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Preface

The Working Group on Guidelines for Subject Access by National Bibliographic Agencies has existed since 2003. Participants in this group included various providers of information — subject librarians, terminology managers, bibliography specialists, LIS teachers and others. In 2005 we discussed the scope of our tasks and decided to recommend subject access for national bibliographies as part of the production of bibliographies in general. National bibliographies have been in a state of change with many countries starting to publish their national bibliographies online. The question of how to integrate the multitude of national online resources needs to be considered, how they should be catalogued, how they should be made accessible, and how they could be discovered by bibliography users. Because the Working Group on Guidelines for National Bibliographies of the IFLA Bibliography Section was concerned with exactly these „new directions“, we decided to build our guidelines on their recommendations, published in 2009 under the title National Bibliographies in the Digital Age: Guidance and New Directions. Our guidelines can be understood as a supplement to the 2009 Guidelines. Our work is also an appeal to the producers of national bibliographies to provide subject access in national bibliographies. Users will benefit from using well organized subject structures of classification systems and subject headings to expand their ways of reaching the resources they want.

The intended audience for our Guidelines are those in charge of the implementation of new national bibliographies, managers and staff of established agencies who are challenged by large amounts of publications and new technologies and media, readers of the IFLA Bibliography Section’s Guidelines, and all others interested in subject access strategies.

With many thanks to all colleagues who contributed to the success of this work, in particular Marie Balíková, Pino Buizza, Charlene Chou, Ulrike Junger, Dorothy McGarry, Sirje Nilbe, Sandra K. Roe, Magdalena Svanberg, Barbara Tillett, and Maja Žumer. Your patience and valuable discussions are much appreciated.

Yvonne Jahns, Leipzig 2011
1. Introduction

1.1 Subject access in national bibliographies

National bibliographies (hereafter NBs) are cumulated records of a nation’s publishing output, and they are important information resources. An NB is “published regularly, and with the least possible delay. It is produced in accordance with international standards by the national bibliographic agency. Publication details and authorship are investigated and verified in detail.” (Žumer 2009: 13)

The definition and mission of NBs are already given and extensively described in numerous IFLA publications, in particular in the latest National Bibliographies in the Digital Age (Žumer 2009). The 1998 recommendations by the International Conference on National Bibliographic Services (ICNBS) stressed the role of national bibliographic agencies and the importance of legal deposit.¹ One of the ICNBS extensions was “Reaffirming the value of legal deposit as a means of ensuring that the cultural and intellectual heritage and linguistic diversity of the state is preserved and made accessible for current and future users”.²

National bibliographies do not only verify authors, titles and ISBNs, but also select the number of publications of a specific domain, identify changes in the publishing industry, and identify prominent topics or language pluralism. We get a key to a country’s publication landscape, for example of science or of literature. Finally, we can even learn about the importance of books and other media within a society.

“A current national bibliography is a mirror that reflects the culture of a country.” (Bell 1998)

The ability to search for domains and subjects depends on the input of subject-oriented data in bibliographic records. National libraries (hereafter NLs) or national bibliographic agencies (hereafter NBAs) use various tools such as classification schemes, thesauri, or subject headings to provide subject-oriented data in their bibliographic databases. Most of them follow rules and principles. Ideally, complete and detailed subject indexing is applied to all catalogued documents. This means users can find disciplines or subject domains related to current publications, useful controlled terms for searching topics, and also find related works, additional content information such as abstracts, occasionally even fragments of the work or hyperlinks to tables of contents or the digital content. Realistically, this is impossible for most libraries.

Jay Lambrecht said in Minimal Level Cataloging by National Bibliographic Agencies in 1992, “In the real world of limited resources, difficult decisions must be made at all levels. A national bibliographic agency must determine what portion of its budget will be devoted to cataloguing. Those who administer the cataloguing operation must decide how to allocate resources among bibliographic description, subject analysis, assignment of access points, maintenance of authority files and other functions” (Lambrecht 1992).

Since 1992, the financial pressure has increased. The publishing output increased, too. Development of sophisticated online databases and search engines like Google call into question the actual costly maintenance of library catalogues in general. Cataloguers are faced today with mass digitization, automated indexing procedures, and social tagging — mechanisms that could cast doubt on the future of traditional cataloguing. Sometimes even more simple reasons, such as the absence of a proper strategy, influence our bibliographic reality.

² ibid
Providing universal and encompassing public access to information is one of the main activities of librarians. Subject access provides routes to information. What NB users expect by subject access is diverse — an overview on available literature or bibliographic citations or direct access to resources or other answers. Subject access means providing information on what publications are about. When included in an NB, subject access enables people also to see which and how many publications that exist in a specific field of knowledge and which topics are contained in a particular national publishing output or a particular library collection. In this manner subject access is more than a representation of the intellectual content of collected and recorded resources. It also means showing the reasons for adding resources to the NB. It is the key that allows the information seeker to understand the value of the information retrieved.

Subject access results from subject indexing and classification activities. Subject indexing is needed because publication titles and tables of contents do not always offer sufficient information; sometimes they even contain misleading terms. Subject indexing is the basis for finding relevant information successfully by offering synonym search terms and standardising natural, ambiguous language. It places the content of resources in relationship to other resources with similar content. Today's enormous amount of published information can be reduced and categorized using one of several available indexing methods. Thus, the publishing output becomes organized into more manageable units that are more readable, selectable, and searchable precisely.

“Controlled subject access to information objects in library environment deals with order, logic, objectivity, precise denotation, and consistency.” (Balíková 2009)

1.2 IFLA’s Working Group on Guidelines for Subject Access by National Bibliographic Agencies

The IFLA Working Group on Guidelines for Subject Access by National Bibliographic Agencies was established to analyse the question of subject access and to propose key elements for an indexing policy for national bibliographies. The mandate was to find common rules that are appropriate to nearly every NBA. On the other hand the WG also wants to guide established NBAs on how to improve their current provision of subject-oriented bibliographic data.

The IFLA Classification and Indexing Section has been concerned with all the issues addressed above for many years. Some years ago the Section’s Working Group on Principles Underlying Subject Heading Languages had already analysed real existing systems used in NBAs and verified principles (Lopes/Beall 1999). After that, broader surveys of subject indexing systems seemed desirable.

A Working Group on Subject Access to Web Resources was proposed, monitoring trends in the provision of subject access to electronic documents on the web in 1999.³ The WG looked at overall structures of subject access and collected data from several countries into a database about subject access approaches used by digital collections. Despite many efforts it was finally considered not realistic for IFLA to establish and maintain such a worldwide database. Libraries’ environments change and the WG could only get glimpses of web archiving policies. However, not surprisingly, popular schemes and indexing languages like DDC, UDC, and MeSH were found to be used to enable subject retrieval.

Following the Section’s work in the 1990s, a Survey on subject heading languages used in national libraries and bibliographies was made by yet another of the Section’s working groups. Questionnaires were sent out in 1995 and 1997. The survey was published in

³ http://archive.ifla.org/VII/229/wgsaw.htm
2000 by Magda Heiner-Freiling. It revealed that the Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) have been heavily used in national libraries outside of the United States. Many countries use a translation or adaptation of LCSH as their principle subject heading language. The analysis also included information on the classification schemes used and whether or not libraries have produced a manual on creation and application of subject headings. The predominance of DDC used as a classification scheme was also not surprising, and a strong tendency was recognized to use an international classification system in addition to in-house classification schemes or subject headings.

Evaluating the results, it was stated that „many developing countries started with their present system of subject cataloguing during the 1990s or had already begun between 1980 and 1998. The organisation of IFLA conferences, workshops and publications connected with topics like bibliographic control and the development of guidelines for subject authorities probably influences this process and helped to establish a system of recommendations and instructions for national bibliographies.” (Heiner-Freiling 2000: 193) We hope that the present Guidelines will further aid this process.

In 2009, IFLA’s Statement of International Cataloguing Principles (ICP) was published. It is also available in multiple languages on the IFLA Website. ICP was the result of 5 regional meetings worldwide to discuss bibliographic control among the rule makers and cataloguing experts of the world. The final principles were approved by 71 countries. The principles stressed the importance of subject access to bibliographic information and declared controlled subject terms and/or classification notations for the work to be essential access points. (Tillett/Cristán 2009: 33)

The IFLA Study Group on the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR) developed a conceptual model showing the entities and relationships of the bibliographic universe in 1997. In 2005 the IFLA Working Group on the Functional Requirements for Subject Authority Records (FRSAR) was formed to address subject authority data issues and to investigate the direct and indirect uses of subject authority data by a wide range of users. The purpose of the 2010 published study is a framework that provides a commonly shared understanding of what the subject authority data aims to provide information about, and the expectation of what such data should achieve in terms of answering user needs. When using subject authority data, a user may need to find, identify, and select a subject entity or entities. A user may also choose to explore a subject domain and its terminology. This is not only valid in a catalogue environment but also when looking at subject access in NBs. The FRSAD model showed the challenge of analysing aboutness — i.e. the relation between a work and its subject matter. We will follow their understanding of subject here.

When IFLA’s World Library and Information Congress took place in Berlin, Germany, in 2003, the Section’s Standing Committee discussed how to ensure that appropriate subject access can be provided by NBAs to meet user needs. At the same time the Standing Committee of IFLA’s Bibliography Section discussed how to respond to the

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4 88 national libraries responded to the survey.
5 Guidelines for Subject Authority and Reference Entries, 1993
8 “The FRSAR Working Group is aware that some controlled vocabularies provide terminology to express other aspects of works in addition to subject (such as form, genre, and target audience of resources). While very important and the focus of many user queries, these aspects describe isness or what class the work belongs to based on form or genre (e.g., novel, play, poem, essay, biography, symphony, concerto, sonata, map, drawing, painting, photograph, etc.) rather than what the work is about. Some of these aspects are explicitly covered by the FRBR model, for example, ‘form of work’, ‘intended audience’ etc. as attributes of work. While the Group acknowledges that there are cases where a vocabulary provides terminology, or has been used, also for isness, the focus of the FRSAD model is on aboutness (the FRBR-defined relationship work has as subject’ [ …])”
growing significance of electronic media. Both sections established working groups investigating developments at NBAs or NLs and updating guidelines, helping to improve bibliographical services around the world. Both working groups’ aims and tasks changed during the years because of the growing importance of libraries’ online environment (see *Annex 1: history of the WG*).

Following the Bibliography Section’s work, our main objectives were to

- Consider national indexing policies of national libraries and national bibliographic agencies to evaluate what kind of access should be given to the different groups of users (stakeholders) of national bibliographies,
- Give recommendations on the selection of documents dedicated to subject access and propose various levels of subject indexing, and
- Establish guidelines (minimal requirements) in addition to or completing the *Guidelines for National Bibliographies in the Electronic Age* ensuring that appropriate subject access is given by national bibliographic agencies to meet user needs.

Our task thus was operationally divided into three main parts. Besides definition of user groups and their needs, we discussed subject indexing policies and levels of application of subject access. The latter issue included investigating selection criteria to distinguish documents by provenance, target groups, genres etc. These work areas built the outline of the present Guidelines and we will come back to each of them. The emphasis is on offering options for NBAs.9

We consulted previous IFLA publications, such as *An Annotated Guide to Current National Bibliographies* or *Minimal Level Cataloging by National Bibliographic Agencies* and we also looked at various IFLA surveys10 and other international reports.11

Not surprisingly, WG discussions went in circles as the subject cataloguing world and publishing processes changed so much. It is becoming easier and easier to publish and in some fields, the amount of printed documents increases exponentially, while new publishing formats like online media appear.

We more and more recognize similarities between NBs and NL catalogues. Their coverage is not identical. The way each of them is produced differs from country to country. On one hand many bibliographies are prepared on the basis of the library catalogues’ records. On the other hand, the catalogues of some NLs serve as NBs, as the NLs own almost all their countries’ publications12. As more bibliographic resources are accessible online, the users’ distinction between catalogue and bibliography begins to blur. It is recommended that they are conceptualized as separate products, or views, so that the NB should be searchable in a separate way to keep its specificity.13

In 2002 the ICNBS recommended „availability of a variety of formats with which to distribute the national bibliography national bibliographic services should use one or more as appropriate to meet the needs of their users“ and „access points which satisfy

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9 Questions concerning national bibliographies are not limited to NBAs. With more formats are coming up, e.g., for music or film, specialized complementary bodies are involved as well. The WG considers NBAs as coordinating bodies here.
10 www.ifla.org/en/publications/53
11 E.g., European surveys, such as http://libraries.theeuropeanlibrary.org/cooperation/archive/telmemor/docs/D3.3-Report_on_subject_access_tools.pdf
12 A research study by Vesna Injac in Europe 2004 indicated that a majority of NL have online bibliographies as part of their online catalogues and not separate databases (Injac 2010).
13 See Danskin: Relationship of the NB to the NL catalogue (Žumer 2009: 38)
the needs of the users”. By 2005 existing national bibliographies were changing. Many countries started online publishing of their national bibliographies. At the same time it became clear that the multitude of national online resources could be considered and integrated in the description of national publications output. Online bibliographies have many advantages. Web access allows regular updating processes, world-wide and timely availability. Online national bibliographies allow us to meet special user needs, to respond to different types of users with personal profiles. Chapter 2 of these guidelines on “users” emphasizes the importance we give to this.

NBAs have an important role in supporting the advance of human knowledge. “To reap the full benefits from bibliographic endeavours, it is imperative that bibliographic data be made open – that is available for anyone to use and re-use freely for any purpose.” Following this Principle of Open Bibliographic Data NBAs should place their NB data, including the applied controlled vocabularies, in the public domain, not restricted, and promoting the maximum possible re-use.

Because of international interest in NBs, availability of data or at least of the bibliographies interface in different languages is important and becomes more and more feasible due to the possibilities of multilingual thesauri or translating mechanisms in online versions.

It is of course well-known that there is a competition between national bibliographies and products like online bookshops, e.g., Amazon or other online catalogues, also from the book sellers (Žumer 2005). This should not discourage us — librarians’ work is still valuable. The overlap with other services should guide us, as well as to check cooperation and data exchange, so as to appropriately advertise our own products, regularly verify target groups and their needs (do studies!). We should answer the question of what the added value of an NB is, or which elements are worth providing and emphasizing. The authoritative quality of descriptive and subject indexing by the NBA and the completeness of coverage are core elements.

1.3 Outline of the Guidelines

The Guidelines concentrate on online national bibliographies. They will relate to printed ones only if necessary. Due to the development of information technology printed bibliographies appear to be outdated now. More and more NBAs prepare the records of their national imprint for the web, and we want to encourage others to do so to be more widely visible.

However, these Guidelines also may be applied to printed bibliographies. The traditional form of current NBs (printed periodical issues), their cumulations, and retrospective bibliographies of the national publishing of the past, now are often accessible as a single source, however, the updating function of current bibliographies should be preserved to show what is new about a subject and/or in a domain.

The Bibliography Section’s WG analysed users and use of national bibliographies and we looked deeply into the importance of bibliographies for those who are searching for subjects and supplemented their matrix of users and their requirements, see chapter 2.

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14 www.ifla.org.VI/3/icnbs/fina.htm
15 http://openbiblio.net/principles
16 Recommendation of the Bibliography Section’s Guidelines: “NBA should seek opportunities to collaborate with other stakeholders to support and improve the national bibliography” (Žumer 2009: 18).
Cato/Haapamäki show good examples of cooperation with publishers from Finland and Sweden (Žumer 2009: 103).
17 Recommendation of the Bibliography Section’s Guidelines: “NBA are encouraged to exploit all available technology to support the creation and maintenance of the national bibliography” (Žumer 2009: 18).
The WG looked at subject access tools — classification schemes, thesauri, subject heading languages, and how they are applied. The main characteristics of indexing tools are described, see chapter 3. The use of subject headings and international classification schemes is highly recommended. Such schemes define concepts and relationships between them. They help supporting user navigation and precise retrieval as already mentioned above. Categorization with controlled authorities ensures up-to-date, scientific, and standardized search vocabularies. Using international, widely accepted schemes facilitates sharing the effort of indexing and re-using data.

The functionalities for subject storing, organizing and retrieving, and some recommendations for user-friendly design of national bibliographies and their user interfaces appear in chapter 4, but these are not Guidelines on interface design or record displays.

There is nothing in our Guidelines that would recommend one and only one level of subject access for different kinds of documents, but we do ask: should publications from the publishers’ book trade be treated differently from doctoral theses? Should printed books be treated differently from CD-ROM versions? Should fiction be treated differently than technical literature? This depends on many facts, as you will see in chapter 5. A greater level of detail brings with it a greater cost. There is no standard percentage of indexed documents that every NBA should manage. Every NBA has to decide itself, to find a balance between time and expense and retrieval recall and precision. These Guidelines give assistance in the selection of documents to be given controlled subject access.

Nevertheless, we recommend that the entire current national output cumulated in the bibliography should be accessible by subjects regardless of format (printed books, audiovisual materials, web documents etc.), but we recognize that they cannot be treated with the same level of detail. Guidance is given in chapter 5.

Subject indexing will mean sustainable subject access in NBs. Subject data have to be available immediately after publication, preferably before publication, but also in the following years for future users. The latter is by far not trivial, considering that today’s online bibliographies are created in specific data formats that need to be converted for easy access in the years to come. Bibliographic data should therefore be stored in various formats and media types for security and preservation reasons. Considering that future users search for today’s publications or that today’s users search for the publishing output of former years, we can easily realise how important it is to know how national bibliographies and the records are created, and which elements are searchable. Therefore transparent, easily available documentation of indexing policies is highly recommended, see chapter 6.

