

INTRODUCTION

GENERAL INFORMATION

This document contains a list of geographic areas and their associated one-to seven-character codes. The list includes separate codes for countries, first order political divisions of some countries, regions, geographic features, outer space, and celestial bodies. The purpose of this list is to allow places reflected in the subject headings assigned to an item to be designated by codes in the MARC record for that item. The list contains 579 discrete codes, of which 51 are discontinued codes no longer valid for use.

This list was originally developed through the collaboration of three former units of the Library of Congress: Research Services, MARC Development Office, and Subject Cataloging Division. It is currently maintained by the Library of Congress' Cataloging Policy and Support Office and Network Development and MARC Standards Office.

The list published here includes all valid and obsolete codes as of March 2006. This revised edition includes 4 newly assigned codes. Appendix A lists all changes made since the 2002 edition.

STRUCTURE OF THE CODES

The geographic area codes are seven-character strings, consisting of lowercase alphabetic letters and embedded or trailing hyphens. The code list shows only the alphabetic characters and embedded hyphens. The trailing hyphens that are added to codes shorter than seven characters for input into the MARC record are not shown in the list.

The codes are constructed to provide a hierarchical arrangement of geographic and political entities. There are three levels possible in the codes. Most codes are at the first level and represent continents, regions, geographic features, and some national level political jurisdictions. A first level code consists of one or more lowercase alphabetic characters. For example,

a	Asia
ev	Scandinavia
nwbf	Bahamas

A list of single character first level codes appears in Part III. The following seven first level entities are divided at the second level:

a	Asia
e	Europe
f	Africa
i	Indian Ocean
n	North America
s	South America
u	Australasia

Second level codes represent regions and national level political entities located within the entity represented by the first level code. A second level code consists of a first level code, followed by one hyphen, followed by the code for the second level entity. At the second level, a two letter code generally represents a country, and a three letter code represents a region within a country. For example,

Introduction

e-sw Sweden
n-cn Canada
n-cnm Maritime Provinces

The following five second level entities are divided at the third level:

a-cc China
n-us United States
e-uk Great Britain
u-at Australia
n-cn Canada

Third level codes represent first order political divisions of countries represented by a second level code. A third level code consists of a first level code, one hyphen, a second level code, one hyphen, and a third level code. Third level codes always consist of two lowercase alphabetic characters. For example,

a-cc-hu Hunan Sheng (China)
n-cn-on Ontario
e-uk-st Scotland
n-us-ky Kentucky
u-at-qn Queensland

ARRANGEMENT OF THE LIST

The geographic area code list is made up of four parts: Part I: Name Sequence, Part II: Code Sequence, Part III: Places Represented by Single Character Codes, and Appendix A: Changes. Generally, names in the code list match headings established in the Library of Congress name authority file for jurisdictions and the Library of Congress Subject Headings for continents, regions, and geographic features. Descriptions of the four parts of the code list follow:

Part I: Name Sequence.

In this part, the places are listed alphabetically by the name. An entry for a place with a unique code gives the name followed by the code in brackets, both in boldface. Any variant names of the place are listed on successive lines, with the first variant preceded by the symbol UF (used for). For example:

Guyana [s-gy]
UF British Guiana

The entry for a place which does not have a unique code, but is assigned a code for another place, is similar except that the assigned code with its associated place name is given on the lines following the name. For example:

Austral Islands (French Polynesia)
Assigned code:
[pofp] French Polynesia
UF Tubuai Islands (French Polynesia)

The UF names from each of these entries also appear in their alphabetic position in the list as references, but **not** in boldface. These references do not give the code; the entry under the name referred to must be consulted to determine the code. For example:

Tubuai Islands (French Polynesia)
USE Austral Islands (French Polynesia)

British Guiana
USE Guyana

Entries may also include a note in italics explaining a change in the use of codes. For example:

Mayotte [i-my]

[Coded [i-cq] (Comoros) before Mar. 1988]

Barbuda

[Coded [nwbc] (Barbuda) before Mar. 1988]

Assigned code:

[nwaq] Antigua and Barbuda

Northwest (U.S.)

