browse, view and download authority headings in MARC format for use in a local library system.

Library of Congress Authority Headings included in this service derive from the thesauri of *Library of Congress Subject Authority Headings*, *Library of Congress Name Authorities*, *Children's and Young Adults' Cataloging Program*, and the *Library of Congress Genre/Form Terms*.

[View search tips](#)

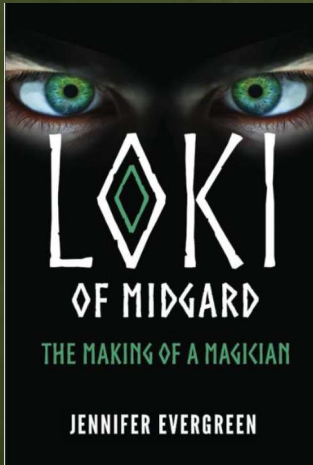
Subject Authority Headings ▼

Term begins with ▼



Our next search tool may be one some of you are familiar with, the Library of Congress Authorities search. The Library of Congress has recently updated the interface of this search tool, so it might look a bit different than you are used to. Much like the Linked Data Service, you can search specifically for subject headings. We are going to use a different item to search for terms in this database on our next slide.

Authorities Cont.



- Loki \$c (Norse deity) \$v Fiction
- Impersonation \$v Fiction.
- Mythology, Norse \$v Fiction.
- Norway \$v Fiction.

For our item, we are going to search using the book *The Making of the Magician* by Jennifer Evergreen. We have numerous options for subject headings for the item but the few we picked out are Loki \$ c (Norse deity), Impersonation, Mythology, Norse, and Norway all with the subfield v of Fiction.

Authorities Cont.



Subject Authority Headings ▼ Term begins with ▼ Norse mythology 🔍

Search results

Filters [Help with searching](#)

Results: 1-7 of 7 for "Norse mythology" Show: 100 ▼ Relevance ▼

Heading	Bib Records 🔗	Authorized/Reference	Thesaurus
Norse mythology	146		Library of Congress Children's and Young Adults' Subject Headings
Norse mythology	0	Reference	LCSH (Library of Congress Subject Authority Headings)

First, let's try searching for Mythology, Norse, but search for it in a way that allows us to use more natural language. So instead, I am going to search for Norse mythology. When I search Norse mythology, a couple of options pop up: Norse mythology listed as a Library of Congress Children's and Young Adult Subject Heading and Norse mythology, but listed as a Reference. Let's click on the heading that is listed as a reference and see what we find.

Authorities Cont.



MARC record	
LC control no.:	sh 85089413
LCCN Permalink:	https://lccn.loc.gov/sh85089413
000	00588cz a2200193n 4500
001	sh 85089413
005	20250804133315.7
003	DLC
008	860211 anannbabn a ana
010	\$a sh 85089413
035	\$a (DLC)sh 85089413
035	\$a (DLC)86370
040	\$a DLC \$c DLC \$d DLC
150	\$a Mythology, Norse
450	\$a Mythology, Scandinavian
450	\$a Norse mythology
450	\$a Scandinavian mythology
670	\$a Lindow, J. Scandinavian mythology : an annotated bibliography. 1988.

When we click on the reference for Norse mythology, this takes us to the heading as it is properly authorized, Mythology, Norse and gives us a view of the full subject authority record. What we may notice when looking at the authority record is our search Norse mythology is in a 450 field, meaning it is a see reference in this record and why we were able to search for it as we did. We also can note that if we hadn't been sure that Mythology, Norse is a subject heading, we could have searched for Mythology, Scandinavian, which is also a 450 and searching for it, we would have found this heading as well.

Authorities Cont.



Subject Authority Headings ▾

Term begins with ▾

Loki -- Norse deity



Search results

Filters

[Help with searching](#)

Results: 1-14 of 14 for "Loki -- Norse deity"

Show: 100 ▾

Relevance ▾

Heading	Bib Records	Authorized/Reference	Thesaurus
Loki--(Norse deity)	57		Library of Congress Subject Headings
Loki (Norse deity)	65		Library of Congress Subject Headings

For our second search, let's search for the subject heading Loki—Norse deity. What I notice right off about this search is we see in the Authorized/Reference column that neither of the values are filled in. We also don't have the option to click any of the headings to look further into the record. Let's try searching a different way on the next slide.