At nearly every WG meeting we discussed whether there is a need for new worldwide surveys in order to gather more data on subject indexing and access practices. Apart from the enormous effort of such tasks, especially when doing it multilingually, our feeling was that most of the results will be obsolete as soon as they are printed. Therefore, we finally decided to refer to existing analyses, web site information, and to some national examples to demonstrate the variety of practices. These examples, which

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19 Recommendation of the Bibliography Section’s Guideline: “The NBA should decide on different levels of cataloguing for different kinds of publications, based on the significance of the resource.” (Žumer 2009: 18)
20 This is also regardless of language or script.
21 Following the recommendation of the Bibliography Section’s Guidelines, that “The national bibliography should include all types of publications but not necessarily all publications. Exhaustiveness needs not to be an absolute goal” (Žumer 2009: 18).
further illustrate various levels of indexing and classification and which refer to all the recommendations are given in chapter 7.

Chapter 8 lists all the WG recommendations.
2. Users of national bibliographies and subject access

2.1 Users of national bibliographies

In National Bibliographies in the Digital Age (hereafter Bibliography Guidelines) different user groups and their contexts of use have been identified (Žumer 2009: 26f):

End-users

This is the most heterogeneous group ranging from library patrons to users who access the online national bibliography remotely to find and identify publications. Formal or informal groups and corporate bodies are included in this category. Numerous national libraries serve as research libraries and their NBs have an important role as a base for the infrastructure for the research community. The end-users have not always been considered a target audience for the national bibliography, but the national bibliography should be considered an important information resource for the general public, because it gives access to a segment of the national cultural heritage.

Librarians

Cataloguers use national bibliographies for copy cataloguing or as support in cataloguing. In the latter case they look for similar bibliographic records and, probably even predominantly, for authority records (names, corporate bodies), but also for subject data.

Acquisitions librarians need national bibliographies to order publications, identify publishers and distributors, or determine publication status.22

Collection development librarians need national bibliographies to analyse available publications, select according to collection development criteria and need to be made aware of future publications (e.g., using CIP records).

Reference librarians use national bibliographies to help end-users, including library patrons, formal and informal groups, and corporate bodies.

Because of the relationship in many countries between the national bibliography and legal (or voluntary) deposit, the data in national bibliographies can be used for legal deposit management by legal deposit managers.

Preservation librarians need the national bibliography to determine trends in publishing and plan preservation procedures.

National bibliographies are also used to provide an overview of materials for management of digitisation by those managing such projects.

Book trade (including other media)

22 Here it is limited to the ordering task, not to collection management. Sometimes acquisition librarians and collection developers are the same persons.
National bibliographies enable publishers (commercial and non-commercial sector, including government and official publishers) to analyse the market and competition.

Booksellers’ (including other media vendors’) needs are similar to those of collection development and acquisition librarians. In addition, booksellers may perform the function of reference librarians and possibly even refer customers to libraries for out-of-print publications.

National bibliographies are a resource for both groups to enrich their own bibliographic data.

**Agencies**

**Funding bodies** may use the national bibliography to assess the impact of existing funding of publishing or to plan future funding policies.

**Government agencies** providing funding for the national bibliographic agency may use the national bibliography to assess the performance of the national bibliographic agency.

The national bibliography can be a source of data about the country’s publishing output for official statistics.

**Rights management organisations**

National bibliographic data can be used to support the management of intellectual rights by collecting societies, as well as by government bodies for the management of lending right remuneration.

**Software (distributed searching and harvesting tools)**

In addition to ‘human’ users of electronic national bibliographies, there is also computer software that directly accesses national bibliographic records, such as federated/distributed searching and harvesting tools. This poses additional technical requirements that have to be taken into account when planning an online national bibliography.

These are general user groups. There are other specific persons interested in subject access not listed here in detail, such as terminology managers, who use NBs as sources of terminology.

Not all contexts of use require subject access, but searching by subject is very important across user groups, as will be shown in the next paragraph.

### 2.2 Use of subject access in national bibliographies

Within the FRSAD WG studies different user groups were defined, too, and their tasks were identified. It was found, that the users of subject authority data may need to find, identify, and select a subject entity or entities. A user may also choose to explore a subject domain and its terminology, as well as the relationships that exist among the themas.23 Even when subject access is limited to authority data, we can easily find all these same user tasks as found when looking at NB user groups and their needs. While

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explore is more needed during cataloguing and metadata creation, some users perhaps need to explore relationships while navigating and browsing bibliographic descriptions. This depends on the user interface of the NB and the various functionalities (see chapter 4.)

**End-users**

End-users search national bibliographies in many contexts, but looking for publications on a specific topic is among the most important. For its success, the bibliographic record must contain information on subject(s) covered by the resource described and access points must be provided. Research has repeatedly shown that controlled vocabularies help users to improve their subject searching. Subject heading systems and thesauri have been the most common tools. End users should be able to browse subject authority information in order to explore the terminology and determine the appropriate level of specificity for their query. Classification systems allow exploring broader or narrower domains or areas of knowledge. Subject information shows or suggests the content or the domain or the point of view of a work, even for users accessing a resource by other access points or browsing, especially when titles and other data are not explicit.

**Subject cataloguing**

Indexing languages and subject authority records are produced and maintained by NBAs. Subject indexers in libraries use those tools that are applied to resources described in NBs, for indexing purposes also applied to other resources. This is a traditional, but still an important function, even in times of cooperative cataloguing.

**Re-use of bibliographic records**

Re-use of records includes downloading or exporting of batches of records into other databases and/or other computer applications (examples include CERL Hand Press Book database, Index Translationum, library catalogues, particularly for retrospective conversion). In addition to in-library use, this function may also mean exporting bibliographic data for use in other communities such as publishing, for example as input for Books-in-print. If the criteria for selecting the records include any thematic aspect, subject access needs to be provided for this function.

**Collection development**

Each library needs to formulate its collection development policy to ensure that its collection develops in line with the mission of the library. The subject aspect of the collection is very important and librarians should be able to locate publications on topics of interest.

To be useful for collection development, the national bibliography has to offer subject access and analysis of different aspects of publications. Librarians in charge of collection development need national bibliographies (local and foreign) to analyse available publications and to select according to collection development criteria. For that they also need to be aware of future publications (e.g., using Cataloguing-in-Publication or CIP records). Sometimes the collection development is closely related to acquisitions.

**Publisher analysis**

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Publishers need to analyse what their competition publishes on any of the specified topics and national bibliographies need to support this functionality by enabling easy and transparent subject access.

**Statistics**

Official statistics cover different aspects of national published output. The thematic areas covered in the publications may be important foci of the analysis. For this, access on broad subject areas is essential.

**Funding bodies**

Funding bodies may want to analyse the published national input according to subjects covered to determine the effect of existing funding and to plan future support. Appropriate subject access is essential for this activity.

**Computer software**

When the national bibliography is exposed to computer software either for federated searching or harvesting, the parts of the bibliographic record supporting subject access must be provided.

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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rights management</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer software</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.3 **Outcome of this review**

This review of different user contexts (which is by no means exhaustive) confirms that subject access to national bibliographies is essential. The more detailed analysis shows that different contexts require different approaches and levels of specificity in searching.

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25 This is a modified version of the table of users of the Bibliography Section’s Guidelines (Zumer 2009: 26).
26 The need of subject access for cataloguers was additionally recognised in this document. Cataloguing is understood here as the complete process including subject cataloguing.
While most users may be interested in current information, others may need retrospective data. While collection development, for example, may need searching on very specific topics, funding bodies or statistics may require access to broader subject categories. They may also need different browsing capabilities and even different knowledge organisation systems. These will be described and discussed in the following chapters.

National bibliographies are not only important reference sources for users, even more, the developments in some countries (e.g., Canada and Germany) show that publishers, academic communities, students, book jobbers etc. are intended to be integrated into the creation of subject analysis data of documents that form part of the NB.
3. Subject access standards and tools

The WG does not recommend here to follow any specific subject indexing language or method. These Guidelines are intended to use any method providing adequate subject access to the users. We show examples (see Chapter 7) and express our conviction that traditional methods like assigning subject headings will not be obsolete in the future. We do that staying open-minded for new methods and believing in the rich potential of software applications and automated procedures. This potential should not be overestimated, because data processing of language is limited. If we talk about subject searching, we talk about semantics. Stable semantics is needed for precise retrieval, in order to find relevant information resources. Some general recommendations are proposed before analysing specific indexing systems:

Recommendations

1. The NBA should play a leading role in the responsibility to develop, maintain and promote subject indexing rules and standards at the national level.

2. Consider international cooperation in choosing a national indexing tool. Adhere to international standards and share/use existing tools wherever possible.

3. Use controlled indexing, with both verbal indexing and classification.

4. Provide verbal access to materials listed in the NB in the language(s) and script(s) of the country.

3.1 Natural and controlled language indexing

Recommendation

5. Make controlled as well as uncontrolled indexing available to the users.

Information retrieval systems that enable retrieval of resources on the basis of their subjects can be divided into two basic groups:

1) The first indexes a resource with the actual words used in the document and/or its title and/or its abstract. This group uses what is called uncontrolled or natural language indexing.

2) The other indexes a resource with terms assigned by the indexer using a controlled (or prescribed) indexing language. "Controlled indexing languages are indexing languages in which both the terms that are used to represent subjects, and the process whereby terms are assigned to particular documents, are controlled or executed by a person" (Rowley 1994). Controlled indexing languages include semantic relationships to connect concepts, and usually adopt syntactic rules to combine concepts. They can be divided into two groups:

2a) The former uses prescribed words from a controlled vocabulary to express a work’s subject in a direct way.

2b) The latter uses notations (numbers, letters or combinations) to express subject matter in a systematic way, based on classification schemes. Controlled and uncontrolled subject indexing languages, classed and alphabetical file arrangements, all have advocates and their relative advantages and disadvantages have been studied for decades (Rowley 1994).27

Nowadays „the development of computer software and online catalogues has made possible the combination of different indexing languages and approaches in one database. This ability conforms to what seems to be the general consensus: controlled as well as uncontrolled systems (keyword access, full-text searching) should be available to the user, because they tend to complement each other“ (Žumer 2009: 60). They can fit the different skills and aims of users in a variety of situations, offering the users more lead-in vocabulary to reach their desired information.

### 3.2 Features of controlled indexing languages

A controlled indexing language „consists of a vocabulary (the terms used for indexing) and syntax (the rules for combination of terms)” (Broughton 2006: 210).

A controlled indexing vocabulary (Olson/Boll 2001):
- Authorizes only one term or notation as the display form for any one concept
- Identifies synonyms for which the authorized term is used
- Controls variant spellings
- Establishes the size or scope of each concept
- Usually records explicitly the hierarchical and associative relations for each concept
- Explicitly identifies the distinctive concepts expressed by homonyms, by means of adjectives, qualifiers, or phrases and precise terminology

A controlled indexing vocabulary based on an authority list is intended to aid indexing and searching, because (Olson/Boll, 2001)
- It increases the probability that both the indexer and the searcher will express a particular concept in the same way
- It increases the probability that both the indexer and the searcher will be led to a desired topic by the syndetic features (such as “broader term”, “narrower term”, “related term”)
- It increases the probability that the same term will be used by different indexers and ensures indexing consistency
- It helps searchers to focus their thoughts when they approach the system without a full and precise realisation of what information they need.

In a controlled indexing language, operating rules (syntax) are applied in combining concepts or terms, and in managing the construction of notations.

**Syntax**
- Gives consistency over time
- Allows browsing ordered lists (of subject headings)
- Improves clear understanding of the aboutness of works
- Makes the sequence of terms in a subject string predictable and easily searchable
- Forms the basis for organizing knowledge in classification schemes, beyond hierarchies.

The main disadvantage of controlled indexing languages is the high input costs. Indexing with a controlled vocabulary is labor-intensive. Construction and maintenance of a controlled vocabulary can be expensive, too. It is advisable to use indexing languages applied by other libraries within the country or that are shared with other NBAs in order to help to reduce costs and improve subject access across languages. Controlled indexing permits better retrieval results than natural language searching and offers valuable intellectual support to users. Therefore it is essential for NBs. Mann (2005) has argued that controlled subject headings and classification interact to provide subject access even if the searcher has no subject expertise.
Traditional subject analysis will certainly exist in the post-mass digitization era because classification notations and subject headings “have the ability to consolidate the subject contents of lengthy text-based documents into simple bite-size statements” (Markey 2006).

3.3 Importance of standard indexing tools

There is no general standard for subject indexing, understood as “a published authority stating quality criteria for a product or the way in which some process should be carried out” (Broughton 2006). International and national standards for thesaurus construction (see below) and the Principles underlying subject heading languages (SHLs), that have the aim of assisting in developing subject heading languages, include many instructions valuable also for other kinds of indexing languages, mutatis mutandis.

In a broad sense, a standard is “a system or tool which is widely adopted for use by a particular community” (Broughton 2006), and there are classification systems that are internationally adopted (see below).

The subject indexing tools adopted by an NBA should conform to these standards, in order to gain advantages of uniform criteria and high quality levels.

Standards are necessary (Williamson 1995)
- to achieve an acceptable level of quality,
- to reduce costs through minimizing duplication of work,
- to ensure consistency and compatibility,
- to ease search and retrieval difficulties,
- to educate information professionals,
- to aid in overcoming language barriers.

National indexing tools could not be excluded, because of linguistic and cultural specificity and their often broad acceptance within the national library landscape insuring efficient re-use of data. When applied, they should follow standard criteria and grant multilingual access. A distinction between vocabulary on one hand and semantics and syntax on the other hand, could be set up. The latter are less dependent on languages and scripts (e.g., in hierarchical relations or in the persistence of the deep grammar under complex subjects). Standard guidelines should be shared for thorough analysis and useful semantic and syntactic relations. Vocabulary, on the contrary, is closely related to language. Translated terms often suffer an imperfect correspondence, for example for the different width of their meaning.28 Following standards here means good practices in creating thesauri in one’s own language and in promoting a multilingual approach.

3.4 Verbal indexing schemes

Recommendation
6 Use a universal verbal indexing scheme, covering all subjects and fields of knowledge.

Verbal indexing schemes provide controlled access to the content of resources. They define concepts and relationships between concepts to support user navigation.

The verbal indexing schemes are in general of two kinds — subject heading lists and thesauri. Particularly in English this distinction has been conventional. Subject headings originate from library card catalogues; they are designed for pre-coordinated indexing of

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library collections often of universal scope. Thesauri have arisen from indexing and abstracting agencies at the dawn of the electronic bibliographic databases. They are designed for post-coordinated indexing mostly for scientific articles, reports and dissertations of restricted subject domain. In truth, the distinction between the two types has recently become somewhat blurred. Many subject heading systems have included some structural features characterizing thesauri, for example references of broader terms (BT), narrower terms (NT), and related terms (RT). On the other hand, many new thesauri have been designed as universal indexing tools for national bibliographies and library catalogues.29

The creation of a uniform indexing language is complicated by the wide range of subject areas that publications cover. Users come from different backgrounds and make different types of searches. Specialized thesauri, restricted to specific domains, had therefore been developed over decades. Using and maintaining a universal indexing scheme covering all fields of knowledge can not be underestimated by NBAs. The use or adaptation of an existing standard helps to reduce costs.

A subject indexing system may encompass both aspects, related to each other, that is, including a subject heading list or thesaurus for vocabulary control and for semantic relations between terms and including syntactic rules for the construction of subject headings.30

3.4.1 Subject heading lists

There is no true international standard for constructing subject headings. Standardization of controlled vocabularies in online catalogues is usually guaranteed by the common use of a standard subject heading list, accompanied by some kind of application manual. It is typical that these tools are compiled and maintained in national libraries that are responsible for indexing national publishing output. Many lists become "standards" in their own right through cooperative use and through their application in machine-readable records that are widely distributed to other libraries. The best example is Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH), which is widely used outside the United States, either in original form or modified in some way, see chapter 7 for national examples.

In 1999 the IFLA Section on Classification and Indexing published the document _Principles Underlying Subject Heading Languages (SHLs)_ . The aims of the Principles are

- to facilitate subject access to information on an international level,
- to assist in developing subject heading languages (SHLs) by stating what is meant by a good SHL and what desirable construction and application principles are for such languages,
- to promote understanding of different SHLs by identifying commonalities underlying them and providing a structure for their comparative study,
- to provide a theoretical rationale for particular standards or guidelines for SHL construction and application.

Part I in the principles provides background, definitions, and construction and application principles; part II includes a survey of each principle, with illustrating statements and examples taken from Canada, France, Germany, Iran, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, and the USA.

29 See for instance, Nouvo Soggettario, adopted by BNI, Bibliografia nazionale italiana:
http://thes.bncf.firenze.sbn.it/
30 Both aspects can be found in the Nouvo Soggettario system, ibid
The user principle states that the “vocabulary of a SHL should be chosen to reflect the current usage of the target audience for the SHL, whatever that may be”. The ICP principle of common usage also suggests preferring terminology that is familiar to the users in their own languages and/or scripts. In connection with the NBs, serving a very wide variety of users, a crucial factor is the heterogeneous target audience. Some choices of terminology may be judged by public libraries as too learned and by university and specialized libraries as too general. Cross-references between "learned" and "ordinary" terms can help here.