[Coded [n-usw] (Northwest (U.S.)) before Mar. 1988]

USE Northwest, Pacific

Unusual situations may require additional notes.

Germany (East) [e-ge]

[For the eastern part of Germany before 1949 or after 1990 and for the German Democratic Republic between 1949-1990]

UF Democratic German Republic

East Germany

German Democratic Republic

Germany, Eastern

See the section "Changes in the Codes" below for more information about these notes.

Part II: Code Sequence.

In this part, the places and their codes are listed alphabetically by the code. Only the code and the name of the place are given in this part. Tracings or references for variant forms of the place names are not included. For example:

e-rm	Romania
poftp	French Polynesia
s-gy	Guyana

Discontinued codes are also listed in this part in their alphabetical sequence. They are identified by a hyphen preceding the code. For example:

-pogn	Gilbert and Ellice Islands
-a-sk	Sikkim

Places which are assigned the code for another place, rather than a unique code, are not included in the code sequence part. Thus, the place Austral Islands which is assigned the code *poftp* does not appear in this part of the list.

Part III: Places Represented by Single Character Codes.

This part contains a list of all places represented by a single character code, along with the code. The hierarchical arrangement of places and assignment of codes is based on these first level regions.

Introduction

Appendix A: Changes.

This part contains a list of code changes from the 2002 edition.

APPLICATION OF THE CODES

Geographic area codes are assigned in bibliographic records to bring out by code the geographic areas that appear or are implied in the headings assigned to the work being cataloged. Generally, codes are assigned for headings in a subject added entry for a geographic name (field 651) or headings in other fields which contain a geographic subdivision (subfield \$z). Codes are also assigned for headings representing ethnic groups, nationalities, civilizations, topics qualified by ethnic groups or nationalities, individual named entities including corporate bodies, and events.

Geographic area codes may be included in authority records for geographic areas associated with the established heading of the record.

The following guidelines describe application of the codes in specific situations.

Geographic entities (General). The appropriate code for a geographic feature, region, or jurisdiction is assigned, if such a code exists.

Local entities. For a local geographic feature, region, or jurisdiction, the appropriate code for the country or first order political division in which the entity is located is assigned. Separate codes for the first order political divisions of the following countries have been provided: Australia, Canada, China, Great Britain, and the United States. Codes have also been provided for some individual regions within Russia (Federation). For any work dealing with one of these regions as a whole, the indicated code is assigned. For an entity, such as a city, located within one of these regions, the code for the corresponding republic is assigned instead.

Entities located in several countries. For an entity located in several countries, codes are assigned for each country, or for a larger encompassing region. If an entity is located in several first order political divisions, for countries having separate codes for political divisions, codes are assigned for each division.

Historic jurisdictions, empires, kingdoms, etc. Codes are assigned that correspond to modern-day jurisdictions or areas, generally coding for the greatest territorial extent of these entities. For works that discuss a jurisdiction during a period when its territory was more limited and for works focusing on a specific location within a historical jurisdiction, the appropriate code for the particular place is assigned.

Parts of regions. When a work deals with both a large geographic region for which a specific code exists and a locality within the region, code for both the region and the locality. If a single, specific code does not exist for the region, code only for the part of the region covered by the work.

Multiple area orientation. When a work deals with several geographical locations, a code is assigned for each or for a larger encompassing region.

Ethnic groups, nationalities, civilizations, etc. Codes are assigned for the jurisdictions or areas where ethnic groups, etc. are located. For an individual element in the population, a code is assigned only for the present locality, not the place of origin, as long as the people are citizens or permanent residents.

Foreign members of a population. Codes are assigned for both the place of origin and current location of peoples who are in an area other than their permanent homeland, including travelers, temporary residents, aliens, and foreign students.

Influence of one nation on another. For the impact of one place on another, codes are assigned for both places.

