Newspaper Classification:
An Expansion of the Library of Congress “A” Classification to Accommodate International Newspapers

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Classifying Newspapers: an Expansion of the Library of Congress AN Schedule

Why devise a classification system for newspapers at all?

It may at first seem foolish to devise a system for the classification of newspapers. Catalogers who look to the Library of Congress (LC) as a guide to practice will find only limited warrant for such a system. The AN schedule has been reserved in the Library of Congress Classification (LCC), but never developed or used. A description of LC practice may be found in the classification schedules under AN:

Domestic newspapers at the Library of Congress are arranged in checklists and on shelves as follows: [1] By state; [2] By city, town, etc.; [3] By important word in title. Eighteenth century newspapers are arranged by first word of title (excluding the initial article of the title); [4] By date

Foreign newspapers at the Library of Congress are arranged in checklists and on the shelves as follows: [1] By country; [2] By city, town, etc.; [3] By first word in title (excluding the initial article of the title); [4] By date

Additionally, PN4899-5650 has been reserved for the *history and description* of individual newspapers.

So if LC doesn’t bother, why should we? There are arguments against going to the trouble of classifying newspapers. It is true that Freeland and Bailey’s study (2008) indicated that use of current print newspapers has dwindled significantly. And for current, print newspapers alone, an alphabetic arrangement might well suffice for all but the largest collections. Digital archives do not require a call number for sorting and retrieval. However, digitization projects have not yet approached anything like creating access for the entire corpus of newspaper production. Partially as a result of the Tasini decision (*N.Y. Times Co. v. Tasini*, 533 U.S. 483, 505 (2001)), many digitized collections contain only some articles, omitting advertisements, freelancer-created articles and syndicated content. Furthermore, digitization projects are not yet practical in much of the developing world (Loubser, 2006), and there are doubts about the viability of digital formats for long-term preservation. As Brown and Fenton (2006, p.65) contend:

“Preservation microfilming reduces the potential of significant risk of loss inherent in both the nature of the acidic hardcopy papers and in the digital repositories which need to be systematically backed up, refreshed and/or migrated to ensure their ongoing accessibility. Microfilm then becomes an integral step in the expanding future of newspaper digitisation programs.” Until and unless these shortcomings can be overcome, microfilm collections are likely to remain important for genealogists, social historians, and others seeking primary source material.

Why this classification system: The existing situation

The need for a new classification system for microfilm newspapers arose at the University of Florida when library renovations made it desirable to collocate several separate microform collections into a single location. Newspapers in these collections were classified in Library of Congress
Classification (LCC), primarily the F schedule; Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) and a DDC-like, locally-created Florida History classification system. Some papers were shelved by title, and some reels that had scattered issues of various titles could only be used with the assistance of a curator. The collection managers of the Florida newspapers expressed a strong desire, based on observed patterns of use, for all the newspaper microfilm to be shelved in its own sequence. Library administration was strongly discouraging separate sequences of shelving within the collection, opting for a single A-Z LCC sequence. The only way we could avoid creating a separate sequence, or intershelving the newspaper film with other film in the same subject area was to create a sequence specifically for newspapers that would integrate seamlessly with the rest of the LCC materials in the collection. We decided that the best way to meet local needs was to develop the AN schedule, using a geographic hierarchical structure similar to that used in the MARC 752 field. We had initially intended this classification system primarily for the Florida newspapers, although a few regional newspapers of national interest were included. (One title, the Wall Street Journal, was not integrated into this system, as it was considered more appropriate to shelve it with other business and finance periodicals than with general newspapers.) However, the Selectors in our area studies departments wanted us to expand the system so that it covered their materials as well.

In order to expand the scheme to accommodate international papers, we adapted Table H8 from the LCC H schedule. This table arranged all regions and nations in a reasonably logical arrangement, although some areas (such as the Caribbean) were more compressed than what would be ideal, requiring decimal numbers, while in other places there were large gaps. Still, adapting an existing list was more expedient than creating a new one, and allows catalogers accustomed to LCC’s divisions of the world to find the desired country quickly. There are similar tables that could be used, but this one had a suitable degree of specificity for our needs.