3.4.2 Thesauri

Thesauri have a relatively long history in the development of standards (Krooks/Lancaster 1993). As early as 1967, the Committee on Scientific and Technical Information in the USA set up the first guidelines for thesaurus construction. In the seventies, the international bodies UNESCO and ISO published their first guidelines. Today the main international authorities in this field are ISO 2788:1986 Documentation – Guidelines for the establishment and development of monolingual thesauri and ISO 5964:1985 Documentation – Guidelines for the establishment and development of multilingual thesauri. A remarkable set of national standards for thesaurus construction is developed on this basis, for example in Great Britain, Germany, France, USA, Finland, etc. The most recent among them are the ANSI/NISO Z39.19-2005 Guidelines for the Construction, Format, and Management of Monolingual Controlled Vocabularies and BS 8723-2:2005 Structured vocabularies for information retrieval. Guide. Thesauri. Adoption of BS 8723-2 as an ISO standard is in progress.

In 2009 the IFLA Section on Classification and Indexing published the document Guidelines for multilingual thesauri. These Guidelines address two approaches in the development of multilingual thesauri, namely:

Building a new thesaurus from the bottom up:
- Starting with one language and adding another language or languages
- Starting with more than one language simultaneously

Combining existing thesauri:
- Merging two or more existing thesauri into a new multilingual thesaurus
- Linking existing thesauri and subject heading lists to each other

For both approaches, the Guidelines deal with particular issues and problems encountered in multilingual thesauri construction and linking. A particular focus is given to the equivalence and structural problems where all elements of a thesaurus are explained using examples from existing thesauri (Landry 2009).

Standards provide rules for the four basic components of thesauri — vocabulary, structure, display and management. The problems relating to vocabulary include choice of terms, scope notes and definitions, decisions to use singular or plural, what classes of

33 ISO 5964:1985 Documentation – Guidelines for the establishment and development of monolingual thesauri
34 http://www.niso.org/kst/reports/standards/
36 See work progress at http://www.iso.org/iso/catalogue_detail.htm?csnumber=53657
words may serve as descriptors, to what extent to allow compound terms or to factor them into two terms, how to deal with synonymy, polysemy and homography. The rules for the structure guide the organization of terms by semantical relationships (the equivalence, hierarchical and associative relationships as the main ones). Thesaurus display must make terms and their relationships explicit and easily accessible. Guidelines for the management of thesauri include usually a short methodology of compilation, editorial matters, updating, etc.

As mentioned above, thesauri have served mostly for indexing scientific documents or materials in specific fields that have their own vocabulary, by agencies producing online databases. But there is no reason why they should not also be used in online catalogues and national bibliographies. It is possible to apply the basic principles of thesauri to any indexing language.

3.4.3 Pre-coordination and post-coordination

Pre-coordination means that, in a given system, the index terms for a compound subject are combined by the indexer at the time of indexing.

Post-coordination means that, in a given system, the index terms for a compound subject are brought together only at the point of search.

Pre- and post-coordinate indexing languages differ in three respects (Svenonius 1995):
- Who performs the coordination
- When the coordination is performed
- How terms are coordinated.

Pros of pre-coordination are:
- Browsability (enables hierarchical displays for improved browsability)
- Better precision (improved relevance ranking, complex subjects can be expressed)
- Flexibility for system design (useful for browse and keyword searching, can be dis-assembled for post-coordinated systems)
- Contextuality (clearer preservation of context, identification of relationships of topics without ambiguity, standard order in the strings gives meaning to the words used, consistent structured displays suggest qualifiers or other devices to use to refine searches).

Cons of pre-coordination are:
- Complicated (rules for heading construction not yet automated, not all strings are identified to use for automatic validation)
- Syntax not well-understood by end-users
- Too expensive (requires manual indexing by well-trained humans, and humans are expensive, takes too long to train)
- Less flexible (not as valuable when browsing is not an option or not used, the syntax must be considered)

Pros of post-coordination are:
- Simplicity (easier to train humans)
- Speed in indexing
- Smaller vocabularies

• Less problems with hospitality (as any new subject needs no contextualization with the others)
• Flexibility (permits indexing on any level of exhaustivity, accommodates different searching patterns)
• Compatibility with other access tools using keyword approaches

Cons of post-coordination are:
• Low precision (false associations are made)
• Poor contextuality (unclear relationships between the terms)
• Poor browsability (lack of hierarchies)
• Ambiguity for complex topics (use of keywords prevents connections for complex topics in a clear way)

Nowadays, in some way, any pre-coordinated verbal index can also be searched in a post-coordinated way when individual words are searched in pre-coordinated subject strings, even in more than one string in the same bibliographical record, so that some pros and cons of post-coordination apply to pre-coordination, too (e.g., recall and precision).

3.5 Classification schemes

Recommendation
7 Use an international classification scheme.

IFLA recommends the adoption of subject classification schemes for arrangement of the national bibliography. Classification schemes may be directly related to the subject scheme or independent schemes.

Classification schemes have a role in aiding information retrieval in a network environment especially for providing browsing structures for NBs, library catalogues, and subject-based information gateways on the Internet.

Advantages of using classification schemes include a systematic overview of knowledge, with logically improved subject browsing facilities, making it easy to zoom in and out on specific subjects, and the explicit relations between concepts. On an international level, classification schemes offer potential multilingual access and improved interoperability with other services. „There is increasing interest in the potential of classification schemes to identify concepts in a linguistically and culturally neutral way that has the added potential benefit of being manipulated by computer systems.” (Žumer 2009: 43)

In order to assure a high quality, classification schemes need verbal access to notations, by means of captions and indexes, regular updating to welcome new subjects, and devices to allow searching across subsequent revisions, particularly when notations have been changed. Classification schemes may be independent from any subject heading scheme, but, in an NB, relating classified notations to the adopted verbal indexing scheme is a way to improve searching from different points of view and navigation throughout the bibliography.38

Classification schemes vary in scope and methodology, but can be categorized as international, national, or home-grown and for the covered domains as general and subject specific schemes. For use in NBs, universal, general classifications are needed. Domain specific classifications, if in use for special collections, should be coordinated with the applied general classification system. National or home-grown systems should be accompanied by an internationally well-known system. What type of scheme is used, and

on which level of specificity, will depend upon the size and scope of the service being designed. 39

General decimal classification schemes, such as the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) and the Universal Decimal Classification (UDC) are widely used in NBs. Their advantages include many of those enumerated above for classification schemes in general. Decimal systems have at the same time the disadvantage that the whole of knowledge and the subclasses of a class cannot always be organized into ten categories, making it difficult if not impossible to mention all necessary important subject categories in a similar way.

3.5.1 Dewey Decimal Classification 40

Characteristics
The Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) — conceived by Melvil Dewey in 1873 and first published in 1876 — is a general knowledge organization tool that is continuously revised to keep pace with knowledge. The system is further extended through number building, interoperable translations, and association with categorized content, and mappings to other subject schemes. It has meaningful notation in universally recognized Arabic numerals, well-defined categories, well-developed hierarchies, and a rich network of relationships among topics.

The DDC is published in full and abridged editions by OCLC Online Computer Library Center, Inc. The abridged edition is a logical truncation of the notational and structural hierarchy of the corresponding full edition on which it is based, and is intended for general collections of 20 000 titles or less. Both editions are issued in print and electronic versions; the electronic versions are updated frequently and contain additional index entries and mapped vocabulary.

The DDC has been translated into over thirty languages. Since 1988, authorized translations of the full and abridged editions of the DDC have been published or are under way in Arabic, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Icelandic, Indonesian, Italian, Norwegian, Russian, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish, and Vietnamese. The DDC Summaries, the top three levels of the DDC, have been translated into Afrikaans, Arabic, Chinese, Czech, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Norwegian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swedish, and Vietnamese.

Suggestions for updates come to the editorial team from translation teams, national libraries, national library associations, Dewey users, and other sources around the world. The editors prepare proposed schedule revisions and expansions, and forward the proposals to the Decimal Classification Editorial Policy Committee (EPC) for review and recommended action.

Availability
Information about versions, uses, and applications of the DDC is available at the Dewey web site (http://www.oclc.org/dewey/) and 025.431: The Dewey blog (http://ddc.typepad.com/). Linked DDC data are available at dewey.info (http://dewey.info/); the experimental web service currently includes the DDC Summaries in eleven languages, and assignable numbers accompanied by captions from the English, Italian, and Vietnamese DDC Abridged Edition 14 data sets.

Users

39 http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/metadata/desire/classification/
Libraries in more than 138 countries — including libraries of every type — use the DDC to organize and provide access to their collections. DDC numbers are featured in the national bibliographies of more than sixty countries. Dewey is also used in a variety of applications on the web in support of categorization, browsing, and retrieval.

### 3.5.2 Universal Decimal Classification

**Characteristics**

The Universal Decimal Classification (UDC) goes back to the end of the 19th century when two Belgian lawyers, Paul Otlet and Henri La Fontaine, commenced on an ambitious project to create a comprehensive systematic listing of everything that has been published since the invention of printing. They needed an appropriate bibliographical classification, and were attracted to Dewey’s *Decimal classification*. In agreement with Dewey they expanded Dewey’s scheme and added a number of synthetic devices and auxiliary tables. The first complete edition was published in French between 1905 and 1907.

The UDC is an aspect, hierarchical and synthetic classification. The scheme consists of the systematically arranged main tables and auxiliary tables for concepts that may appear in all or several disciplines. The notation consists of arabic numerals and several symbols.

The International Federation for Information and Documentation (FID) managed the UDC from creation until the 1980s. In 1991, the new body — UDC Consortium (UDCC) was established by FID and the publishers of the Dutch, English, French, Japanese and Spanish editions. Current UDCC members are AENOR (Spain), BSI (UK), CEFAL (Belgium), VINITI (Russia) and the National Library of the Czech Republic. Each of the members has the exclusive right to publish UDC in the vernacular language.

The authoritative version of the UDC is the Master Reference File (MRF) which contains about 68 000 classes. The MRF database acts as a working tool for the UDC Consortium and as the definitive source on which publishers base their publications or services.

**Availability**

The list of available UDC publications can be found on the UDCC website at [http://www.udcc.org/pub.htm](http://www.udcc.org/pub.htm). The UDC Summary at the same website provides a selection of around 2000 classes from the whole scheme. The UDC Summary is a multilingual database (currently in 42 languages) and will be kept aligned with the UDC MRF.

**Users**

UDC is used in bibliographic services including NBAs, documentation centres and libraries in around 130 countries world-wide, but most heavily in Europe. The editions exist in at least 39 languages. More information about users and editions can be found at [http://www.udcc.org/use.htm](http://www.udcc.org/use.htm).

### 3.5.3 Library of Congress Classification

**Characteristics**


The Library of Congress Classification (LCC) started with the system invented by Thomas Jefferson for his own library, which was subsequently bought by Congress. Although this system was used only to the mid-19th century for the wide-ranging Library of Congress collections, its division of knowledge into three principal classes, *history, philosophy and fine arts (poesy)*, was preserved to the end of the 19th century. Beginning in 1901, a team of subject experts developed the LC Classification as a modern systematic subject organization for the vast and rapidly growing collections, encyclopedic in character, including all of the materials received through the US copyright deposit as well as materials received and purchased from around the world. In its current form, the LCC consists of 21 main classes in 41 individual schedules and tables. Their expansion is based on the „literary warrant“ principle, thus reflecting in content and terminology „literary reality“. A rigorous weekly editorial process provides continuous revision and maintenance of the individual schedules.

From 1991—1996 the schedules were converted to the MARC Classification Format. The web product for LCC is *Classification Web*, which incorporates not only the LCC, but also correlations with LCSH, the Dewey Decimal Classification, and the National Library of Medicine’s classification system.

**Availability**
The schedules are available from the Cataloging Distribution Service at [http://www.loc.gov/cds](http://www.loc.gov/cds) as a print product or as the web tool, *Classification Web*. The LC Web site, [http://loc.gov/aba/cataloging/classification/](http://loc.gov/aba/cataloging/classification/), includes the weekly lists of updates, and further details about acquiring the schedules in print and online.

**Users**
The system was designed for very large libraries and is the predominant system used by academic and research libraries throughout the United States. It is also used internationally, as for instance in the NBs of Canada, Uruguay and Venezuela.

### 3.6 Automatic indexing

Human indexing is done by cataloguers using their knowledge and expertise to find the aboutness of works. Training and maintenance of indexers’ high quality without inconsistency is time and cost-intensive, and human resources are limited. Regarding the growing number of publications, it can be appropriate to use automatic or semi-automatic indexing procedures.

Automatic indexing refers to indexing by computer algorithms. Some techniques are fully automated, while others are semi-automatic or machine-aided. Automatic indexing may be based on terms and structures in documents alone, or it may be based on information about user preferences or external semantic resources (e.g., thesauri). In the latter case the quality of the vocabulary used as a basis for indexing is of crucial importance for automatic indexing results.43 Some techniques disregard structures in the texts, such as those based on vector space models. Other approaches utilize information about structures, for example, recent approaches in XML-based retrieval.44 This is by nature more exhaustive than human indexing, considering most or all words as potential indicators of content. Automatic indexing may also be performed on non-text resources, e.g., images or music.

The WG clearly recommends semantic-based indexing also in an automatic environment. The use of traditional semantic tools helps to reduce information confusion by offering semantic structures. „Both people and computer systems need semantics to make sense of information once it is found“ (Soergel 2009).

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43 For supervising automatic indexing processes see for instance [http://www.kaiec.org/](http://www.kaiec.org/)
44 [http://www.iva.dk/bh/lifeboat_ko/CONCEPTS/automatic_indexing.htm](http://www.iva.dk/bh/lifeboat_ko/CONCEPTS/automatic_indexing.htm)
Results of those automated procedures help searchers to find information, but usually they fail to find the same information they would have found with human indexing (Shields 2005). However, research comparing retrieval based on human vs. machine indexing shows that users find them more or less equally effective (Anderson/Pérez-Carballo 2001: 233). The main problems with machine-generated indexes are that in many cases they have too low precision. Recall may also be a problem because of synonymy, as well as the use of too broad or too narrow terms. It was found that the basic problems are those “related to meanings and semantic relations.” (Hjørland 2007)

Present automatic techniques mainly provide a rough categorization, or broad subject categories that can be helpful for giving access, especially to web resources. For the past twenty years, several projects of automatic indexing and classification have taken place45; improvements and further experiments are under way. The exponential growth of web resources puts automatic procedures on the forefront of research in several different communities (Ardö 2009).

“All documents can receive inexpensive, relatively effective automatic, machine-based analysis and indexing. For important documents, automatic indexing can be augmented by human indexing, to make these documents even more accessible to a broader clientele.” (Anderson/Pérez-Carballo 2001: 270). If an NBA wants to allocate human subject analysis expertise in a cost-effective manner,46 the NBA can decide to devote human analysis only to selected publications. In highly selective NBs with a small amount of publications, it will probably make sense to apply human indexing to all documents. As the NB database grows larger, human indexing can be invested in selected groups of documents. We will come back to this decision process in chapter 5. The more the collection is growing, the more selectivity is needed, and it becomes more difficult to give subject access to all publications and to treat them equally. The enormous number of web resources requires new workflows and a speed-up of traditional indexing; computer-supported procedures should help indexers (Svensson/Jahns 2010).

Most successful use of automatic indexing can be reached in association with some kind of semantic tools, like topic maps, in order to reduce the vagueness of not formalized speech and the uncertainty of counting and weighting words, and to add the cognitive value of semantics.

Before using elaborate artificial intelligence-procedures, a first step of automatic media processing is re-using data from authors, publishers, or other libraries and catalogues. This can be done automatically by loading structured data from different formats and using mappings. A second step is using metadata automatically generated or extracted from digital publications themselves. Also intellectual subject data of different versions of

45 See for instance, the Indexing Initiative project at the National Library of Medicine: http://ii.nlm.nih.gov/semiauto.shtml;
See for automated classification large-scale projects conducted in the 1990s by the Universities of Lund, Wolverhampton and Oldenburg, and by OCLC (Dublin, OH), e.g. Koch/Vizine-Goetz: Automatic classification and content navigation support of Web services: DESIRE II cooperates with OCLC;
CADIAL project http://www.cadial.org/index.php?
46 Automatic indexing is not inexpensive at all. NBAs have to be aware of the costs of IT development and support!
works, e.g. of corresponding print and online versions, can be copied automatically from one descriptive record to another.\textsuperscript{47}

### 3.7 Other subject access tools

**Recommendation:**

8 Provide content enriched data as a supplement to other subject access tools.

Enriched cataloguing is considered helpful to users in finding and selecting library materials and in understanding the information they offer. For almost three decades, librarians have advocated the enhancement of online library catalogue records. For online bibliographies it means users are aided in the discovery process, without leaving the bibliography. Thus, retrieval becomes more effective. Many libraries have followed the lead of online book sellers by adding informative content for current publications. Content enriched data go beyond the subject of a bibliographic resource to include components such as

- Content notes
- Summaries / Abstracts
- Tables of contents (TOCs)
- Sample text and
- Other publication related information like reviews.

Abstracting should follow standard criteria to guarantee subject access quality. An abstract, clearly explaining the aboutness of a work, without added interpretation or criticism, shows what one can expect from the work. As a source for searching, an abstract provides many terms, but suffers the defects of uncontrolled vocabulary.

Tables of contents and summaries help users understand the subject matter of records retrieved. Many of these data can be re-used by NBAs from book sellers, publishers or authors. Specifically, TOCs widen the title of a resource to all the titles of its parts, which is often very important in detailing all the subjects. Otherwise users should be aware that searching on digitized TOCs is free-text searching.

Some of the most important components of “library 2.0” include increased user participation. Social tagging (also known as "folksonomic tagging" or "social bookmarking"\textsuperscript{48}) can be offered as a collaborative tool that enables NB visitors to use their own terminology to index documents.\textsuperscript{49} User tags could suggest topics and terms to be used in subject indexing or to be added as access terms, under control of the NB. Social, collaborative indexing without linguistic control should be avoided, because it is contrary to the authoritative function of the NB and the required quality of its data.