Authorities Cont.



Search results

Filters

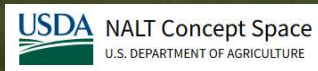
Results: 1-15 of 15 for "Loki -- Norse deity"

Show: 100 Relevance

Heading	Bib Records	Authorized/Reference	Thesaurus
Loki--(Norse deity)	57		Library of Congress Subject Headings
Loki (Norse deity)	65		Library of Congress Subject Headings
Loki (Norse deity)	21		Library of Congress Children's and Young Adults' Subject Headings
Loki (Norse deity)	0	Authorized	Name Authority Headings

To search differently for this heading, we're going to change our search option to 'All headings.' As we can see at the bottom of our screenshot, Loki (Norse deity) is authorized, but as a name authority heading. This is a recent change in headings where mythical figures and deities used to be categorized as subject headings, they are now created as name headings. They can still be used in a record as a 'subject' but will instead of being in a 650 field will be in a 600 field.

Alternate Terminologies



As I am sure many of you are aware of, there are numerous other terminologies a cataloger can use outside of the Library of Congress subject headings. These alternate terminologies can be especially helpful when the Library of Congress lacks a specific subject heading needed for an item. We have in our resources a link for a full list of alternate vocabularies that has been compiled by the Library of Congress, which includes the source codes for these vocabularies that can be used in bibliographic records. These include thesauri such as: The Agricultural Thesaurus and Glossary via the National Agricultural Library Thesaurus Concept Space, which is a database that includes multiple different vocabularies about agriculture. European Thesaurus on International Relations and Area Studies, which is a multilingual resource covering all essential aspects in the field of international relations and area studies. TMDb or the Movie Database which is a community-built movie and TV database. Māori subject headings thesaurus which is a tool that provides a structured path to a Māori world view within library and archival cataloguing and description. On the next few slides, we're going to look at some other alternate terminologies that you can use in your cataloging work.

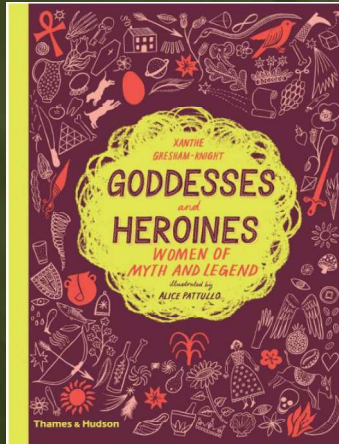


First, we're going to look at the American Folklore Society's Ethnographic Thesaurus, which includes terminology that pertain to folklore, ethnomusicology, cultural anthropology, and related fields. These terms are available for searching in the Library of Congress' Linked Data Service and overall, there are 16,000+ terms available for searching in this thesaurus. If you want to use the Linked Data Service to search just this thesaurus, you can filter the scheme you are searching in along the left side of the database with other available filters.

American Folklore Society Cont.



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- Goddesses
- Mother goddesses
- Healing gods
- Fertility gods

Our example we're going to use is a book by Xanthe Gresham-Knight, *Goddesses and Heroines: Women of Myth and Legend*. While this book could be categorized just using women and goddesses, there are different kinds of goddesses in this book as well. Firstly, AFSET does include Goddess as a term but also Mother goddesses (which applies to Isis), and Healing gods (which applies to Isis and Brigid). The last term I found was fertility gods (which applies to the goddesses Mayahuel, Osun, Inanna) that could be useful as it would describe multiple deities in this work. We're going to search for Fertility gods in AFSET.