For US and Canadian titles, each number has three Cutters: the first for the state or province, the second for the city or county, and the third for the title. City or county codes may be taken from the LCC G schedule, or derived according to the standard Cutter table. If the geographic area a paper serves is not immediately evident, check the 752 field of the catalog record to identify it. See the examples below.

Gainesville Sun, Gainesville, Florida
AN2 \(\Rightarrow\) designates the item as a US newspaper
.F6 \(\Rightarrow\) geographic Cutter for the state of Florida
G2 \(\Rightarrow\) geographic Cutter for the city (can be derived from LCC G schedule)
G35 \(\Rightarrow\) title Cutter

Edmonton Sun, Edmonton, Alberta
AN10 \(\Rightarrow\) designates the item as a Canadian newspaper
.A3 \(\Rightarrow\) geographic Cutter for province of Alberta
E36 \(\Rightarrow\) derived Cutter for Edmonton
E37 \(\Rightarrow\) title Cutter
The final Cutter is based on the first title cataloged (not necessarily the earliest title in the title history!), and retained for subsequent major changes in title as long as no mergers or splits were involved, in conformance with our general practice regarding serials.

Chart One: Simple Merger with Major Changes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fort Pierce news</th>
<th>St. Lucie County tribune</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1906-1920)</td>
<td>(1905-1920)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AN2.F6 F8 T72</td>
<td>AN2.F6 F8 T7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fort Pierce news-tribune</th>
<th>News tribune (Fort Pierce, Fla.)</th>
<th>Fort Pierce tribune</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AN2.F6F8 T75</td>
<td>AN2.F6F8 T75</td>
<td>AN2.F6F8 T75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A unique call number is assigned to the merged title, but retained for the subsequent titles, because there are no further mergers and splits.
When the “family tree” of a newspaper is complex, call numbers may need to be changed. Numbering of the newspaper (if any exists apart from chronology) can be useful in determining possible titles to group together.
The problem of reels with scattered issues of various titles was particularly difficult to solve. We classified these according to the state, with a final cutter of Z99, and added an additional holding record to the records for the relevant titles where possible.

AN2 ← US newspaper
.F6 ← Florida
Z99 ← Miscellaneous titles

**Refinements and options**

*Title selection*

Libraries may choose to Cutter for title according to the first major word in the title *after* the name of the city, when the name of the city is the first major word. This would avoid creating long Cutters when there are several newspapers cataloged for a given area beginning with the name of the city or locale.

*National newspapers*

For national newspapers, rather than interfiling them with local newspapers published in the same city, classify with the AN number for the country of publication, then the Cutter .A1, then the title cutter. This puts all national newspapers at the head of the sequence for their country of publication, but requires cataloger (or bibliographer) judgment about which titles should be considered “national.”

Christian Science Monitor (published in Boston, distributed nationwide)
AN2 ← US newspaper
.M4 ← Massachusetts
B67 ← Boston
C47 ← Title
Alternatively
AN2 ← US newspaper
.A1 ← Cutter to force filing first
C47 ← Title

National Post (published in Toronto, distributed nationwide)
AN10 ← Canadian newspaper
.O6 ← Ontario
T67 ← Toronto
N38 ← Title
Alternatively
AN10 ← Canadian newspaper
.A1 ← Cutter to force filing first
N38 ← Title

*Expanding the scheme*

Collections that have a focus on a specific regions or countries may wish to create additional tables for the states, provinces, or subdivisions of that country, or they may wish to exploit the gaps in the existing schedule to integrate greater specificity at the top-level classification number.
Works Cited


*Library of Congress Classification Schedules*, (A and H)