The choice of one of these tools can be decided depending on the type or genre of the resources. For example, better searching of doctoral theses can be achieved when

\textsuperscript{47} In a strong FRBRized bibliographic system any new manifestation of a work is already indexed by the work record.


\textsuperscript{49} For instance, Library and Archives Canada has experimented with several projects designed to capitalize on the knowledge of individual users, see McKeen 2008.
abstracts and tables of content are included as far as possible.\footnote{Recommendation by the Australian National Library: \url{http://www.nla.gov.au/librariesaustralia/manuals/theses.html}} Electronic TOCs are also an effective way to identify journal articles and conference papers.

Also provision of online content itself is recommended, including hyper-links to freely accessible e-journals or e-books. Sometimes excerpts or first paragraphs are available. The availability of full-text resources together with their records is very useful as it removes any problem of obtaining the resource.

For most enriched data, it is important that the linked content is also searchable to improve access. Access points can be provided through automatic indexing. The simplest automatic indexing is based on providing access to every occurrence of every word. This can be presented as free-text or full-text retrieval.

Full-text searching enables users to find any smaller subject through the words used to describe it, any concept through the terms used to denote it, but, on the reverse, it means that any concept is recalled even if it is simply mentioned, without saying anything particular about it, and any different meaning of a word is recalled, without any distinction.

\textbf{In order to lead users to the search that is appropriate to their needs, this kind of search should be clearly distinct from record retrieval that remains the more specific task of an NB.}
4. Functionality and interface of national bibliographies

4.1 Presentation of national bibliographies

Subject access tools are both cataloguers’ and users’ tools for exploring their topics of interest. Successful subject retrieval is complex and depends substantially on the applied indexing tools, described in chapter 3.

The development of NB functionality and presentation is closely related to library catalogues. Only essential issues representing subject data are considered in this chapter, while other specific aspects of catalogue design, common to any kind of OPAC, are not dealt with. Nevertheless, subject access is inside the whole information service provided by the NB; this must be considered.

No matter if an NBA produces an online version only, or also a printed bibliography, it is important to give structured subject access to the collection.

In addition to traditional ways of accessing bibliographic data, many NBAs have investigated new access and distribution channels. Those new services are often focused on researchers and students who need to be kept up-to-date with the new publications in their areas of research.

There are many opportunities for providing subject access depending on the format of the NB, print, CD-ROM, PDF, online, etc., or as part of the national library catalogue with a labelled user format, or as an html document, using ISBD format etc.

Numerous countries have special bibliographic databases. Others have cumulated historical periods and published retrospective bibliographies. Special requirements are needed for every type of bibliography.

To meet a variety of user needs it is recommended that different presentation displays, different conditions of access and different layers or levels of presentation be utilized.

The needs of the different user groups, explained in chapter 2, and their requirements differ greatly. Furthermore, functionality and interface recommendations depend on the different user tasks. As we have already seen above, users want either to find or identify subject entities or works by subject, to select entities or to obtain additional information about the subject or the bibliographic record or the resource itself and they also want to explore different relationships.

The NBAs’ decisions for different indexing levels (see chapter 5) affect search functionalities. Low levels reduce search possibilities. The more homogeneously and consistently the NB is indexed, the easier it will be to give access to the collection by subject.

Structuring and ordering the NB by subjects is very common and proven for decades. It gains importance for online access, providing subject categories as hyper-links or navigation facets.

The display of subject data in NB records is another essential feature, but in today’s online library environment, many more services are possible and desirable. Retrieval tools such as Google have changed users’ expectations in accessing information. Subject data today is also a medium to model a users’ own information environment. For instance, inclusion of RSS-feeds can be a powerful aid to users. This enables them to subscribe to a service that saves a search query and periodically runs it to send the query results. This will enable customers to receive updates on recent publications using custom-made subject queries.

“The role of classification and indexing is crucial to our continuing development and systems which take advantage of the evolving ways to represent knowledge structures at
For subject access, most next-generation catalogues or discovery tools have already included certain features of Web 2.0, such as tagging, exposing controlled vocabularies to users, enabling a user to add comments on certain terms, in addition to providing certain powerful features, e.g. browsing with faceted results and “similar items” resource suggestions. With the rapid development of mobile phones, mobile catalogue interfaces have been widely used lately and present the most important information in a small interface - a shrinking OPAC display with the default screen for basic information only.

In addition to Web 2.0, this chapter will also consider the factors concerning the development of the Semantic Web, a part of Web 3.0 development, such as semantic tagging, and RDF. Because of globalization and internet technology, the factor of interoperability and compatibility is very crucial for infrastructure planning and design. According to the report of the IFLA Namespaces Task Group, there is a need for dereferencing services, to get a user from the coded bibliographic description to a complete human-readable description or to the digital resource itself. “A basic service might return the RDF/XML associated with a URL, and a more advanced service might carry out an extraction specified by the client, for example returning the RDF/XML for a specific language or ‘property’ such as the scope note.” 51

With regards to data format, standardized formats are recommended instead of homemade solutions for bibliographic data. There are no special technical conditions for subject data only. It should be noted that Semantic web data models like SKOS (Simple Knowledge Organization System) provide schemas for sharing and linking subject headings and classification systems. 52

### 4.2 General recommendations

Subject access in NBs includes three aspects — a presentation of data sorted by subjects, information on the subject of works, and searching capabilities for subjects.

There are a few recommendations on functionality and interface, being valid for both, printed bibliographies and online catalogues/bibliographic databases:

**Recommendations**

9 **Arrange NB records by subjects, using either broad categories or top classification hierarchies.**

Using the potential of knowledge structures and grouping similar resources into clusters helps users to find relevant publications easily and quickly and to select domain specific data sets.

10 **Display headings and classification numbers in the bibliographic records.**

This gives users a key to what the works are about and helps to evaluate the relevance of the resources. It is a starting point for further subject searching.

11 **Provide full and user-friendly subject search functionalities.**

All the knowledge contained or implied in the indexes should be available to the users. In printed bibliographies this can be realised by subject indexes. For online bibliographies the whole potential of catalogue search functionalities can be used.

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52 [http://www.w3.org/TR/skos-reference/](http://www.w3.org/TR/skos-reference/)
Some of the following recommendations are not under the direct control of NBAs. Search strategies and displays depend on the software systems. NBAs should pay heed to features when selecting catalogue technology.

4.3 Recommendations for online catalogue functionalities

Before designing an interface for subject access, the NBA needs to decide what functionality should be included. Below is the list of recommendations particularly intended for subject access while generic catalogue functionalities, such as federated searching, direct access to electronic contents, manipulation of query results, and others, are taken for granted.

**Display preferred headings and related terms clearly and easily**
The function of controlled vocabularies is really fulfilled if a user can search for variant terms, finding preferred headings and related terms. When searching subject strings by words, the strings retrieved should be shown in a first step, to enable users to select the relevant strings, before seeing the related resource in a second step. Also links to works on the same subject are highly recommended.

**Provide natural language and key-word searching**
It is crucial for users to search by natural languages, so the system should give an option to search by key-words to augment searching by controlled vocabularies. If there are no hits, the system should provide “similar items” suggestions such as “Did you mean...”.

**Provide controlled vocabularies, taxonomies, ontologies and meta-thesauri**
Searches are more precise and sufficient, if controlled vocabularies are available in the database. Selection of controlled terms from vocabulary lists/indexes enables users to search for precise terms. In addition, the search would be more powerful if it also includes “taxonomy” with hierarchy, “ontology” with a lot of relationships, and a “meta-thesaurus”, a collection of all the above. It is very useful for researchers to see the returned results with related terms within a hierarchy or with variant forms of terms. Records should carry links to the authority records. For classifications there should also be verbal access to notations and captions and views on the scheme assisting in focusing on the wanted subject and its neighbourhood.

**Multilingual search capability**
As a repository of all the publications of a country, the NB is the point of reference also for international users. Their information requirements can be supported by multilingual access. The recommended capabilities consist of searching and displaying both Roman and non-Roman scripts. The function of mapping and linking with other languages’ thesauri is highly recommended. The Virtual International Authority File (VIAF) is a crucial source for names used as subject access. The European MACS (Multilingual Access to Subjects) project is an excellent model to search the same subject in different languages. The key challenge would be how to solve Unicode problems for certain languages and/or scripts.

4.4 Recommendations for online catalogue interfaces

**Show preferred headings and the network of related terms**

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54 [http://viaf.org/](http://viaf.org/)
55 [https://macs.hoppie.nl/pub/topic/about-macs](https://macs.hoppie.nl/pub/topic/about-macs)
It is significant for the interface design to include the display of preferred headings from variant terms, as well as relationships of terms (e.g., broader, narrower, and related terms). It is recommended to display the properties for describing subject relationships, e.g., “broader term”, “scope note”, “use for”, “top term”, “related term” (Garshol 2004).

**Provide a layered interface with options to operate at different levels of granularity**

It is recommended to offer, in addition to a default interface of a simple search box, one or more other layers proposing advanced search options, which include more precise subject searching or refining searches with Boolean logic. If search results are displayed with added lists of attributes of the retrieved resources to refine the search (sometimes called “facted search”), it is recommended to include lists of classification notations and subject terms. Utilize knowledge structure hierarchies for both presentation of results and query specifications (see below 4.5).

**Offer features for users’ input**

Features could include tagging, exposing controlled vocabularies to users, ability to add comments on terms or reviews to a record, RSS feeds and creation of citations by subject categories etc. Users should be able to distinguish users’ input from the NB’s input.

**Offer multilingual and multi-script options**

The options should include user’s choice for languages of catalogue interfaces. It would allow users to navigate more effectively, if they can toggle to a language and script they prefer.

### 4.5 Recommendations for query

**Query options**

The options should include simple and advanced searches. Stem searches on subject headings, which are subdivided by subdivisions, can make information more retrievable.

**Modify query results**

The user should be able to narrow the results of a search by requiring various aspects. In addition to format, author, language, genre, year and place of publication, the user should be able to narrow a search by subject aspects, such as topic, geographic region and time or choosing a disciplinary point of view by classified notations. If there are no hits, the user should be able to modify the search strategy by using search terms suggested by the system.

### 4.6 Recommendations for other features

**Front-end features**

- Help screens regarding subject access
- Tutorials on subject access
- Options for topic maps / Visual presentation of subject relationships
- Translation software or tools for subject access
- Dictionaries: language options for terms
- Subscription to RSS feeds based on subject queries

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56 Such discovery layers can be found for instance at [http://www.serialssolutions.com/aquabrowser/](http://www.serialssolutions.com/aquabrowser/)
5. Application scenarios (indexing / access levels)

Recommendation

12 Decide on different levels of subject cataloguing for different kinds of publication, based on the significance of the resource. Define and publish pragmatic selection criteria.

An NBA would not only be overwhelmed without exercising judicious selection of documents covered by the bibliography, as well as without selection of documents not to be indexed, or indexed only rudimentarily. Currently in many NBs „there has been a certain tension between including data in the bibliographic records which potentially serves a variety of useful purposes, and the need not to make the records too complex if the bibliography is to keep up with the publishing output of the nation” (Haddad 1999). New digital formats and the growth of web resources have made the selection decision more complicated. Even if the national outcome of electronic resources is varying, every NBA should find a framework for decision here. The solution is not in weighing electronic and traditional resources against each other, as it is an issue of contents, not of favouring any format or of balancing all. Nevertheless, the higher or lower accessibility of the different media types can justify less or more complete indexing: if users can browse through web resources, they do not need as much description as for other publications.

Even so it is impossible to propose here strict recommendations. The following criteria are recommended to analyse the national publishing output in its meaningful characteristics, to choose the indexing tools apt to cover efficiently the variety of materials, and to fix indexing levels for different resources, based on the significance of the works, so that each NBA can build a consistent application scenario of tools and levels, where users’ needs are satisfied in the most convenient way.

5.1 Different levels of subject access

Bibliographic standards in NBs are important because the records are to be shared and re-used. NBAs have therefore developed various levels of cataloguing to achieve homogeneous treatments of similar types of resources.

In IFLA’s Bibliography Guidelines, four levels of cataloguing — basic, enhanced, comprehensive, and authoritative — and also the use of standard indexing and classification schemes are recommended. These Guidelines also stated:

4.4 Level of cataloguing:
[...] In the future a graduated approach will be inevitable in which the level of cataloguing appropriate to different types of resource will be determined:
. in relation to the level of metadata already associated with the resource
. in relation to the significance of the resource for the national bibliography.
4.4.2 Type of resource and level of metadata [...] The decision on the level of metadata should be based on the content of the resource and NOT on the format. (Žumer 2009: 48.)

57 Wiggins, Beacher in Žumer 2009: 29
The Working Group on Subject Access by NBAs recommends the following levels for subject indexing.

13 **Use two levels for subject indexing:**

- A full level, providing indexing with enhanced access by authoritative subject terms, as well as classification notations;

- A minimal level, providing for most of the resources at least one controlled verbal access point and/or classification notations, if necessary shortened.

These two levels correspond to the four levels described in the Bibliography Guidelines, in the sense that full encompasses enhanced, comprehensive, and authoritative and is open to be extended into the future with other agents adding appropriate data, such as subject information gleaned from TOCs etc. Therefore the two levels are not rigidly prescribed but each NBA should fix them more exactly, according to the adopted tools, users’ needs, specific fields of national interest, available metadata and so on. A few national examples can be found in chapter 7.

Authority control should be used for all subject terms and classification notations, on both levels.

The forms of names used as subjects should be the same as those used as access points to the descriptive parts of the bibliographic record.

Besides these two levels there should be basic, uncontrolled subject access by keywords. As already explained in chapter 3 and 4, natural language indexing is a complement to controlled indexing.

If different series of an NB are produced to cover materials of special interest, indexing provided could be different from the fixed levels (e.g., a series for doctoral theses can adopt a broad classification based on examination matters).

Application scenarios and level requirements should be regularly reviewed and updated.

### 5.2 Criteria to decide subject access levels

In the field of subject access the most important aspect to consider is the content of the resource and its informational potential. Both the characteristics of the resources and users’ needs must be considered in the choice of indexing tools and levels. NBAs should consider these factors before deciding different levels of subject access.

“We must show flexibility in our bibliographic standards for the new publications as national bibliographies will include documents with various levels of complexity.” (Parent 2008)

#### 5.2.1 Characteristics of materials

**Subject (discipline)**

For certain subject areas, a national policy should be established for those subject disciplines deemed important to reflect the national publishing output or culture. Some things would be evaluated for fuller cataloguing, for example providing a full reflection of a country’s scientific output. If the resource is one that is considered to have “ephemeral information and judged to be of little interest to contemporary or future audiences” (Žumer 2009: 52) a decision can be made to use keyword access only and/or a broad classification notation can be used.

**Special topics**
For resources that document topical events, episodes, incidents, experiences in a country (e.g., elections, natural disasters) it may be appropriate — regarding the collection policy and the role of the NB as a window of cultural heritage — to provide enhanced subject access.

**Genres / content types (fiction, poetry...)**

For resources such as novels, music, poetry, etc., where aboutness is not intentionally definitive, assigning subject access the same as to informative works is not convenient and may be misleading. In these cases a genre term may be more useful in retrieving the resource than a topical term. Genre terms and content types are generally not considered subject terms, but some national traditions of subject cataloguing consider genre terms and content type codes to be subjects.

**Language (national / foreign publications)**

The language should not affect the choice of level. If the resource is being added, it should be according to the content and anticipated use.

**Year of publication**

The year of publication should generally not affect the choice of level, but if there is a need, older publications of all types can be indexed at the minimal level.58

**Document types / physical formats (books, serials, electronic...)**

The document type should generally not affect the choice of a level, but it depends on the volume of publications to be described that can be managed by the NBA. Especially non-text formats like photographs, videos, recorded music, geographic maps, digitized artefacts etc., present a challenging task to indexing as well as to retrieval.59 For online publications, i.e., web resources or digitized electronic documents, it may be appropriate to apply very basic indexing, including fully automatic techniques (see chapter 3.6). Several NBAs create different series of their bibliographies distinguished by document types, and may make pragmatic decisions regarding subject access that may differ by document type (contrary to the Bibliography Guidelines).

**Legal deposit**

Legal deposit resources could fall into any level. If the resource is purchased, it should be indexed at least at the minimal level.

5.2.2 Users

Access level can depend on the different target groups. Chapter 2 addresses users of the national bibliography. An NB is for the use of all types of users, and therefore the level of indexing should depend on the perceived value of the resource (general interest, research etc.) to a wide range of users.

If different series of an NB are created for resources intended for specific kinds of users, e.g., for children, specific decisions regarding subject access may be made for every series.

5.2.3 Other considerations

**The purpose of the indexing tool**

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58 A few NBAs decided not to cover older publications (mostly those older than the current 5 years) in the NB while others decided not to provide full cataloguing/indexing.

59 See Hazen 2004 about assigning suitable subject access as for instance for videos used by indigenous communities.
Not every indexing system gives the same results. Most subject heading systems allow more specific access than classification systems, possibly providing up-to-date scientific nomenclature. Classification systems allow organized views of sets of resources in a domain. The characteristics of the vocabulary used, have to be considered.

**The level of existing metadata or enriched content**

Metadata are available for most electronic resources. The extent that such data can be re-used and their quality can influence the level of indexing. Generally, as much subject metadata as is available should be captured for online bibliographies. Depending on the extent of that metadata, decisions can be made regarding adding further subject access manually.

