

The author has taught many LCSH (Library of Congress Subject Headings) workshops - and it shows. The book is divided into ten short chapters, with practice exercises at the end of most of them. All the answers are at the end of the book, so it is easy to self-assess as you go along (which is quite helpful and motivating).

It is mainly a practical guide to locating and assigning LCSH. There is a good balance between theory and the practice – the practice exercises are found at the end of each chapter, and the answers appear in Appendix A.

The inexperienced person shouldn't experience any difficulty finding their way around this book - it is very well laid out, concentrated and succinct. It clearly points out any areas of confusion or error. Non-cataloguers will understand the language used (there is a glossary at the end) and the style is user-friendly throughout.

The chapters are just the right length. Some concepts can be quite challenging; however, the material is delivered almost like a discussion which helps to build up confidence.

Chapter 1 introduces the reader to the LCSH and sets down the basics. There is a clear definition of the concept of equivalence relationships, hierarchical relationships, and associative relationships. The diagrams and practical examples are a useful aid to help with understanding.

Chapter 2 discusses the basic principles of Subject Analysis - a complex area which is sometimes described as 'determining aboutness in contrast to determining is-ness' – again, the clear examples make it easier to understand these abstract concepts. It recommends the SLAM method as a guide during the Subject Analysis process: Scan, Look for, Ask yourself and Mentally compose.

Chapter 3 explores 'Classification Web'. It provides guidance on how to use this tool to find LCSH main subject headings as well as information on how to understand the entries in LCSH.

Chapter 4 is devoted to the use of subdivisions which can be a major source of confusion. Subdivisions are an important feature of LCSH, they allow the cataloguer to narrow the focus of a topic.

In Chapter 5 the author explains how to encode LCSH using MARC - there is an excellent description of the basics.

Chapter 6 introduces the reader to the SHM (Subject Headings Manual) which is a handbook for the LCSH. The SHM provides guidance and examples when assigning and creating LCSH subject headings and subdivisions.

Chapter 7 delves more deeply into the use of geographic places as subject headings and subject divisions. It explains how to create subject heading strings.

Chapter 8 guides the reader through the process of finding and assigning personal name subject headings for biographical/autobiographical works. The author emphasizes that it is important to assign personal name subject headings so that users can find the resources.

Chapter 9 covers the ins and outs of assigning LCSH to fiction works. It also provides a basic understanding of Children's Subject Headings (CSH) and how to find and apply headings when working with children's materials.

Chapter 10 provides useful tips and emphasizes the importance of completing the practice exercises. There is a summary of the websites that are referred to throughout the book. In addition, there is a list of books that the reader might want to refer to for more in-depth knowledge about LCSH.



After reading this textbook the reader will have acquired a strong foundational knowledge of how to find and assign LCSH. In conclusion, I highly recommend this book for every person starting their cataloguing journey.