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
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<td>Dominica</td>
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145.5 Grenada
145.7 Saint Lucia
145.9 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
146 Trinidad and Tobago
147 Netherlands Antilles. Dutch West Indies--General
147.5 Aruba
147.6 Bonaire
147.7 Curaçao
147.8 Saba
147.85 Saint Eustatius
147.9 Saint Martin
148 French West Indies -- General
149 Guadeloupe
150 Martinique
151 South America-- General
161 Argentina
171 Bolivia
181 Brazil
191 Chile
201 Colombia
211 Ecuador
230 Guianas -- General
230.3 Guyana. British Guiana
230.5 Suriname. Dutch Guiana
230.7 French Guiana
231 Paraguay
241 Peru
251 Uruguay
261 Venezuela
280 Europe and European Union - General
280.5 European Economic Community countries
280.7 Eastern Europe. Central Europe
280.8 Commonwealth countries
281 Great Britain -- General
285 England
290 Scotland
295 Wales
300.3 Ireland. Irish Republic
320 Austria
320.3 Czechoslovakia. Czech Republic
320.4 Slovakia
320.5 Hungary
320.9 Liechtenstein
340 France
340.5 Monaco
360 Germany Including West Germany
360.5 East Germany
390 Italy
390.3 San Marino
390.5 Malta
400 Benelux countries. Low countries -General
401 Belgium
411 Netherlands
415 Luxembourg
430 Russia. Soviet Union. Former Soviet republics
430.2 Russia (Federation)
430.7 Belarus
430.8 Moldova
430.9 Ukraine
435 Finland
439.6 Baltic States -- General
439.7 Estonia
439.8 Latvia
439.9 Lithuania
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<td>Bulgaria</td>
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<tr>
<td>531</td>
<td>Yugoslavia. Serbia and Montenegro</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Class here works on Yugoslavia as a whole during the period 1918-1992 as well as on the country of Serbia and Montenegro during the period 2003-2006. Class works about an individual republic or locality with the republic, regardless of time period covered.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<td>Greece</td>
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<td>Mediterranean Region. Southern Europe</td>
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<td>Black Sea Region</td>
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<td>551</td>
<td>Asia -- General</td>
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<td>Middle East. Near East -- General</td>
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<td>Caucasus -- General</td>
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<td>Azerbaijan</td>
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556.4 Georgia (Republic)
556.5 Turkey
557 Cyprus
558 Syria
559 Lebanon
560 Israel. Palestine
560.5 West Bank
560.7 Gaza Strip
561 Jordan
562 Arabian Peninsula. Arabia. Persian Gulf States --General
563 Saudi Arabia
564 Yemen Including the Yemen Arab Republic prior to 1990
564.5 Yemen (People's Democratic Republic). Southern Yemen. Aden (Colony and Protectorate)
565 Oman. Muscat and Oman
566 United Arab Emirates. Trucial States
567 Qatar
568 Bahrain
569 Kuwait
570 Iraq
570.2 Iran
570.22 Central Asia --General
570.23 Kazakhstan
570.24 Kyrgyzstan
570.25 Tajikistan
570.26 Turkmenistan
570.27 Uzbekistan
570.3 South Asia -- General
570.6 Afghanistan
570.7 Burma. Myanmar
570.8 Sri Lanka. Ceylon
570.9 Nepal
590   India
590.3  Bhutan
590.5  Pakistan
590.6  Bangladesh
590.8  Southeast Asia. Indochina -- General
600.3  Kampuchea. Cambodia
600.4  Laos
600.5  Vietnam