**Independent component parts**

Indexing should be primarily applied to independent monographs, to serials, and to some other resources. Exceptionally, works included as components of independent resources like chapters within monographs or articles within serials are indexed.⁶⁰

**National publishing outcome**

The number of titles of national documents in an NB may influence the level of subject access. The greater the growth of the collection, the more costly it is to treat all documents homogeneously and/or comprehensively.

**Extent of national bibliographic content**

Some NBs include mainly works published in their country (territoriality principle) while others also collect publications from elsewhere in the world in the national language or from national authors or sometimes even on national topics (nationality principle). On the other hand, the extent of the collection often differs by document types. As far as the collection development policy reflects the interest of acquired resources, this should enhance the level of indexing.

**Human resources**

Constraints on the capacity of NBAs influence the number of items that can be indexed. Collaborative cataloguing, copy cataloguing, automatic or machine-aided procedures can determine indexing workflows.

**Budget**

The budget would affect the levels of cataloguing in practice, but guidelines are set up for the desired levels.

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⁶⁰ Numerous NBs include also indexed journal articles, e.g., the Polish and the Serbian.
5.3 Decision matrix

The following table illustrates how indexing levels may be assigned to categories of resources according to their significance. An NBA should provide its own table, exactly reflecting the choices for indexing in the NB, to guide indexers and ensure consistency.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommended level</th>
<th>Significance of resource</th>
<th>Type of resource</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Formally published</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Surrogate or successor to print resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Resources with research value or intended for use as research or reference tools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Resources intended for a special or priority collection within the NL⁶¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Resources for which a full bibliographic description was requested</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>Resources with value to users of the catalogue, but not considered to need full cataloguing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No controlled subject access</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Resources with ephemeral information judged to be of little interest to contemporary or future audiences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Resources harvested from the web with the decision not to use fuller cataloguing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

⁶¹ Various NLs have “heritage collections”.
6. Indexing policies of National Bibliographic Agencies

6.1 About the indexing policies

Recommendations
14 Keep the indexing policy clear and easily understandable to all user groups.

15 Publish the policies for internal and external use. Publish the latter on the web, in the vernacular language(s) and in English.

An indexing policy is a document describing how subject access is given to different kinds of resources listed in a national bibliography. It is a complement to the rules and guidelines in the indexing tools themselves.

The policy is intended both for people doing the indexing and the users of national bibliographies. The indexers need the policy to keep the indexing consistent, and the users need it to know what kind of subject access to expect for different kinds of resources. It is desirable to try to keep the policy as clear and easy as possible, both to understand and to apply, avoiding exceptions. An indexing policy should be realistic and should be sustainable, both in terms of resources necessary to carry it out and in terms of the rules and systems applied.

Different versions of the policy might be considered, one for internal use and one for external users. For example, the internal version may give guidance to indexing staff regarding treatment of sensitive topics. The external version should be posted on the web, if possible both in the vernacular and in English or another language, appropriate to anticipated users of the NB. If the policy has been changed over time, it is important to represent also the previous policies (clearly labelled as such) on the web, as it is important for internal purposes and data management to be able to track changes, and for users to be aware of different treatments over time. Careful documentation of past practices also facilitates searching for older materials.

6.2 About the content of the indexing policies

Recommendations
16 Indicate what subject access tools are used.
17 Indicate what kinds of resources are indexed.
18 Indicate the levels and exhaustivity of indexing.
19 Try to keep the indexing policy consistent over time in order to provide uniform access to resources.
20 Update the indexing policy every time any changes are introduced and show clearly the period each policy covers.

An indexing policy specifies the details on what subject access tools are used, and how they are used, what kinds of resources are indexed, and what exhaustivity is aimed for. It should also include information on the specificity of the indexing: is there a maximum number of subject headings or notations for every resource, are there kinds of resources that will only get one single subject heading, only one notation, etc.?

Ideally, an NB should give uniform access to the included resources regardless of the kind of material. This makes it a desirable goal to have at least one access point common to all kinds of resources and consistent over time. For decision criteria of different levels
of access see chapter 5. Mappings to previously used systems would allow for uniform access also to older records treated in a different way.

The time aspect is also important. Ideally, subject access should be as uniform as possible also over time. It should be possible to access resources published during different periods together. NBAs should aim for realistic policies that can be followed over time. Of course, there might be reasons to change the policy. An NBA might for example want to adopt an international indexing tool, or abandon obsolete recommendations. The loss of uniform access over time needs to be weighted against the gains of the change. The indexing policy should be updated every time any changes are introduced.

In brief an indexing policy should include information on:

- The subject access tool(s)
  - Which tools are used (rule sets, classification schemes, subject headings list etc.),
  - the form in which they are used (full or simplified/abridged form, standard or modified form, language if applicable or necessary),
  - the way they are used (by manual or automatic indexing, pre- or post-coordination etc.),
- the level of exhaustivity and specificity,
- the different levels of subject access and how they are defined,
- special treatments of special kinds of resources as applicable (including non-indexing of certain materials).

As described in the chapters before, it is recommended that an NBA aims for providing at least a rough classificatory access to all the materials indexed. As mentioned this should be done by using an international classification scheme or at least one that is used by other libraries in the country. This will allow for easier exchange of data nationally and internationally and will also allow giving an overview of the specificities of a particular national imprint (e.g., in the production of scientific literature).

An NBA should also aim to provide verbal access to all materials listed in the NB, in the language(s) and script(s) of the country.
7. Examples of subject access provided by National Bibliographic Agencies

Contrary to statements that „the conceptual underpinnings“ for national bibliographies „are in doubt and their composite coverage remains incomplete“ and „users have had little say in their shaping the endeavour or assessing its results“ and that „the quest, which has always been idealistic, may by now have become merely quixotic“ (Hazen 2004), all existing surveys conducted in the 1990s and in the beginning of this century, current web site information, and typical examples of subject access provided by some NBAs show that a comprehensive and current NB is an important and very useful reference source in different contexts and for various users groups.

7.1 Subject access rules and standards used by National Bibliographic Agencies

All NBAs recognise the importance of adhering to common, international subject access standards in order to promote the international sharing of subject analysis data and the provision of consistent access for NB users worldwide. As already mentioned above (see chapter 3) and as the research shows, the most often applied subject access tools are international tools like LCSH, national standards based on LCSH, universal classifications, namely DDC or UDC, other classification systems like LCC, categorization schemes like Conspectus, or home-grown schemes containing broad categories.

7.1.1 Classification schemes

For the arrangement of national bibliographies, universal, general classifications are used to make NBs' information dealing with the entire range of human knowledge available. As shown in chapter 3 there are a few widely used universal classification schemes such as DDC, UDC, and LCC. Beside this, there are some national general schemes. The international organizing tools differ from national schemes by trying to create collections of related resources in a hierarchical, internationally understandable structure. Sometimes they are not able to meet all the local needs, therefore modifications were introduced, especially in subject fields like language, literature, history, geography, education, and law.

7.1.1.1 Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) and adaptations

DDC is one of the most famous and widely used classification schemes among NBAs (see chapter 3). It is used among others in Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, United Kingdom, Vietnam, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

In some countries, DDC is used without modification; in some national systems the Dewey scheme is slightly modified in order to accommodate the system to meet local needs. Some NBAs use only top hierarchies for an NB’s arrangement whereas others give full classification notations to all resources and display them in the bibliographical records.

The following examples show different ways of application.

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Cyprus

Κυπριακή Βιβλιογραφία – Bibliography of Cyprus

The Cyprus Library publishes the annual Bulletin of the Cyprus Bibliography, which covers the output of the publishing industry in Cyprus for the year. For the period 1999—2004 the bibliography is organized as a separate file (pdf); entries are arranged by DDC, Second Summary.

Since 2005 the bibliography of Cyprus is accessible online and is searchable (from the subject access point of view) by subject headings and notations. Extended DDC notations are used for full subject access (not for arrangement purposes only). Furthermore UDC, LCC and a local classification scheme are used.

Figure 1 Example of an entry in the pdf version of the bibliography of Cyprus arranged by DDC and with full DDC notation

Figure 2 Example of displayed DDC and subject headings both in Greek and English in a bibliographic record of Cyprus’ NB

Morocco

Bibliographie nationale marocaine - National Bibliography of Morocco

The NB of Morocco is organized according to the Hundred Divisions of DDC in both the online version (since 2007) and the pdf format (before 2007).

Kenya

Kenya National Bibliography

The Kenyan NB entries are arranged according to the DDC, 22nd edition. Parts of DDC literature numbers (Class 800) are slightly modified in order to accommodate fiction in indigenous languages. Extensions in the form of abbreviated names of local language appear in the DDC notations. For example, 896.3923 Kis means fiction in Kiswahili.
New Zealand

Te Rarangi Pukapuka Matua o Aotearoa - New Zealand National Bibliography

The New Zealand National Bibliography (NZNB) contains catalogue records for the New Zealand imprint. It is produced monthly. It includes New Zealand and Tokelau books, serials, newspapers, music, maps, videos, sound recordings, kits, and pictures. New Zealand National Bibliography is arranged by DDC top hierarchical levels with two special categories: for New Zealand literature and items without DDC.

Figure 6 Example of the DDC outline used in the National Bibliography of New Zealand
Figure 7 Example of DDC extension in a New Zealand NB record of a New Zealand novel

**Singapore**  
**Singapore National Bibliography (SNB)**  
The index of Singapore’s NB is arranged by the DDC Second Summary with special national categories for fiction.

![Singapore National Bibliography](image)

Figure 8 Example of DDC application in the NB of Singapore

**Switzerland**  
**The Swiss Book — Das Schweizer Buch — Le Livre suisse — Il Libro svizzero — Il Cudesch svizzer**  
The Swiss Book is the national bibliography of Switzerland published by the Swiss National Library. This bibliography lists Swiss publications on all mediums — books, maps, music scores, electronic medias and multimedia, periodicals, newspapers, annual publications and series. However, Swiss sound recordings are catalogued and collected at the Swiss National Sound Archives in Lugano.  
The Swiss Book is accessible in an online version of Helveticat⁶⁴ (the NL catalogue) or in a static version in PDF format. The dynamic online version features search functionalities including searching by Dewey Classification classes.  
From the year 2001, the Swiss Book classification groups are based on the 10 principal classes of the DDC and detailed in ten sub-classes in each case. From 2006 onwards, the selection of the subclasses is oriented to DDC practice in German language national

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⁶⁴http://helveticat.nb.admin.ch/swissbook
bibliographies — the structure is based for the most part on the Hundred Divisions (or Second Summary) of the DDC. Discrepancies were allowed by integrating deeper levels whenever it was necessary to meet user needs, e.g., for Natural Resources (Class 333.7), Military Science (Class 355) or History of Switzerland (Class 949.4). The classification system is used for arrangement purposes only.

Language choices are available for English, German, Italian, and French.
7.1.1.2 Universal Decimal Classification (UDC)

The UDC is a sophisticated indexing and retrieval tool. As mentioned in chapter 3 it is used as a library classification in many countries, among others in Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Macedonia, Madagascar, Moldova, Montenegro, Mozambique, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Spain.

Some NBAs use only top hierarchies for the NB's arrangement whereas others give full classification notations to all resources and display them in the bibliographic records.

The following examples show different ways of application.

**Czechia**

**Česká národní bibliografie - Czech National Bibliography**

The Czech national bibliography integrates documents published in the Czech Republic and received by the NL under Legal Deposit Law. Since 2009, the Czech national bibliography is published as a separate database which forms part of the web catalogue. The CNB news - books are published monthly, CNB news for other documents (continuing resources, electronic resources, physical media, online, graphic, printed music, cartographic documents, sound recordings) are published quarterly. The monthly and quarterly summaries are arranged by Conspectus Categorization scheme; full UDC notations are entered in CNB records. A UDC browse index presents UDC notations with equivalent verbal expressions in both languages, Czech and English.

![Figure 11 Example of the UDC index of the Czech NB with equivalent verbal expressions in Czech and English languages](image)

**Macedonia**

**Македонска библиографија - The Macedonian Bibliography**

The entries in the Macedonian Bibliography are arranged according to the UDC system. In bibliographic records, the full classification notations are displayed.
IFLA CLASS Guidelines for Subject Access in National Bibliographies

Draft
2011, May

Figure 12 Example of UDC application in the national bibliography of Macedonia

Romania

Bibliografia Națională Română - National Bibliography of Romania

The entries of the Romanian National Bibliography are arranged by the UDC scheme; in bibliographic records the full classification notations are displayed.

Figure 13 Example of UDC application in the Romanian national bibliography

Senegal

Bibliographie du Sénégal - National Bibliography of Senegal

The National Bibliography of Senegal is organized according to the UDC, second level. Currently, the bibliographic records of the NB of Senegal are not available.66

66 http://www.archivesdusenegal.gouv.sn/catalogue.html

48
7.1.1.3 Library of Congress Classification (LCC)

Over the course of the twentieth century, the LCC was adopted for use by libraries, especially large academic libraries in the United States. Today it is also used internationally, also in NBs, as for example in Canada, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

**Uruguay**

The national bibliography of Uruguay includes books, leaflets and periodicals printed in Uruguay, from 1990 to 2010 inclusively. It is organized according to the LC classification system.
7.1.1.4 National classification schemes

Colon Classification - India

The Indian National Bibliography includes documents published in 14 major languages in India (Assamese, Bengali, Tamil, Telugu, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Sanskrit, Oriya, Urdu, English, and Punjabi) and is arranged by the Dewey Decimal Classification; the numbers from the Colon Classification scheme are assigned to each entry to facilitate the use of the Bibliography and libraries, arranged according to the Colon Schemes of classification.

The Colon Classification is a system of library classification developed by S. R. Ranganathan. It was the first ever faceted (or analytico-synthetic) classification. The first edition was published in 1933. Since then six more editions have been published. It is especially used in libraries in India. The Colon Classification uses 42 main classes that are combined with other letters, numbers and marks and uses five primary categories, or facets to further specify the sorting of a publication. Collectively, they are called PMEST: personality, matter or property, energy, space, and time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Generalia</th>
<th>N Fine arts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Science (General)</td>
<td>O Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B Mathematics</td>
<td>P Philology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C Physics</td>
<td>Q Religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D Engineering</td>
<td>R Philosophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E Chemistry</td>
<td>S Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F Technology</td>
<td>T Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G Natural science (General) and Biology</td>
<td>U Geography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H Geology</td>
<td>V History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I Botany</td>
<td>W Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J Agriculture</td>
<td>X Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K Zoology</td>
<td>Y Miscellaneous social sciences including Sociology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L Medicine</td>
<td>Z Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M Useful arts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 16 Colon Classification Subject Divisions (1933) 67

Chinese Library Classification68 - China

The Chinese Library Classification (中国图书馆分类法 CLC), also known as Classification for Chinese Libraries (CCL), is effectively used as the national classification scheme in China. It is also used in almost all primary and secondary schools, universities, and academic institutions, as well as public libraries. Furthermore it is applied by publishers to classify all books published in China. CLC has 22 top-level divisions/categories and contains a total of 43 600 sub-categories; many of them are recent additions, meeting the needs of a rapidly changing nation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. Marxism, Leninism, Maoism &amp; Deng Xiaoping Theory</th>
<th>N. Natural Science</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B. Philosophy and Religion</td>
<td>O. Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Social Sciences</td>
<td>P. Astronomy and Geoscience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Politics and Law</td>
<td>Q. Life Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Military Science</td>
<td>R. Medicine and Health Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. Economics</td>
<td>S. Agricultural Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Culture, Science, Education and Sports</td>
<td>T. Industrial Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. Languages and Linguistics</td>
<td>U. Transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. Literature</td>
<td>V. Aviation and Aerospace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Art</td>
<td>X. Environmental Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K. History and Geography</td>
<td>Z. General, Miscellaneous, Auxiliary and Others</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 17 CLC 22 top-level divisions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>中国图书馆图书分类法(Chinese Library Classification - CLC)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A 马克思主义、列宁主义、毛泽东思想、邓小平理论</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A1 马克思、恩格斯著作</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A11 选集、文集</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A12 单行著作</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A13 书信集、日记、函电、谈话</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A14 诗词</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A15 手迹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A16 专题汇编</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A18 语录</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2 列宁著作</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 18 Example of CLC structure used in the Chinese national bibliography
Chinese Library Classification - Taiwan

In Taiwan, the Classification Scheme for Chinese Libraries (CCL) had been an important reference tool for cataloguers of all kind of libraries. In 2001, the NL’s Table of Revised Classifications was compiled to resolve the practical problems with its application. The greatest characteristics of this edition are the inclusion of many class numbers for computer terminologies and the addition of indexes for easy retrieval.

DK5 (Danish Decimal Classification, 5th edition) - Denmark

The first edition of the Danish Decimal Classification (DK1) was published in 1915. The so-called 5th edition (DK5) was officially published in 1969 and since then it has been revised many times. It is maintained and published by the Dansk Bibliotekscenter A/S. Corrections and supplements are currently communicated. Today it contains more than 3000 classes.

The system is based on the 7th edition of DDC from 1911, which was modified for use in Danish libraries. It has three major tasks to fulfill: 1) Shelf arrangement in Danish public libraries, 2) Catalogue system in Danish public libraries, and 3) Bibliographic system in the Danish National Bibliography. It is used for shelf-arrangement in Danish school libraries and public libraries and as a classification system in the Danish national bibliography as well as in the Danish Department in The Royal Library.

Although Hong Kong returned to Chinese sovereignty in 1997, and Macau returned to Chinese sovereignty in 1999, they are special administrative regions of the People’s Republic of China and have some independent powers. Therefore, they haven’t considered the issues of legal deposit copies in the National Library of China, and the China National Bibliography cannot include Hong Kong and Macau Publications. Publications from the Taiwan region cannot be included, too. It is because of political reasons, not technical ones.