Special topics modified by names of ethnic groups or nationalities. A code is assigned for the jurisdiction or areas where the ethnic group or nationality is located. If the work is limited to a special locality, a code is assigned only for that locality. If the work deals with an area outside of the area normally associated with the people, codes are assigned for both places.

Language. When assigning a code for language (usually only if the work deals with geographic aspects of the language), a code is assigned for the location of the language. No code is assigned to grammars, textbooks for learning a language, histories of linguistic changes such as changes in phonology, etc. No code is assigned to a work if the subject heading assigned is intended to bring out the language of a publication.

Named entities. Codes are assigned for the location of individual named entities, including corporate bodies, buildings and structures, roads, waterways, railroads, monuments, camps, parks, gardens, etc. For government agencies, codes are assigned for the jurisdictions the agencies serve.

Events, exhibitions, movements, etc. A code is assigned for the location of the occurrence.

Biography and genealogy. Codes are assigned to works of biography (individual or collective) and to works of genealogy, for the location of the individual, group, or family if geographic areas are localized.

CHANGES IN THE CODES

This list provides codes for places existing at the time the list was compiled. The names of the places are also those current at the time of compilation. Changes in the status of places as well as changes in names are reflected in revised versions of this list. The following discusses how such changes are presented in the list.

When a place has changed its name, the existing code is retained but the new name is used and the earlier name is added as a reference. For example:

Sri Lanka [a-ce]

UF Ceylon

Ceylon

USE Sri Lanka

When it becomes necessary to change a code because the status of an entity has changed, notes are added to the list to explain the code changes and the date the change was made. If the old code is discontinued, it is retained in the code list for information.

The code for the latest name (the new code) should be used in all new records. The old code, however, will not always be changed in previously input records. Thus when using geographic area codes to retrieve records, if the code for the entity has changed since the implementation of an earlier code list, it is advisable to specify both the new and previously assigned (historical) codes in the retrieval request if records coded prior to the changes are desired.

Introduction

Example: One entity assigned a single code splits into two or more separate entities. In this case, each of the new entities is assigned a new code, and the code for the older combined entity is discontinued. Notes are also added to each entity indicating the date of the code change.

Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony

[Coded [pogn] (Gilbert and Ellice Islands) before Mar. 1988]

Assigned codes:

[pokb] Kiribati

[potv] Tuvalu

Kiribati [pokb]

[Coded [pogn] (Gilbert and Ellice Islands) or [poln] (Line Islands) before Mar. 1988]

Tuvalu [potv]

[Coded [pogn] (Gilbert and Ellice Islands) before Mar. 1988]

Example: One entity previously assigned a code is annexed by another entity which is already assigned a different code, e.g., Sikkim was annexed by India. In this case, the code for the annexed entity is discontinued, and the annexed entity is assigned the code for the annexing entity.

India [a-ii]

Sikkim (India)

[Coded [a-sk] (Sikkim) before Mar. 1988]

Assigned code:

[a-ii] India

Example: An entity which was assigned the code of another entity splits off. In this case, the code for the existing entity is retained, and a new code is created for the entity which split off.

Mayotte [i-my]

[Coded [i-cq] (Comoros) before Mar. 1988]

Comoros [i-cq]

MARC 21 FORMATS AND FIELDS IN WHICH CODES ARE USED

Bibliographic records

043 Geographic Area Code

Authority records

043 Geographic Area Code

Community Information records

043 Geographic Area Code

CODE MAINTENANCE

The Library of Congress is the maintenance agency for this list. Questions and requests for information should be sent to the Cataloging Policy and Support Office, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540-4305 (Internet: cpsol@loc.gov).

Notices announcing additions or changes to code values are issued 90 days prior to the date they should be used in records. For announcements, see *MARC News and Announcements* at www.loc.gov/marc. At the end of the 90 days, the new codes are incorporated into the web version of this list available at www.loc.gov/marc/geoareas/. This printed list will be reissued from time to time as needed to incorporate revisions.