600.55  Thailand
600.6  Malaysia. Malaya
600.67  Singapore
600.68  Brunei
610   Indonesia
610.3  Timor-Leste. East Timor
615   Philippines
621   East Asia. Far East -- General
625   Japan
630.5  Korea -- General
630.6  North Korea (Democratic People's Republic)
630.8  Outer Mongolia. Mongolian People's Republic
635   China
641   Macau
646   Taiwan. Formosa
655   Hong Kong
666   Arab countries (Collective)
668   Islamic countries (Collective)
680   Africa -- General
681   North Africa -- General
682   Morocco
683   Algeria
684   Tunisia
685   Libya
686 Egypt. United Arab Republic
687 Sudan
688 Northeast Africa -- General
688.9 Eritrea
689 Ethiopia
690 Somalia Including British and Italian Somaliland
691 Djibouti. French Territory of the Afars and Isas
692 Southeast Africa Including East Africa -- General
693 Kenya
694 Uganda
695 Rwanda
696 Burundi
697 Tanzania. Tanganyika. Zanzibar
698 Mozambique
699 Madagascar. Malagasy Republic
700 Southern Africa -- General
701 South Africa
702 Rhodesia Including Zimbabwe (Southern Rhodesia)
703 Zambia. Northern Rhodesia
704 Lesotho. Basutoland
705 Swaziland
706 Botswana. Bechuanaland
707 Malawi. Nyasaland
708 Namibia. Southwest Africa
709 Central Africa. Equatorial Africa -- General
710 Angola
711 Zaire. Congo (Democratic Republic)
712 Equatorial Guinea
713 Sao Tome and Principe
714 French-speaking Equatorial Africa. French Congo
715 Gabon
716 Congo (Brazzaville). Middle Congo
Central African Republic. Ubangi-Shari
Chad
Cameroon
West Africa. West Coast -- General
Sahel
French-speaking West Africa
Benin. Dahomey
Togo
Niger
Côte d'Ivoire. Ivory Coast
Guinea
Mali
Burkina Faso. Upper Volta
Senegal
Mauritania
Nigeria
Ghana
Sierra Leone
Gambia
Liberia
Guinea-Bissau. Portuguese Guinea
Western Sahara. Spanish Sahara
Atlantic Area. Atlantic Ocean islands -- General
Azores
Bermuda
Madeira Islands
Canary Islands
Cape Verde Islands
Saint Helena
Tristan da Cunha
Falkland Islands
Indian Ocean islands -- General
739.7   Maldive Islands
739.9   Seychelles
740   Comoros
740.3   Mauritius
740.5   Réunion
740.7   Kerguelen Islands
740.8   Mayotte
750   Australia
830.5   New Zealand
830.7   Pacific Area. Pacific Ocean islands   General
830.9   Melanesia
831   Trust Territory of the Pacific. Micronesia
831.2   Marshall Islands
831.3   Mariana Islands   Including Northern Mariana Islands
831.4   Palau
831.5   Guam
832   Papua New Guinea
832.3   Kiribati. Gilbert Islands
832.33  Nauru
832.35  Tuvalu. Ellice Islands
833   Solomon Islands
834   New Caledonia
835   Vanuatu. New Hebrides
836   Fiji Islands
837   Tonga
837.5   Cook Islands
838   Samoan Islands -- General
838   American Samoa
839   Samoa. Western Samoa
839.5   French Polynesia
840   Arctic regions -- General
842.5   Greenland
*For the first cutter for these countries, see Table 2.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
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New Jersey .N5
New Mexico .N6
New York .N7
North Carolina .N8
North Dakota .N9
Ohio .O3
Oklahoma .O5
Oregon .O7
Pennsylvania .P4
Rhode Island .R4
South Carolina .S6
South Dakota .S8
Tennessee .T2
Texas .T4
Utah .U8
Vermont .V5
Virginia .V8
Washington (D.C.) .W18
Washington (State) .W2
West Virginia .W4
Wisconsin .W6
Wyoming .W8

Canada (Provinces)
Alberta .A3
British Columbia .B8
Manitoba .M3
New Brunswick .N5
Newfoundland N6
Northwest Territories .N7
Nova Scotia .N8
Nunavut .N9
Ontario .O6
Prince Edward Island .P8
Quebec (Province) .Q3
Saskatchewan .S2
Yukon Territory .Y8