In Hong Kong, legal deposit copies are sent to the Hong Kong Public Libraries and some university libraries.
In Macau, the Macao Central Library (Biblioteca Central de Macau) is in charge of ISBN registration and receives legal deposit copies.
As for Taiwan publications, the Bureau of International Exchange of Publications is in charge of ISBN registration and also receives legal deposit copies from publishers in Taiwan. It provides ISBN, ISSN, ISRC, and CIP services.

People can contact the above mentioned institutions for information about national bibliographies in these regions.


http://www.iva.dk/bh/Lifeboat_KO/SPECIFIC%20SYSTEMS/dk5.htm
The Nippon Decimal Classification (NDC, also called the Nippon Decimal System) is a system of library classification developed for mainly Chinese and Japanese language books maintained by the Japan Library Association since 1929. The system is made up of ten categories:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>000 General</td>
<td>General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 Philosophy</td>
<td>Philosophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200 History</td>
<td>History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300 Social Sciences</td>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400 Natural Sciences</td>
<td>Natural Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 Technology and engineering</td>
<td>Technology and engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600 Industry and commerce</td>
<td>Industry and commerce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>700 Arts</td>
<td>Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800 Language</td>
<td>Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>900 Literature</td>
<td>Literature</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 21 Example of main categories of NDC

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nippon_Decimal_Classification
The Nederlandse Basisclassificatie (Dutch Basic Classification) is a national scheme designed for use within the Shared Cataloguing System of Pica. The BC consists of 48 main hierarchies grouped in five clusters: Generalities, Humanities, Sciences, Engineering, and Social sciences.

Figure 23 Example of BC categories

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http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/metadata/desire/classification/class_5.htm

Pica, the Dutch Centre for Library Automation, is a non-profit organisation providing systems and services for the majority of Dutch academic and public libraries and for a number of library networks in Germany.
7.1.1.5 Broad subject categorization schemes

Some NBAs, which offer mostly keyword searching and/or alphabetical listing, have adopted broad subject categorization schemes in the arrangement of NBs. Some of these categorization devices are based on existing classification schemes, e.g. the Conspectus, which is based on DDC and UDC; others represent institutionally applied varieties, like UNESCO subject categories.

The following examples illustrate the application of broad subject categorization schemes.

*Conspectus Categorization Scheme – Czech Republic*

Conspectus is an international scheme that provides a common framework for collection assessment and description of strengths, introduced initially in the 1980s to serve as an infrastructure for coordination among research libraries. The Conspectus method is nowadays used not only to support coordination of collection development but also to improve access based on content characteristics of information resources. Since 2001, the Conspectus Categorization Scheme (CCS) is used in all types of Czech libraries for various purposes, such as: shelf arrangement in open stacks, organization of NB new titles - the newest NB additions arrangement, information retrieval and subject navigation, collection development and management, subject gateways, topical plans (maps) of library collections, mapping device and mediator in creation indexing and retrieval tools enabling multilingual or cross-domain searching.
UNESCO categories\textsuperscript{74} – Belgium

The weekly and monthly lists of the national bibliographies in Belgium are organized according to the Unesco subject categories scheme, which includes 33 broad categories.

\footnote{http://unesdoc.unesco.org/ULis/cgi-bin/ulis.pl?catno=178152&set=4940FD33_2_304&gp=0&lin=1}
Qiryat Sefer subject categories

Qiryat Sefer is the national bibliography of the State of Israel and of the Jewish people. The aim of the bibliography is to document every Israeli publication in all languages and on all subjects, deposited in the Jewish National and University Library - the National Library of Israel. Every bibliographic item can be searched according to a general subject category (i.e. Section) unique to Qiryat Sefer, in addition to the subject classification routinely allocated to each record. The main heading of each section is given in Hebrew, with English translations. The database may be searched in either language. Where necessary, the basic bibliographic record is enhanced with additional explanatory notes.

Figure 27 Example of arrangement of the NB of Israel

7.1.2 Verbal indexing schemes

It is a main goal of all NBAs to develop and apply „effective tools for verbal subject access that comply with international principles and standards and that are capable of dealing with the exponential growth and availability of information resources on the web, and meeting the information needs of a new generation of users“ (Lucarelli 2009). Effective subject access in NBs cannot exist without standardized access points, i.e. without bibliographic and authority control. The subject terms should follow expressions of natural language. Also subject headings should have the same denotations expressed by artificial language terms, used, e.g., in classification schemes.

A few practical examples show the different application of verbal indexing.

7.1.2.1 Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) and adaptations

As already shown in chapter 3, LCSH is heavily used in NBAs outside of the United States, particularly in English-speaking countries. Even if an NBA reports using a translation or adaptation of LCSH as its principal subject heading system, it should be stressed that it is difficult to apply an international standard without any modification because

- verbal subject controlled vocabularies are based on and expressed in national languages and
- subject access should be provided with the greater depth or scope of national or local content (i.e., local and national cultural values and entities that are important for local and national communities).

http://aleph518.huji.ac.il/F/?func=File&file_name=library-info-more&local_base=nnlqrs&con_lng=eng
A modification or extension of the international standard LCSH is sometimes applied even in English-speaking countries (or in those countries in which one of the official languages is English) in order to meet users’ requirements and search criteria.

**Australia**

**Australian National Bibliographic Database (ANBD)**

The most commonly used subject cataloguing standard in Australia is the LCSH. The library community in Australia will generally not diverge from LCSH except for specifically Australian requirements. The National Library maintains the Australian extension to LCSH, which includes additional Australian subject headings and references that have been authorised for use in Australian Libraries.

**Australian Subject Access Project**

For many years librarians and library users in Australia faced certain limitations when applying the LCSH to describe publications that are either uniquely Australian or for which LCSH terminology is inappropriate for the Australian scene. Therefore a specific Australian Subject Access Project has been undertaken by the Australian National Bibliographic Database (ANBD) Section at the National Library with the aim to maximise the impact of online access to Australian subject terms.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List Of Approved Headings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acacia harpophylla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amusement arcades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approved deposit funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banksia integrifolia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue tongued lizards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body corporate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brownies (Girl Guides)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collusive tendering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community broadcasting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 28 List of approved Headings in ANBD project

**Canada**

**Canadiana: The National Bibliography of Canada. Library and Archives Canada Subject Headings Policy**

*Canadiana* lists and describes a wide variety of publications produced in Canada, or published elsewhere but of special interest or significance to Canada; it provides standard subject cataloguing information for each item listed. The languages of cataloguing are English and French. Library and Archives Canada assigns LCSH to titles selected for "full" level treatment for listing in the national bibliography *Canadiana*, see below.

To meet all the needs of Canadian users, the Canadian Subject HEADINGS (CSH) was created; it is meant to supplement the Library of Congress Subject HEADINGS (LCSH). The CSH is focused mainly on Canadian cultural, economic, historical, literary, political, and social topics, with a few subject HEADINGS in other subject areas. CSH follows the same principles and policies as LCSH for creating HEADINGS and subdivisions (with a few

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exceptions where necessary) to facilitate integration of the two vocabularies. The headings in CSH are only in the English language, but they have French language equivalents in Répertoire de vedettes-matière (RVM), published by the Bibliothèque de l'Université Laval. RVM also includes nearly all of LCSH.

Figure 29 Example of subject headings in the Canadian NB. The English headings in the example are LCSH/CSH headings and the French headings are RVM headings.

Chile

Bibliografía chilena – Bibliography of Chile

The national bibliography of Chile online integrates the records of printed monographs, electronic resources and multimedia received by the National Library under Legal Deposit Law. Subject headings used in NB records are based on LCSH.
Latvia

Nacionālā bibliogrāfija – National Bibliography of Latvia

The NB of Latvia contains information about books published in Latvia since 1920, descriptions of books published outside Latvia about Latvia and Latvians – since 2000, descriptions of serial publications (newspapers, magazines, newsletters, collections of articles, yearbooks) – since 1984. The subject heading system is based on LCSH.
The NBDB contains bibliographic records of documents, records of retrospective bibliography released in Lithuania and received under legal deposit; Lituanica bibliographic records and the Judaic Catalogue are included as well. Verbal access is provided by the Lithuanian version of LCSH and the UDC scheme translated into Lithuanian.

Lithuania
Nacionalinės bibliografijos duomenų bankas - National Bibliographic Data Bank

The NBDB contains bibliographic records of documents, records of retrospective bibliography released in Lithuania and received under legal deposit; Lituanica bibliographic records and the Judaic Catalogue are included as well. Verbal access is provided by the Lithuanian version of LCSH and the UDC scheme translated into Lithuanian.

Namibia
Namibia National Bibliography (NNB)

LCSH, edition 20, applied in Namibia is extended by subject search terms so called “free subject terms“ from NAMLIT database. The language of cataloguing is English.
South Africa
South African National Bibliography (SANB)82

The SANB subject access to records is gained through DDC numbers (1959—2006) and LCSH (1992—).

![Example of LCHS used in SANB](image)

7.1.2.2 Other subject heading lists or thesauri

**Chinese Classified Thesaurus (CCT)83**

In the 1980s, the importance of subject access was realized by many Chinese librarians and emphasis had been placed on developing a Chinese subject system. A general Chinese Thesaurus (《漢語主題詞表》) was constructed to be used for subject indexing in computerized information systems. It was decided to integrate CLC and the Chinese Thesaurus. This led to the compilation of the Chinese Classified Thesaurus (《中國分類主題詞表》) The Chinese Thesaurus and later the Chinese Classified Thesaurus (CCT) have played key roles in the standardization of Chinese retrieval language, and contributed greatly to the modern development of knowledge organization and information processing in China.

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82 [http://www.nlsa.ac.za/](http://www.nlsa.ac.za/)
Full View of Record

Choose format: Standard format Catalog card Citation Name tags MARC tags

Record 1 out of 2

FMT BK
Leader ---- nam0 22 ------ 450
RecordID 003955751
Version 20081120153706.0
ISBN 978-7-224-08279-1
Gen.Proc 20081027d2008 em y0chn50 ea
Language chi
Country CN 610000
Monograph a z 000yy
Phys.Att. r
Title 早期毛泽东论传记版本论著 专著
Publ. 西安 陕西人民出版社 2008
Phys.Des 154页; 24cm
Gen.Note 尘封的红色经典(上卷)
Summary 本书论述当今仍有影响的毛泽东传记各种版本的 controversy and impact.

Top.Sub: 图书目录
Chinese Classification 288 A5714

Figure 36 Example of CCT presented in the Chinese NB

Czech subject authority file (CZENAS)85

Originally based on LCSH, currently CZENAS represents an integrated indexing and retrieval tool in which verbal (controlled) terms are being linked to the UDC equivalent notations and English equivalents. Controlled vocabulary structure is tied to a classification scheme so that relationships between indexing terms can be expressed more definitely. Mapping process between Czech verbal expressions and UDC numbers is being done intellectually. Single or complex UDC numbers (pre-combined) are linked, English equivalents of preferred terms, mostly LCSH terms, are chosen. The same approach is applied both in the National Library databases, and in the National bibliography. The Czech subject authority file consists of topical, geographical, chronological and genre/form files. It is well accepted among Czech libraries.

Figure 37 Example of National Authorities portal (CR) with topical authority term displayed

Figure 38 Example of subject data in a Czech national bibliography record

85 http://www.ifla2009satelliteflorence.it/meeting2/program/assets/Balikova.pdf
Eesti märksõnastik (EMS) - Estonian Subject Thesaurus

The Estonian National Bibliography (Eesti Rahvusbibliograafia) database ERB records for publications issued in Estonia in any languages, publications in the Estonian language issued abroad, as well as works by Estonian authors, and their translations regardless of the type of item. New publications are registered as deposit copies on their arrival at the National Library of Estonia; earlier publications are entered into the database retrospectively step by step.

EMS is a universal controlled vocabulary for indexing and searching various library materials in Estonian. The EMS includes 36 000 preferred terms and 16 000 variant terms – altogether 52 000 terms, divided into 48 subject fields.

The EMS replaces the previously used EÜM thesaurus in all libraries and it is used in the Estonian national bibliography database ERB. The Estonian Subject Thesaurus is freely accessible on the web.

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86 http://vesa.lib.helsinki.fi; http://www.ifla2009satelliteflorence.it/meeting2/program/assets/Nilbe.pdf
87 http://ems.elnet.ee
The national indexing language in the Netherlands is named **GTT** (Joint Subject Headings Thesaurus). In this thesaurus the following types of descriptors can be found: common terms for concepts, geographical descriptors, names of corporate bodies, titles or names of works of art and culture, descriptors for bibliographical forms, descriptors for genres of fiction, names of “unica”, i.e. singular events, drugs and other things that have a name. It is used in the Royal Library, but also by a group of other libraries including the main academic libraries in the Netherlands.

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**Gemeenschappelijke Trefwoorden Thesaurus (GTT)**

The national indexing language in the Netherlands is named **GTT** (Joint Subject Headings Thesaurus). In this thesaurus the following types of descriptors can be found: common terms for concepts, geographical descriptors, names of corporate bodies, titles or names of works of art and culture, descriptors for bibliographical forms, descriptors for genres of fiction, names of “unica”, i.e. singular events, drugs and other things that have a name. It is used in the Royal Library, but also by a group of other libraries including the main academic libraries in the Netherlands.

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**Bibliothecarycatalogi (vorm)**

PPN: 088141756
Engelse descriptor: Library catalogs (form)
Bredere term: !088142264!Catalogi (vorm)
Verwante term: !088141659!Bibliografies (vorm)
Extra ingang: Aanwinstenlijsten (vorm)

---

88 [http://archive.ifla.org/IV/ifla64/034-99e.htm](http://archive.ifla.org/IV/ifla64/034-99e.htm)
Język Hasel Przedmiotowych Biblioteki Narodowej (JHP BN) — National Library of Poland Subject Headings

JHP BN is an indexing language developed and maintained by the National Library of Poland, used in the Polish current bibliography, the NL catalogues, in the OPACs of the majority of Polish public and educational libraries and also in many other libraries (research, academic, school libraries), it is also used as a tool in numerous bibliographic databases available online such as regional bibliographies and indexes of periodicals. JHP BN is a poly-hierarchical system based on main headings and subdivisions organized in the network of semantic relationships among terms (hierarchical and associative references). The vocabulary covers all subject areas, and the pre-coordinated indexing enables the indexer to express complex subjects. Currently it contains over 123 000 terms (including ca 40 000 topics, 25 000 geographical names and 1500 topic and formal subdivisions).

89 http://www.ifla2009satelliteflorence.it/meeting2/program/assets/Klenczon.pdf
Nuovo Soggettario

The Nuovo soggettario is an Italian indexing language, consisting of a set of rules and a controlled vocabulary in the form of a general thesaurus.\textsuperscript{90} It represents a system to be applied in both pre-coordinated and post-coordinated forms and currently consists of about 60,000 terms. The system of the new Soggettario is organized in four parts: rules, vocabulary, syntax-pragmatics, and archive of subject strings.

The function Notizie bibliografiche shows the linked records, like the following, showing a typical application of syntactic relations, permitting to build one coextensive string for a complex subject, “1. Vita cristiana – Abbandono [da parte dei] Giovani”:

![Figure 45 Example of the Nuovo soggetto headings (and also full DDC notations) at the Italian NL’s catalogue](image)

The Dewey Decimal Classification is an important component of the Nuovo soggettario as the classification is able to represent a bridge towards indexing systems in other languages. Linking DDC numbers to the completely structured terms of the Italian Nuovo Soggettario makes the maximum integration and interoperability between the two distinct indexing systems possible.91

Répertoire d’autorité-matière encyclopédique et alphabétique unifié (RAMEAU) and Bibliographie nationale française en ligne – the French National Bibliography

When creating subject access points in the French national bibliography as well as in catalogues of the Bibliothèque national de France the authoritative system, RAMEAU, is applied.92

This subject heading list is, since its beginnings, largely inspired by the Laval RVM, from which it originates, and secondarily from LCSH. The RAMEAU language now holds 256 000 terms of which 88 000 are common names and 46 000 geographical names. The systematic part of indexing manual of RAMEAU is arranged by DDC hierarchies.

91 [http://eprints.rclis.org/handle/10760/10077]
92 [http://rameau.bnf.fr/]

69
Schlagwortnormdatei (SWD) – German Subject Headings Authority File

„The German subject headings authority file, SWD, provides a terminologically controlled vocabulary, covering all fields of knowledge. The subject headings are determined by the German Rules for the Subject Catalogue. The authority file is produced and updated daily by participating libraries from around Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Over the last twenty years, it grew to an online-accessible database with about 550 000 headings. They are linked to other thesauri, also to French and English equivalents and with notations of the Dewey Decimal Classification. Thus, it allows multilingual access and searching in dispersed, heterogeneously indexed catalogues. The vocabulary is not only used for cataloguing library materials, but also web-resources and objects in archives and museums.”