American Folklore Society Cont.



fertility gods

Search In

Refined by:

fertility gods

Results: 1-1 of 1

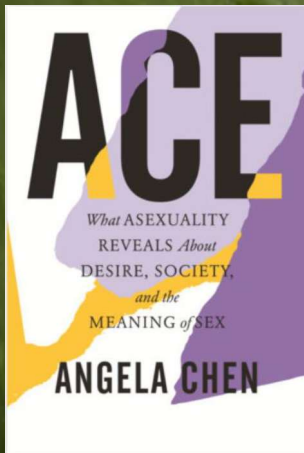
Refine your results	Label	Dataset	Type	Subdivision	Identifier
Scheme x	1. fertility gods	AFS Ethnographic Thesaurus	Topic SimpleType Authority		afset006696
Type x					
Authority	1	Results: 1-1 of 1			

When we first bring up the LC Linked Data Services, we'll find there is a drop down for the thesaurus that you can search. As you can see from our drop down, we can pick the American Folk Society's Ethnographic Thesaurus as the specific database we're searching. I searched this database using our term fertility gods and came up with the results shown on the bottom of the slide. As we can see by looking at the left of the screenshot, we're just getting results from AFSET as we filtered. Our heading shows in the middle the dataset we searched, the type of heading this is classified in the database, and then an identifier for this subject heading.



Our next thesaurus may be one of the more familiar alternate terminologies, the Homosaurus. The Homosaurus is an international linked data vocabulary of LGBTQ+ terms. It was originally created in 1997 in the Netherlands and has morphed into the thesaurus that it is today through the work of different international groups by being transformed into an online linked data vocabulary in 2015. When using this thesaurus, there are two different ways to search. You can do a Version 4 search as shown or browse the Version 4 vocabulary.

Homosaurus Cont.



- Asexuality
- Asexual people
- Sexual identity

The source we will be looking at for using the Homosaurus is Ace: what asexuality reveals about desire, society, and the meaning of sex by Angela Chen. There are a plethora of subject headings that can be found in the Homosaurus that could describe this book including the most important: Asexuality, Asexual people, and Sexual identity (because the book isn't just about sex as the cover relays but more about sexual and romantic attraction, which sexual identity speaks to). The LC record also mentions desire, but I feel the 3 subject headings I mention encapsulate most of the book's thesis. We're going to search for the term sexual identity in this database on the next slide.

The screenshot shows the Homosaurus website interface. At the top, the title "Homosaurus Cont." is displayed in a large, light blue font against a dark green background. To the right of the title is the CMC (Cataloging Maintenance Center) logo, which includes the text "CMC", "CATALOGING MAINTENANCE CENTER", and "Statewide Cataloging Support". Below the title, there is a search bar with the text "sexual identity" entered and a blue "Search" button. The search results are displayed below the search bar, starting with "Search Results For: sexual identity". The first result is highlighted in a blue box and reads "Non-Euro-American gender and sexual identities". Below this, there is a section titled "Sexual identity" in a blue box. Under this section, there are "Alternative Labels:" and two descriptions: "Description: How an individual understands their identity in relation to their romantic or sexual attraction to other people.@en" and "Description: Cómo una persona entiende su identidad en relación con su atracción romántica o sexual hacia otras personas.@es".

I am going to utilize the Version 4 search through the Homosaurus' website to find our term. As you can see, I searched for sexual identity in the search box. A few things to note here start with, as you can see, the term sexual identity was not my first result. The first result was actually 'non-Euro-American gender and sexual identities.' What I found through looking at the results is the Homosaurus pulls up terms based more on keywords. If you search for a term like identity, it will pull up any term that has that word in either the subject heading or the scope note. Sexual identity was our 7th result for this search and populated as shown on the slide. I would say if a search result like this is a bit daunting for you, utilizing the alphabetical Version 4 terminology list instead is also an option.

Art & Architecture Thesaurus



Adoni Chevez (Jerome Schmidt)

- Born: 1931
- Died: 2006
- Breese, IL

- Left behind 2,500 works of art
- Collages, watercolors, crayons, pencil, dolls from scrap materials
- Imitated Matisse's style



with car Clyde

- Local artists
- Watercolor paintings

Great examples Mary! I will definitely be checking out the databases you presented, especially the Library of Congress Linked Data Service. I had no idea that existed!

I'm going to briefly go over searching the Art & Architecture Thesaurus (aat). The search is straightforward, but I'm a little uncertain about how the headings are supposed to be entered in the MARC record. I thought I would share my confusion with all of you.

