

One way to verify topical headings

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The following examples describe in moderate detail the procedure that a program could use to determine whether or not a topical subject heading containing subfields \$x, \$y and/or \$z was constructed properly. I've left off as many details as I thought was safe.

Let me emphasize several important points before I get carried away:

- * There are no doubt other ways to do the same thing
- * I am using as much of the classification/notation scheme distributed earlier as seems necessary for each example, but no more.
- * I am not suggesting that the classification/notation scheme is the best one to use, but am simply using it for the purposes of illustration.

Example 1

Heading to be verified:

650 0 \$a Sex discrimination in employment \$x Law and legislation \$x Case studies \$x Bibliography.

The program starts by searching for an authority record for the entire string. Not finding such a record, it throws off the rightmost subdivision, and tries again. Not finding such a record, it throws off the rightmost remaining subdivision, and tries again. The program finds this record, which declares that the heading represents a "legal topic:"

072 \$a 4 /le
150 0 \$a Sex discrimination in employment \$x Law and legislation

The program takes the remaining string of subdivisions (\$x Case studies \$x Bibliography) and looks for an authority record for the string. Not finding one, the program throws away the rightmost subdivision in the remaining string, and tries again. It finds this record:

073 \$a 4 /le
180 \$x Case studies

The program compares the notation in the authority record for the main heading against the notation in the authority record for "Case studies" and finds them identical. Therefore, the heading is OK so far. Because there is no coded instruction in the 073 field in the "Case studies" record to the contrary, the program degrades the category of the heading-so-far from "legal topic" to just "topic." (This is a basic rule: the program allows the addition of up to one subdivision (or subdivision group) from a specialized list; after the first subdivision has been added to anything, barring instruction to the contrary, the heading becomes a "topic.")

The program looks for an authority record for the remaining subdivision (\$x Bibliography); the program finds this:

073 \$a 4
180 \$x Bibliography

The program then compares notation for the heading-as-verified-so-far against the notation in this subdivision record. Since the subdivision "Bibliography" may be used under topics, and