93 http://www.d-nb.de/eng/standardisierung/normdateien/swd.htm
94 http://www.ifla2009satelliteflorence.it/meeting2/program/assets/Jahns.pdf
Figure 47 Example of an SWD authority record

2010, A16

000 Allgemeines, Wissenschaft

004 Informatik

505 Stichwörter

Buchtitel: "Terrorismus - Kriminalität - Terrorismus - Kriminalität"

004 A16

Buchtitel: "Terrorismus - Kriminalität - Terrorismus - Kriminalität"

Figure 48 Example of subject data presented at the German National Bibliography in PDF format
Yleinen Suomalainen Asiasanasto (YSA) and FENNICA — The Finnish General Thesaurus and the National bibliography of Finland

The National Library of Finland is responsible for the development and updating of two universal Finnish thesauri: Yleinen suomalainen asiasanasto (YSA= Finnish General Thesaurus), Allmän tesaurus på svenska (Allärs = Swedish translation of the Finnish General Thesaurus), and two specialized thesauri Musiikin asiasanasto (MUSA = Finnish Music Thesaurus) and Specialitesaurus för musik (CILLA= Swedish translation of the Finnish Music Thesaurus). An online version called VESA includes all the above-mentioned thesauri. It is freely available on the Internet.95

95 http://vesa.lib.helsinki.fi/ysa/index.html
7.2 National examples of indexing level policies

As demonstrated in chapter 5, the level of indexing to be applied is determined by a combination of factors such as the extent of national content, the type or nature of the resource, and the NBA's collection development and selection criteria priorities. The number of levels of descriptive and subject cataloguing differ, it varies from 3 to 4 depending on the principles mentioned above.

Here a few examples are given.

AUSTRALIA

Three levels of cataloguing — high, medium, and brief — are used in the Australian NB. The levels determine the amount of detail and description provided in the catalogue record.96

High level cataloguing — full descriptive data and all descriptive and subject access points and notes identifying the item and covering all the characteristics useful for discovery. LCSH terms are assigned (generally two or three, maximum six); full classification numbers and data in coded form are usually included.

High level cataloguing is provided for most Australian publications, original materials and Asian vernacular resources.

Medium level cataloguing — records contain one or two subject headings, limited notes and coded data; classification numbers are usually included.

Medium level cataloguing is provided for Australian resources that require fewer access points for discovery purposes like novels and recreational publications and overseas materials (except Asian vernacular materials).

Brief level cataloguing — only brief description and one or two access points such as ISBN and author name; no subject headings are assigned, a shortened classification number may be included (for call number purposes).

CANADA

Four levels of cataloguing have been used in Canadiana since 1996 — full, core, minimal, and abbreviated.97 The levels of cataloguing treatment apply to all formats of material (print, audiovisual, electronic, etc.). There is also an additional access level for digital resources98. Furthermore, a priority system is used to determine the order in which incoming resources are processed respectively catalogued. The Canadian system corresponds partially to the system suggested by the Bibliography Guidelines which established four levels — authoritative, comprehensive, enhanced, and basic.

Full Level Cataloguing — all applicable subject and descriptive access points are assigned, all notes, as appropriate for the item; all classification numbers in DDC (full) and LCC are assigned; standardized subject headings (LCSH, CSH, RVM); authority records are created for headings.

Full level treatment is given to all publications for LAC’s Reference, Staff Resource Centre, Canadian Genealogy Centre collections, current children's books, aboriginal and multicultural publications, resources of special heritage value in the areas of Canadian music, literature, and history.

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97 http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/cataloguing-standards/040006-2201-e.html
98 http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/cataloguing-standards/040006-2201_04-e.html/g
IFLA CLASS Guidelines for Subject Access in National Bibliographies
Draft
2011, May

Core Level Cataloguing — LCSH headings are generally limited to a maximum of two; DDC and LCC numbers are assigned; authority records are created for headings. Core level cataloguing is provided for most current music recordings and federal government publications.

Minimal Level Cataloguing — no subject headings are assigned; generally abridged DDC numbers are assigned only for materials listed in Canadiana; LC numbers are assigned (with exceptions); authority records are created for headings (exception: non-Canadiana or pre-Legal Deposit Canadiana material). Minimal level treatment is provided for provincial government publications, foreign music recordings, rare book collections, conference proceedings, research reports, and educational materials.

Abbreviated Level Cataloguing — no subject headings are assigned; LC numbers are assigned only if needed for shelving purposes; no DDC numbers are assigned; no authority records are created. This cataloguing level is given to older publications of all types, pamphlets, municipal government publications, foreign and international official publications, non-music sound recordings, mass market genre fiction, newsletters, and publications of interest to a limited audience.

CZECH REPUBLIC
In order to ensure the consistent and current access to all NL collections, the Czech NL defines three basic levels of subject cataloguing treatment: enhanced (with sub-groups full and core), minimal, and sub-minimal.99

Enhanced / Full level cataloguing — all applicable authoritative subject and genre/form access points are assigned: CZENAS topical and geographical terms generally three or four, maximum ten (very complex themes or documents); CZENAS genres/form terms – maximum three or four (providing access in fiction); UDC/MRF class marks – equivalents of verbal terms; Conspectus Categories - one or two (possibility to assign two is defined in the instruction); Coded information – standards GAG and chronological codes; English equivalents to verbal subject terms. Full level cataloguing is provided for printed books (since 1995) and selected online resources.

Enhanced / Core level cataloguing — main authoritative subject and genre/form access points are assigned: CZENAS topical and geographical terms (maximum three); Czenas genres/form terms (one or two); UDC/MRF or UDC top level class marks (one to three) or Conspectus Category (one). The material for core level cataloguing includes printed music, cartographic documents, graphics, electronic and audio resources.

Minimal level
One controlled access point is assigned: UDC/MRF or UDC top level or Conspectus category; possibly free key words or uncontrolled subject headings strings. Minimal level cataloguing is given to most documents issued between 1945 and 1995.

Sub-minimal level
No controlled subject access is provided: possibly free keywords or uncontrolled subject headings strings or no subject access at all. Sub-minimal level cataloguing is provided for most traditional documents issued till 1945.

7.3 National examples of published indexing policies

Best practice of subject access is a method and process that depends on particular conditions of an individual NBA in subject analysis area that may have to be modified or adapted for similar circumstances in other information institutions. Therefore, a well-designed, transparent, and publicly accessible indexing policy is very important because it supports the main goals/purposes of indexing and classification: to ensure a standard, consistent, easier, and more precise access to the intellectual content of documents (see chapter 6).

Below some URLs are given where there are national examples of published indexing policies:

**Denmark**
http://www.dbc.dk/om_dbc/nationale_opgaver/nationalbibliografi_old/nationalbibliografi-mappe/regler_standarder

**France**

**Switzerland**

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100 A comprehensive list of registered national bibliographies can be found at http://www.ifla.org/en/node/2216
8. List of recommendations

Subject access standards and tools (see chapter 3)

1. The NBA should play a leading role in the responsibility to develop, maintain and promote subject indexing rules and standards at the national level.
2. Consider international cooperation in choosing a national indexing tool. Adhere to international standards and share/use existing tools wherever possible.
3. Use controlled indexing, with both verbal indexing and classification.
4. Provide verbal access to materials listed in the NB in the language(s) and script(s) of the country.
5. Make controlled as well as uncontrolled indexing available to the users.
6. Use a universal verbal indexing scheme, covering all subjects and fields of knowledge.
7. Use an international classification scheme.
8. Provide content enriched data as a supplement to other subject access tools.

Functionality and interface of national bibliographies (see chapter 4)

9. Arrange NB records by subjects, using either broad categories or classification top hierarchies.
10. Display headings and classification numbers in the bibliographic records.
11. Provide full and user-friendly subject search functionalities.

Application scenarios (indexing/access levels) (see chapter 5)

12. Decide on different levels of subject cataloguing for different kinds of publications, based on the significance of the resource. Define and publish pragmatic selection criteria.
13. Use two levels for subject indexing:
   - A full level, providing indexing with enhanced access by authoritative subject terms, as well as classification notations;
   - A minimal level, providing for most of the resources at least one controlled verbal access point and/or classification notations, if necessary shortened.

Indexing policies of National Bibliographic Agencies (see chapter 6)

14. Keep the indexing policy clear and easily understandable to all user groups.
15. Publish the policies for internal and external use. Publish the latter on the web, in the vernacular language(s) and in English.
16. Indicate what subject access tools are used.
17. Indicate what kinds of resources are indexed.
18. Indicate the levels and exhaustivity of indexing.
19. Try to keep the indexing policy consistent over time to ensure uniform access to resources.
20. Update the indexing policy every time any changes are introduced and show clearly the period each policy covers.
Glossary

Aboutness
The relation between a work and its subject matter. Aboutness is a concept that is central to the field of knowledge organization, and many authors have made significant contributions to the understanding of the nature of work--subject relations. [FRSAD]

Abstract
A brief summary of the content of a resource (book, article, speech, report, dissertation etc.). An abbreviated, accurate representation of the content of a work without added interpretation and criticism. [ANSI/NISO Z39.29-2005]

Access point
A name, term, code etc., through which bibliographic or authority data is searched and identified. [FRAD, ICP]
See also Controlled access point

Authority control
Means used to insure consistency in representing a value — a name of a person, a place name, or a term or code representing a subject, used as access points in information retrieval. Authority control is achieved manually or semi-automatically by means of an authority file. [FRSAD]

A set of rules or procedures that assist in the maintenance of consistent forms of names or terms within a database. [DCMI Glossary]

Authority file
A collection of authority records.
The file contains data about access points – names, titles, or subject terms – that have been authorised for use in bibliographic records. [FRSAD]

Authority record
A set of data elements that identifies an entity and can be used to facilitate access to the authorized access point for that entity or the display of any access point for the entity [ICP]

A record that registers the preferred form of a personal or corporate name, geographic region or subject term. It may indicate variant forms of the established heading; biographical or cultural information associated with the heading, as well as related headings. [DCMI Glossary]

Authorized access point
The preferred controlled access point for an entity, established and constructed according to rules or standards [ICP]

Automatic indexing
A method of indexing in which an algorithm is applied by a computer to the title and/or text of a work to identify and extract words and phrases representing subjects, for use as headings under which entries are made in the index. [ODLIS101]

101 http://lu.com/odlis/search.cfm
Bibliographic control
The identification and location of items of recorded information described and listed in an orderly arrangement. The aim is to provide access to the bibliographic universe.

Bibliographic description
A set of bibliographic data identifying a bibliographic resource. [ICP]

Bibliographic record
A set of data elements that describes and provides access to a bibliographic resource and identifies related works and expressions. [ICP]

Bibliographic resource
An entity within the realm of library and similar collections consisting of the products of intellectual or artistic endeavour. Bibliographic resources in the FRBR model are the Group 1 entities: work, expression, manifestation, and items. [ICP]

Classification
Grouping together of similar or related things and the separation of dissimilar and unrelated things and the arrangement of the resulting groups in a logical and helpful sequence. [BS 8723-1:2005]
The act of arranging/distributing things into classes, groups or categories of the same type, here using library classification schemes.

Classification scheme
A method of organization according to a set of pre-established principles, usually characterized by a notation system and a hierarchical structure of relationships among the entities. [ANSI/NISO Z39.19-2005]
A logical scheme for the arrangement of knowledge, usually by subject. Classification schemes are alpha and/or numeric. [DCMI Glossary]

Collection
1. A real or virtual set of two or more works or parts of works combined or issued together. 2. A real or virtual set of bibliographic resources held or created by a given institution [ICP]

Concept
A unit of thought, formed by mentally combining some or all of the characteristics of a concrete or abstract, real or imaginary object. Concepts exist in the mind as abstract entities independent of terms used to express them. [ANSI/NISO Z39.19-2005]
An abstract notion or idea, encompassing a comprehensive range of abstractions that may be the subject of a work: fields of knowledge, disciplines, schools of thought, theories, processes, techniques, practices, etc. [FRBR, FRAD, ICP]

Content analysis see
**Subject analysis**

**Content enriched (meta)data** see **Enriched cataloguing**

**Controlled access point** An *access point* recorded in an *authority record*. Controlled access points include authorized forms of names as well as those designated as variant forms. [ICP]

**Controlled vocabulary** A prescribed set of consistently used and carefully defined *terms*. [DCMI Glossary] In *subject analysis* and retrieval, the use of an authorized subset of the language as indexing *terms*, e.g., *thesauri, subject headings lists, classification schemes*, and other subject authority systems. Such systems have been referred to as “controlled vocabularies”, “structured vocabularies”, “concept schemes”, “encoding schemes”, and “knowledge organization systems” interchangeably depending on their function and structure, as well as according to the communities that use them. [FRSAD]

**Copy Cataloguing** The process of adapting an existing catalogue record prepared by another library or agency.

**DDC** *Dewey Decimal Classification*  
*see chapter 3.5.1 for detailed information*  
*see chapter 7.1.1.1 for national application examples*

**Descriptive cataloguing** The part of the cataloguing that provides both descriptive data and non-subject *access points* [ICP]

**Descriptor** A *term* chosen as the preferred representation for a *concept* or feature in an index [ANSI/NISO Z39.14-1997]. Equivalent of “*preferred term*” [ANSI/NISO Z39.19-2005] In *indexing*, a word, group of words, phrase, or symbol used to designate the *subject of a work*. Descriptors are used to group together *resources* about the same *subject* under one standard heading. They consist of controlled vocabulary.  
See also *Keyword, Preferred term*.

**Disambiguation** Disambiguation is the clarification that follows from the removal of ambiguity. Word sense disambiguation is associated with homonyms and polysemy. Such disambiguation is a normal procedure in controlled vocabularies. [Hjørland 102]

**Enriched cataloguing** The enhancement of online library catalogue records with tables of contents, sample text, indexes, reviews, cover images, etc.

**Entity** A class of key objects of interest to users of information, defined at as high level as possible, and adopted to develop the conceptual models of bibliographic data FRBR, FRAD,

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102 [http://www.iva.dk/bh/lifeboat_ko/List%20of%20concepts.htm](http://www.iva.dk/bh/lifeboat_ko/List%20of%20concepts.htm)
Exhaustivity see Exhaustivity

Indexing exhaustivity

FRBR

Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records
A conceptual entity-relationship model developed by IFLA that relates user tasks of retrieval and access in online library catalogues and bibliographic databases from a user’s perspective.

Free text searching

The use of natural language in information retrieval (rather than terms selected from a list of controlled vocabulary such as an authorized subject heading lists or descriptors).
See also Controlled vocabulary, Full-text searching, Keyword

FRSAD

Functional Requirements for Subject Authority Data
A conceptual model developed by IFLA; the third part of the FRBR family models, focusing on the “has a subject”-relationship, i.e. the aboutness of work.

Full-text

An electronic resource (e.g. the bibliographic database) that provides the entire text of a single document (in addition to the bibliographic description).

Full-text retrieval see Full-text searching

Full-text searching

Methods for searching textual resources where the entire text is matched against a query.

Genre

A type, mood, or style of literature, music, film, art etc., a form (novel, short story, poetry, drama, etc.) or theme (adventure, fantasy, horror, mystery, romance, science fiction, western, etc.) of literary works.

Granularity

The level of detail at which an information object or resource is viewed or described. [DCMI Glossary]

Heading see Subject heading

ICBNS

International Conference on National Bibliographic Services

ICP

Statement of International Cataloguing Principles
International agreement on a set of principles underlying the cataloguing practices for the digital age, providing basic rules, intended to guide a standardized development of cataloguing codes. The principles can be applied to bibliographies and other data files created by libraries, archives, museums, and other communities.
www.ifla.org/VII/s13/icc/#imeicc
Indexing see
Subject indexing

Indexing exhaustivity
Defined as the number of different topics indexed.
See also Indexing specificity

Indexing language
A controlled vocabulary or classification system and the rules for its application. An indexing language is used for the representation of concepts dealt with in documents and for the retrieval of such documents from and information retrieval and storage system. [ISO 5127/1]
An indexing language is an artificial language used for subject classification / indexing of documents. Mostly divided into classification systems and verbal indexing languages.

Indexing policy
A plan of action chosen by a bibliographic agency in subject indexing; it determines which indexing tools are adopted and which documents are catalogued by subjects. The principal aim of such a policy is to provide coherent research results.

Indexing specificity
The degree to which the meaning of a subject heading or descriptor or classification notation matches in breadth one of the major subjects of the document to which it is assigned. An assigned term can be specific, whether broad or narrow, as long as it closely matches a main subject of the work. [ODLIS]
 Capability of a structured vocabulary to express a subject in depth and in detail. [BS 8723-1:2005]
The indexing language specificity is the ability of the index language to describe topics precisely. Sometimes defined as the level of precision with which a document is actually indexed.[Hjørland]

Indexing tools see
Subject access tools

Information retrieval see
Information storage and retrieval
Information storage and retrieval
A set of operations and the associated equipment, software, and documentation by which content objects are indexed and the data are stored, so that selected content objects can be retrieved in response to requests employing commands that can be handled by the system. [ANSI/NISO Z39.19-2005]

ISBD
International Standard Bibliographic Description
Specifies the requirements for the description and identification of the resource, assigns an order to the elements of the description, and specifies a system of punctuation for the description
www.ifla.org/VII/s13/pubs/cat-isbd.htm

Keyword
A word occurring in the natural language of a document that is considered significant for indexing and retrieval.
Keywords are natural language, meaning there is no one standard way to express the subject. See also Descriptor, Subject heading.

Knowledge organization

Knowledge organization (KO) or organization of knowledge, organization of information or information organization, designates a field of study related to Library and Information Science (LIS). In this meaning KO is about activities such as document description, indexing and classification performed in libraries, databases, archives etc. [Wikipedia]

Knowledge organization system

Thesauri, subject headings lists, classification schemes, and other subject authority systems. Such systems have been referred to as "controlled vocabularies", "structured vocabularies", "concept schemes", "encoding schemes", and "knowledge organization systems" interchangeably depending on their function and structure as well as according to the communities that use them. [FRSAD]

KO see Knowledge organization

KOS see Knowledge organization system

LCC

Library of Congress Classification
See chapter 3.5.3 for detailed information
See chapter 7.1.1.3 for national application examples

LCSH

Library of Congress Subject Headings
See chapter 3.4.1 for more information
See chapter 7.1.2.1 for national examples

MeSH

Medical Subject Headings
A comprehensive controlled vocabulary for the purpose of indexing journal articles and books in the life sciences; it can also serve as a thesaurus that facilitates searching. It is created and updated by the United States National Library of Medicine (NLM). MeSH can be browsed and downloaded free of charge on the Internet: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/. Originally in English, MeSH has been translated into numerous other languages and allows retrieval of documents from different languages.