I cataloged this book for the Breese library in 2024. At that time, I only added LCSH to the record. I thought that the story behind these paintings was interesting and when I was thinking of a book to apply aat headings to, this book popped into my head.

AAT Cont.



Art & Architecture Thesaurus® Online

Search the AAT [? Help](#)

Find Term or ID: [Search](#)

☒ AND ☐ OR [Clear](#)

Note:

[Pop-up Search](#) [Browse the AAT hierarchies](#)

6. ☐ **watercolorists**
(<painters by technique, implement, or material employed>, painters (artists), ... People (hierarchy name)) [300025157]
painters, watercolor
watercolor painters

9. ☐ **watercolors (paintings)**
(<paintings by material or technique>, paintings (visual works), ... Visual and Verbal Communication (hierarchy name)) [300078925]
watercolor (painting)
watercolor drawing
watercolor drawings
watercolor painting
watercolor paintings< (paintings<
water-colors (paintings)

Search term: watercolor. No s or * added to the end of the word. There were 9 results and numbers 6 and 9 were what I needed.

AAT Cont.



ID: 300025157 Record Type: concept
 Page Link: <http://vocab.getty.edu/page/aat/300025157>

watercolorists (<painters by technique, implement, or material employed>, painters (artists), ... People (hierarchy name))

Note: Artists who specialize in painting watercolors, which are works of art, generally on a paper support, to which pigment suspended in water is applied with a brush.

Terms:
 watercolorists (**preferred**, C.U.I.C. American English-P.D.U.P.N)
 watercolorist (C.U.American English-AD.U.S.N)
 watercolorist's (C.U.American English-AD.U.N)
 watercolorists' (C.U.American English-AD.U.N)

ID: 300078925 Record Type: concept
 Page Link: <http://vocab.getty.edu/page/aat/300078925>

watercolors (paintings) (<paintings by material or technique>, paintings (visual works), ... Visual and Verbal Communication (hierarchy name))

Note: Refers to two-dimensional works of art, usually on a paper support, to which pigment suspended in water is applied with a brush to create an image or design. Includes paintings using gouache, which is not technically watercolor paint. Watercolors are variously classified as drawings or paintings in collections.

Terms:
 watercolors (paintings) (**preferred**, C.U.American English-P.D.U.P.N)
 watercolor (painting) (C.U.American English-AD.U.S.N)
 watercolor drawings (C.U.American English-UF.U.U)
 watercolor drawing (C.U.American English-UF.U.U)

655	7	artists' materials ‡2 aat ‡0 (CStmoGRI)aat300014842
655	7	watercolorists ‡2 aat ‡0 http://vocab.getty.edu/page/aat/300025157
655	7	watercolors (paintings) ‡2 aat ‡0 http://vocab.getty.edu/page/aat/300078925

Clicking on watercolorists or watercolors (paintings) will show the preferred term first in the list of terms. The page also shows the ID number for the term as well as the page link.

For this presentation, I revisited the bib record for this book. I noticed a field had been added to the record by OCLC:

655 _7artists' materials ‡2 aat ‡0 (CStmoGRI)aat300014842

CStmoGRI is the International Standard Identifier for Libraries and Related Organizations. I'm not sure why the heading wasn't formatted like the Getty website instructed. I used the format that Getty provided. *** (If you scroll down in the notes, you will find info about OCLC system maintenance)

MARC Standard format to include the unique subject_id of the Getty vocabulary record:

655 _7 Reproductions. |2 aat |0 <http://vocab.getty.edu/aat/300015463>

655 _7 Paintings (visual works). |2 aat |0 <http://vocab.getty.edu/aat/300033618>

Things were going great! BUT, when I clicked Replace Record, those 655 fields changed to 650. I was getting pretty frustrated. As a last resort, I decided to see what would happen if I removed the period at the end of the term. I guess the periods were causing the issue, maybe? The fields didn't change to 650 after I deleted the periods so I stopped messing with them.

