

The **Library of Congress Subject Headings** (LCSH) is a four-volume set of books, arranged alphabetically. The latest edition available in Library Media Center is found in the Z section of the reference collection. The valid subject headings are always in **bold face** and may consist of one or more words. Some headings are followed by Library of Congress classification letter(s) and numbers. These headings may have **scope notes** to draw necessary distinctions between related headings. Scope notes would also specify the range of subject matter to which a heading is applied in the catalog. LCSH contains cross-references that refer the users from one heading to another. The following abbreviations/codes are used in the LCSH books:

**USE** Cross-references you from an unauthorized term to an authorized and valid subject heading.

e.g., Cooking

**USE Cookery**

e.g., cars (automobiles)

**USE Automobiles**

**UF** <Used For> This code precedes the heading not used. The valid subject heading is the one in **bold** type.

E.g., **Cookery**

UF Cooking

UF Cookbooks

e.g., **Automobiles**

UF Cars (automobiles)

**BT** <Broader Terms> Links the subject heading to broader terms. Broader terms are also valid subject headings, just with a wider focus.

e.g., **Cookery**

**BT Home economics**

e.g., **Automobiles**

**BT Transportation, Automotive**

**NT** <Narrower Terms> Links the subject heading to narrower terms. Narrower terms are also valid subject headings, just with a more specific focus.

e.g., **Cookery**

**NT Baking**

**NT** <Narrower Terms> Continued:

e.g., **Automobiles**

NT **BMW automobile**

**RT** <Related Terms> Link the subject heading to non-hierarchy headings. All related terms are valid subject headings.

e.g., **Cookery**

RT **Food**

RT **Table**

e.g., **Immigrants**

RT **Aliens**