Meta-Thesaurus

An arranged list of the specialized vocabulary of an academic discipline or group of related disciplines, indicating the semantic relations between terms, designed to integrate a number of separate controlled vocabularies (thesauri) developed independently to facilitate information retrieval. A prime example is the UMLS Metathesaurus under development by the National Library of Medicine (NLM) as part of its Unified Medical Language System to integrate into
IFLA CLASS Guidelines for Subject Access in National Bibliographies
Draft
2011, May

a single system the terminology of the biomedical sciences.[ODLIS]

**Natural language**
A human language in which the structure and rules have evolved from usage, usually over an extended period of time, as opposed to an artificial language based on rules prescribed prior to its development and use, as in a computer language. In search software designed to handle input expressed in natural language, the user may enter the query in the same form in which it would be spoken or written (“Where can I find information about Frederick Douglass?” as opposed to the search statement “Frederick Douglass”).[ODLIS]

A language used by human beings for verbal communication. Words extracted from natural language texts for *indexing* purposes without *vocabulary control* are often called *keywords*. [ANSI/NISO Z39.19-2005]

See also Controlled vocabulary, Keyword

**Non-preferred term**
The entry term in a cross-reference that leads to a *preferred term* in a *controlled vocabulary*. Synonymous with non-preferred term.

See also Preferred term

**Notation**
Numerals, letters, and/or other symbols used to represent the main and subordinate divisions of a *classification scheme*.

Set of symbols representing *concepts* or *relations*. [BS 8723-1:2005]

**Ontology**
A hierarchical structure that formally defines the *semantic relationship* of a set of concepts. Used to create *structured / controlled vocabularies* for the discovery or exchange of information. A *thesaurus* is an example. [DCMI Glossary]

**Post-coordination**
System of *indexing* in which the *subject* of a document is analysed into its constituent *concepts* by an indexer but the *preferred terms* so allocated are not combined until they are selected by a user at the search stage. [BS 8723-1:2005]
The combining of *terms* at the searching stage rather than at the *subject heading list* construction stage or *indexing* stage. [ANSI/NISO Z39.19-2005]
Combination of individual *terms* into compound or complex *subjects* at the point of *retrieval*.

See also Pre-coordination.

**Post-coordinated indexing see Post-coordination**

**Precision**
In *information retrieval*, a measure of search effectiveness, expressed as the ratio of relevant records or documents retrieved from a database to the total number retrieved in response to the query; Synonymous with relevance ratio [ODLIS].

See also Pre-coordination, Recall

**Pre-coordination**
System of *indexing* in which the *preferred terms* allocated to a particular document are syntactically combined in one or
more sequences representing the only combinations available for retrieval purposes. [BS 8723-1:2005]

The formulation of a multiword heading or the linking of a heading and subheadings to create a formally controlled, multi-element expression of a concept or object. Pre-coordination is often used to ensure logical sorting of related expressions. [ANSI/NISO Z39.19-2005]

Combination of individual concepts into compound or complex subjects at the point of subject indexing. See also Post-coordination.

**Pre-coordinated indexing see Pre-coordination**

**Preferred term**

Term used to represent a concept [BS 8723-1:2005]

One of two or more synonyms or lexical variants selected as a term for inclusion in a controlled vocabulary. [ANSI/NISO Z39.19-2005] Also known as descriptor.

The name for an entity chosen according to rules or standards, used as the basis for constructing an authorized access point for the entity. [ICP]

See also Descriptor, Non-preferred term

**Query**

A request submitted as input in a search of an online catalogue or bibliographic database to retrieve records or resources relevant to the user's information needs. Some information storage and retrieval systems allow queries to be submitted in natural language, but most systems require the user to formulate search statements in the artificial language used for indexing and in syntax acceptable to the search software. The query is an approximation of the information need that provides the impetus for the search. [ODLIS]

**Recall**

A measure of a search system's ability to retrieve all relevant content objects. Usually expressed as a percentage calculated by dividing the number of retrieved relevant content objects by the number of all relevant content objects in a collection. [ANSI/NISO Z39.19-2005]

In Information Retrieval a measure of search completeness. A perfect recall means that all relevant documents were retrieved by the search.

See also Precision.

**Related term**

A term or a descriptor that is closely semantically related to a given term. In thesauri related terms are often coded RT and used for other kinds of semantic relations than synonymy (USE; UF), homonymy (separated by parenthetical qualifier), generic relations and partitive relations (BT; NT). Related terms may, for example express antagonistic relations, active/passive relations, causal relations, locative relations, paradigmatic relations. [Hjørland]

**Relationship**

A specific connection between entities or their instances [FRBR, ICP]
Resource

Any physical or virtual entity that provides information
See also Work

Retrieval see
Information storage and retrieval

Semantic relations
Relations between concepts or meanings (not between terms). In information retrieval the basic functions for semantic relations may be conceived as contributing to the increase of recall and precision. [Hjørland]

Semantic web
A term coined by Tim Berners-Lee that views the future Web as a web of data, like a global database. The infrastructure of the Semantic Web would allow machines as well as humans to make deductions and organize information. The architectural components include semantics (meaning of the elements), structure (organization of the elements), and syntax (communication).
http://www.w3.org/DesignIssues/Semantic.html [DCMI Glossary]

Social tagging
User generated tags to annotate and categorize content of works.

Specificity see Indexing specificity

Subject
The theme or topic of a work
See also Aboutness; Subject analysis.

Subject access
A way enabling people to identify, locate, and use the information that will meet their educational, occupational, and personal needs.

Subject access tools
Systems and vocabularies representing and/or signifying the themes or topics treated in resources. In general classificatory and verbal tools are distinguished. Designed to help users to find their ways about the mass of published information.
See also Classification schemes, Verbal indexing

Subject analysis
The process of identifying the intellectual content of a work. The results may be displayed in a catalogue or bibliography by means of notations or as subject headings.

Subject authority control
The activity of ensuring consistency of terms or codes representing a subject, used as subject access points in information retrieval. Ensuring that all publications about a subject can be retrieved by and displayed under the same subject heading [FRSAD]

Subject authority data
Information about subjects from authority files.
Data in a subject authority system are connected through semantic relationships, which may be expressed in subject
authority records or generated according to specific needs (e.g., presenting the broader and narrower concepts). [FRSAD]

**Subject authority file**
A collection of *subject authority records*.

**Subject authority record**
An *authority record* for a *concept* that shows its *preferred term* in the established form within a given *indexing language*, its alternative forms and *non-preferred terms*, its *semantic relations* with other concepts, and the correspondence with the preferred terms for the same concept by other indexing languages, and cites the authorities consulted in determining the preferred term.

**Subject cataloguing**
The part of cataloguing that provides controlled subject *terms* and/or classification numbers [ICP]
See also indexing

**Subject Classification scheme** see Classification scheme

**Subject domain**
A branch of knowledge, a field of study, a discipline.

**Subject heading**
A word, group of words, or phrase used to identify the *subject* of a *work*. Subject headings are used to group together *resources* about the same *subject* under one standard heading. They are *controlled vocabularies*.

**Subject heading lists**
A standardized, established list of *subject headings*.

**Subject index**
An alphabetically arranged list of *subject headings* selected by an indexer to represent the content of a *work*. Often separated from name indexes of persons and places.

**Subject indexing**
Representation of the subject of a *resource* (or of a part of a resource or an "information object") in a record or in an index for the purpose of retrieval. Often a distinction is made between descriptive cataloging on the one hand and subject indexing on the other hand. "Descriptive" indexing emphasizes physical properties, originator, title, publisher, time and place of publication etc., whereas subject indexing emphasizes the identification of the "subject" of the document. Different parts of the document may be used by the indexer, e.g. the title, the references or the *full-text*. It is widely recognized that quality indexing depends on review. Different techniques may be used, e.g., human intellectual analysis or computer based statistical analyses of word frequencies. The subject indexing process consists of *subject analysis* followed by a "translation" of the *subjects* to the special system applied. [Hjørland]

Subject indexing is the process of evaluating information *entities* and creating *terms* that aid in finding and accessing the *resource*. Index terms may be in *natural language* or *controlled vocabulary* or a *classification notation*. [DCMI Glossary]

Sometimes indexing is used in a narrower sense for *verbal*
Subject indexing policy
see Indexing policy

Subject searching
Searching for the aboutness of a work, using e.g., subject headings or classification notations.

Synonymy
A kind of a semantic relation, whereby a word or phrase has the same (or very nearly the same) or equivalent meaning as another term. In indexing languages, synonyms are controlled by establishing an authorized list of preferred indexing terms to which the synonyms are considered equivalent.

Table of contents (TOC)
List of the chapters or article titles in a book or journal, usually found at the beginning of a resource.

Tagging see Social tagging

Term
A word or phrase used in a definite or precise sense to provide access to a record.

Terminology
Words, phrases, and symbols representing the concepts and subjects used in a specific field of research, study, or activity, for which the meaning (established by convention or explicit agreement among its practitioners) is clearly defined, sometimes in a published glossary or lexicon. Synonymous with nomenclature. [ODLIS]

Thesaurus
Controlled vocabulary in which concepts are represented by preferred terms, formally organized so that paradigmatic relationships between the concepts are made explicit and the preferred terms are accompanied by lead-in entries for synonyms and quasi-synonyms. [BS 8723-1:2005]
A controlled vocabulary arranged in a known order and structured so that the various relationships among terms are displayed clearly and identified by standardized relationship indicators. Relationship indicators should be employed reciprocally. [ANSI/NISO Z39.19-2005]
Guide to use of terms, showing semantic relationships between them, for the purpose of providing a standardized, controlled vocabulary for information storage and retrieval.

Top classification hierarchies
The highest levels / main classes / major subdivisions of a classification scheme.

Topical heading
A subject heading that represents a concept or object or an aspect of a main subject other than form, geographic place or time period.

UDC
Universal Decimal Classification
See chapter 3.5.2 for detailed information
See chapter 7.1.1.2 for national examples

Uncontrolled access
An access point that is not controlled by an authority record.
points  [ICP]

**Unicode**
A universal encoding scheme designed to allow interchange, processing, and display of the world’s principal languages, as well as many historic and archaic scripts. Unicode supports and fosters a multilingual computing world community by allowing computers using one language to “talk” to computers using a different language. A registered trademark of Unicode, Inc. [DCMI Glossary]

**Variant term**
The entry *term* in a cross-reference that leads to a *preferred term* in a *controlled vocabulary*. Synonymous with non-preferred term.

*See also* Preferred term

**Verbal indexing**
*Indexing with subject heading* languages or with a language using verbal *decriptors*.

*See also subject headings*

**Web resources**
Digital publications; Online publications such as e-books, e-journals, web sites, also digitized documents

**Work**
An intellectual or artistic creation. [FRBR, FRAD modified by ICP]
Bibliography


Additional Resources Cited


Working Group on Guidelines for Subject Authority Files of the Section on Classification and Indexing of the IFLA Division of Bibliographic Control: Guidelines for subject authority and reference entries. München: Saur 1993


Annex 1

Working Group history

2003
The IFLA Working Group on Guidelines for subject retrieval standards in national bibliographies was initiated at IFLA WLIC in Berlin, chaired by Martin Kunz. Others members were Julienne Beall, Anders Cato, Patrice Landry, Dorothy McGarry, and Maja Žumer.

2004
Martin Kunz gave a WG report to IFLA’s Classification & Indexing Section Standing Committee. The Working Group was entitled Working Group on Best Practice Guide. The group wanted to explore the minimal standards for subject access in national libraries. They looked at selection criteria of documents to give subject access. They stated that some of these guidelines are already defined in ISO standards, but not all.

The Standing Committee agreed that the Working Group reached maturity and after a meeting at IFLA WLIC in Buenos Aires it was called the Working Group on Guidelines for Minimal Requirements for Subject Access by National Bibliographic Agencies. Martin Kunz and Patrice Landry reported on the group that now had 8 members and was looking for more. They set 3 tasks to be completed by June 2005: redraft the scope and draft terms of reference for their group create a survey form by early 2005, and define the methodology to collect and analyze data. In this way, the first year was experimental and built on the Copenhagen meeting on national bibliographies and Barbara Bell’s work. They also wanted to perform a test in the group. Pia Leth suggested adding a member from the Bibliography Section. Lois Chan noted that Magda Heiner-Freiling also did a report and survey on the topic. Dorothy McGarry reviewed the scope and up to November 2004 the group was working well.

2005
There were some problems with the shared responsibilities. Having a dual chair did not work well, so a re-launch of the group was proposed, also to acquire new members plus some from the outgoing Standing Committee to create a new commitment in this Working Group. After Martin’s retirement from the section, the WG was re-launched and the agenda re-established.

There was a meeting during the IFLA WLIC in Oslo, where new members were encouraged to participate. The objective was to promote the use of subject indexing and classification in national bibliographies and to include subject access in national bibliographies. Twelve members expressed interest during the WLIC and reviewed the terms of reference in the following months. The “minimal requirements” was dropped and the WG was re-named Guidelines for Subject Access by National Bibliographic Agencies, to clarify that the aim was not just minimal subject access. An action plan for the next 2 years was proposed. During October-November 2005 the group gathered NBA indexing policies to determine if a survey is needed. A mailing-list was set up. Colleagues sent their classification, subject headings, and thesauri policies or summaries in English or French. The WG goal was to offer the guidelines also for those colleagues building new subject languages. It was not the intention to develop an IFLA policy, but instead to show the variety of policies and practices among national libraries.

2006
The goal of the Guidelines was declared as to provide access to different stakeholders of national bibliographies. The group agreed to focus on subject indexing policies of national
libraries and the collected six national policies (Switzerland, France, Germany, Canada, USA, and United Kingdom). Despite the fact that these were all examples from western countries, the WG stated that they were very different and did not work as a model. The framework of guidelines was further discussed during a meeting at WLIC in Seoul.

2007
Patrice Landry hoped to obtain more policies from various National Bibliographic Agencies from which the WG could extract common elements. In February he met with Françoise Bourdon in Paris who developed a list of elements. They put the information into a paper that was presented by both of them at the National Libraries and C&I session during IFLA WLIC in Durban. It was further discussed by the group during a WG meeting in Durban.

2008
Patrice Landry apologized for not having been able to work very much as the chair of this WG because of his many commitments at work as well as Chair of the IFLA Division of Bibliographic Control, but he continued chairing the WG. All the members of the WG confirmed they were still interested in the work.

2009
The WG was not able to work very much due to the work load of everybody until summer. Since WG members still thought that the work should go on, especially in the context of the Guidelines on digital bibliographies, all agreed that the WG had to be renewed and that a chair was needed. Barbara Tillett and Maja Žumer stressed the need of subject access in national bibliographies, as stated also by the international Cataloguing Principles. Françoise Bourdon proposed a WG in cooperation with the Cataloguing and Bibliography Sections and Maja suggested including members coming from the WG on National Bibliographies in the Digital Age. Yvonne Jahns accepted to chair the WG. A meeting took place at WLIC in Milan. The group built now strongly on the work already done, i.e., the paper written by Françoise Bourdon and Patrice Landry and the guidelines published by the Bibliography Section. A Wiki was set up to work on the Guidelines draft efficiently.
A mid-year WG meeting was arranged in December 2009 in Germany, funded by IFLA HQ (3000 EUR). There members agreed on the main outline of the Guidelines. The aim was to prepare the Guidelines for world-wide review and publication by Saur in 2011.

2010
Members worked on the different chapters of the Guidelines and created a supplement to the National Bibliographies in the Digital Age.
A meeting was arranged during WLIC in Gothenburg.

2011
A mid-year WG meeting was arranged in March 2011 in Germany, funded by IFLA. The recommendations were finalized. The Guidelines draft was available for world-wide review from May to July 2011. Comments were received from ...
Annex 2

Members of the IFLA Working Group on Guidelines for Subject Access by National Bibliographic Agencies

The following members contributed partially or continuously to the Working Group:

Marie Balíková  Národní knihovna České republiky, Czech Republic
Julianne Beall  Library of Congress, USA
Françoise Bourdon  Bibliothèque nationale de France, France
Pino (Giuseppe) Buizza  Biblioteca Queriniana, Brescia, Italy
Leda Bultrini  ARPA Lazio, Rome, Italy
Anders Cato  Kungliga biblioteket – Severiges nationalbiblioteket, Sweden
Charlene H. Chou  Columbia University, New York, USA
Jonathan Furner  Graduate School of Education and Information Studies, University of California, Los Angeles, USA
Yvonne Jahns (Chair 2009—2012)  Deutsche Nationalbibliothek, Germany
Ulrike Junger  Deutsche Nationalbibliothek, Germany
Martin Kunz (Co-Chair 2003—2005)  Deutsche Nationalbibliothek, Germany
Patrice Landry (Chair 2003—2009)  Schweizerische Nationalbibliothek, Switzerland
Dorothy McGarry  University of California, Los Angeles, USA
Sirje Nilbe  Eesti Rahvusraamatukogu, Estonia
Eunice Maria Silva Pinto  Biblioteca de Arte, Lisboa, Portugal
Ingebjorg Rype  Nasjonalbiblioteket, Norway
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Ekaterina Zaytseva  Государственная публичная научно-техническая библиотека России, Russia
Marcia Zeng  School of Library and Information Science, Kent State University, USA
Maja Žumer  Univerza v Ljubljani, Slovenia