No, OCLC **does not automatically add 6xx subject fields** to bibliographic records you create in Connexion. The system is a full-service cataloging tool that allows you to create and edit high-quality records, but the responsibility for adding appropriate subject access points (6xx fields) rests with the cataloger.

- **Manual Entry is Required:** You need to manually add 6xx fields to ensure proper subject access to the resource you are cataloging.
- **Authority Control Tools:** Connexion provides tools to help you verify and control headings in the authority files (such as the Library of Congress Authority File or FAST). You can use these tools to ensure the subject headings you enter are valid and consistent with established standards.
- **Macros and Constant Data:** While OCLC doesn't automatically generate subject headings, you can use features like **macros** or **constant data records** to streamline the process of adding frequently used fields or standard information, which can include subject fields.
- **System Maintenance:** OCLC does perform automated updates for existing records in WorldCat when authorized access points in the authority files (like the FAST Authority File) change, but this is a maintenance function for existing data, not a process that automatically generates initial subject headings for a new record.

In summary, when creating a new record in Connexion, you are responsible for identifying and adding the appropriate 6xx subject headings yourself.

<https://www.getty.edu/research/tools/vocabularies/faq.html#0>

MeSH headings



- Hoarders / Hoarding
- Obsessive-compulsive disorder
- Relationship with parents
- Autobiographical fiction

Based on true events.

In her debut novel, author Krista Larson takes the reader up to and through a life of love, loss, humor, joy, and, yes Hoarding Disorder.

I cataloged this book for the Warren County Public Library District. It is fiction, but is based on the author's experience growing up with a mother who was a hoarder.

MeSH headings Cont.



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Because of a lapse in government funding, the information on this website may not be up to date, transactions submitted via the website may not be processed, and the agency may not be able to respond to inquiries until appropriations are enacted. The NIH Clinical Center (the research hospital of NIH) is open. For more details about its operating status, please visit cc.nih.gov. Updates regarding government operating status and resumption of normal operations can be found at opm.gov.


National Library of Medicine

Search
Tree View
MeSH on Demand
MeSH 2025
About
Suggestions
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FullWord ▾
Exact
All
Any

☒ All Terms

☐ Main Heading (Descriptor) Terms
☐ Qualifier Terms
☐ Supplementary Concept Record Terms
☐ MeSH Unique ID
☐ Search in all Supplementary Concept Record Fields

Sort by: ▾
Relevance ▾

Results per Page: ▾
20 ▾

Hoarding Disorder

MeSH Descriptor Data

2025

Details
Qualifiers
MeSH Tree Structures
Concepts

MeSH Heading
Hoarding Disorder

Tree Number(s)
F03.080.600.250

Unique ID
D000067836

RDF Unique Identifier
<http://id.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/D000067836>

Annotation
differentiate from [HOARDING](#)

Scope Note
Disordered behavior associated with clinically significant distress or impairment in social, occupational or other important areas of functioning and persistent difficulty parting with possessions due to a perceived need to save the items and distress associated with discarding them. (from DSM-IV) The quantity of collected items sets the behavior apart from normal collecting behaviors.

Entry Term(s)
Obsessive Hoarding

NLM Classification #
WM 176

The MeSH browser defaults for searching are : All Fragments and All Terms. The searches I did for this book were pretty straightforward so I didn't mess with those settings.

Hoarders / Hoarding

My first search was hoarding. The annotation said : differentiate from hoarding disorder. I added the word disorder to my search and compared the Scope Note for both hoarding (Scope Note A persistent difficulty discarding or parting with possessions.) and hoarding disorder and decided that hoarding disorder was the better fit. I had to do a bit of noodling around to find out what differentiate meant in this context:

- **Differentiation from Scope Note:** The annotation is distinct from the *Scope Note*, which provides a definition or description of the concept itself. The annotation is about the *application* of the term as an indexing tool.

In the notes below is an explanation of what to put in the 1st indicator of the 650 field. I chose to leave that indicator blank.

650 1st indicator - level of subject.

No information provided – leave 1st indicator field **blank**

No level specified. (The level of the subject term could be determined, but is not specified.) **0**

Primary. (A subject covers the main focus or subject content of the material.) **1**

Secondary. (A subject covers a less important aspect of the content of the material.) **2**

MeSH headings Cont.



Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder MeSH Descriptor Data 2025	
Details	Qualifiers
MeSH Heading	Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder
Tree Number(s)	F03.080.600
Unique ID	D009771
RDF Unique Identifier	http://id.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/D009771
Annotation	COMPULSIVE PERSONALITY DISORDER is also available.
Scope Note	An anxiety disorder characterized by recurrent, persistent obsessions or compulsions. Obsessions are the intrusive ideas, thoughts, or images that are experienced as senseless or repugnant. Compulsions are repetitive and seemingly purposeful behavior which the individual generally recognizes as senseless and from which the individual does not derive pleasure although it may provide a release from tension.
Entry Version	OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE DIS
Entry Term(s)	Anankastic Personality Neurosis, Obsessive-Compulsive

OCCLC	1504076573	No holdings in IHI - 1 other holding
650	0	Obsessive-compulsive disorder +v Fiction .
650	0	Compulsive hoarding +v Fiction .
650	0	Hoarders +z United States +v Fiction .
650	0	Mother and child +x Family relationships +v Fiction .
650	0	Autobiographical fiction .

Mother-Child Relations MeSH Descriptor Data 2025	
Details	Qualifiers
MeSH Heading	Mother-Child Relations
Tree Number(s)	F01.829.263.370.250.170
Unique ID	D009034
RDF Unique Identifier	http://id.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/D009034
Annotation	human only
Scope Note	Interaction between a mother and child.
Entry Version	MOTHER CHILD RELAT
Entry Term(s)	Mother-Child Interaction Mother-Child Relationship Mother-Infant Interaction Mother-Infant Relations
Previous indexing	Parent-Child Relations (1966-1967)

650	2	Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder #0 (DNLMD009771)
650	2	Hoarding Disorder #0 (DNLMD000067836)
650	2	Mother-Child Relations #0 (DNLMD009034)

This slide shows the 650 fields that I chose for this book.

Obsessive-compulsive disorder

Similar to the search for hoarding disorder

Autobiographical fiction (found in Connexion LCSH)

Mother-Child Relations

Similar to the other searches

Resources:



- Art & Architecture Thesaurus.
<https://www.getty.edu/research/tools/vocabularies/aat/index.html> ;
<https://www.getty.edu/research/tools/vocabularies/faq.html#0>
- American Folklore Society: AFS Ethnographic Thesaurus.
<https://americanfolkloresociety.org/resources/afs-ethnographic-thesaurus/>
- Homosaurus. <https://homosaurus.org/>
- Librarianship Studies. Subject Heading.
<https://www.librarianshipstudies.com/2015/09/subject-heading.html>
- Library of Congress: Authorities (Beta). <https://authorities.loc.gov/>
- Library of Congress: Linked Data Service.
<https://id.loc.gov/authorities/subjects.html>

All the resources.

Resources:



- Maori Subject Heading Thesaurus.
<https://natlib.govt.nz/librarians/nga-upoko-tukutuku>
- MESH (Medical Subject Headings).
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/>
- The Movie Database. <https://www.themoviedb.org/>
- National Agricultural Library Thesaurus Concept Space.
<https://lod.nal.usda.gov/en/>
- Subject Headings and Term Source Codes.
<https://www.loc.gov/standards/sourcelist/subject.html>
- Wikipedia. Dysfunctional family.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dysfunctional_family

ON THE CALL TODAY

Questions? Contact the CMC: cmc@illinoisheartland.org



Barbera Scoby
CMC Cataloger



Dr. Pamela Thomas
Bibliographic Grant
Manager



Mary Cornell
CMC Cataloger



Eric McKinney
CMC Cataloging Trainer



Kat Anderberg
Metadata Cataloger



Katie Roberts
Special Project Cataloger



Andrea Giosta
Special Project Cataloger



On the call today, we have: Barb Scoby, my lovely co-presenter; Dr. Pamela Thomas, myself, Eric McKinney, Kat Anderberg, Katie Roberts, and Andrea Giosta. Any questions?