NLM Policy on Classification

Contents

Overview of the NLM Classification

Introduction

The purpose of this publication is to provide guidelines for assigning National Library of Medicine (NLM) classification numbers to library materials. The work is not intended to be a comprehensive work on classification theory nor an exhaustive explanation of the NLM Classification. (Cf. Cataloging and Metadata Management: Fundamentals of the NLM® Classification)

The latest version of the *National Library of Medicine (NLM) Classification* can be found at https://www.nlm.nih.gov/class/. (See Module 2 - Using the Online NLM Classification of the Fundamentals of the NLM® Classification course for instructions on searching)

The *NLM Classification* is updated twice a year with the winter edition published in January and the summer edition published in August. Publication of printed editions ceased with the 5th revised edition, 1999. Beginning with the 2006 edition, the NLM Classification is also available in PDF (Portable Document Format) at https://www.nlm.nih.gov/class/terms_cond.html.

Structure of NLM Classification

Overview

The *NLM Classification* covers the field of medicine and related sciences. The scheme is a broad classification adaptable for special collections of any size or format. It is suitable for both large and small library collections and may be adapted to handle specialized collections of any size. It consists of classification schedules and an index.

Schedules

Schedules are topical groupings of classification numbers. The NLM Classification is a system of mixed notation patterned after the *Library of Congress Classification (LCC)* where alphabetical letters which denote broad subject categories are further subdivided by numbers. The NLM Classification utilizes schedules QS-QZ and W-WZ, permanently excluded from the LC Classification Schedules and is intended to be used with the LC schedules which supplement the NLM Classification for subjects bordering on medicine and for general reference materials.

Organization

There are 36 schedules which denote broad subject categories:

- • Preclinical Sciences (QS-QZ)
- • General Health and Medicine (W-WB)
- • Communicable Diseases; Medicine in Selected Environments (WC-WD)
- • Body Systems (WE-WL)
- • Specialty Areas (WM-WY)
- • History (WZ; 19th Century)

Relationship to Library of Congress Classification (LCC)

These LCC schedules are not used by NLM

- • QM—Human Anatomy (NLM uses QS)
- • QR—Microbiology (NLM uses QW)
- • R—Medicine (NLM uses QT-QZ; W-WZ)

These LCC schedules supplement the NLM Classification for non-medical topics

- B—Philosophy. Psychology. Religion
- G—Geography. Anthropology. Recreation
- H—Social Sciences
- J—Political Science
- L—Education
- Q—Science
- SF—Animal Culture
- Z—Bibliography. Library Science

LCC schedules used by NLM with restrictions

- D-E History (used mainly for wars)
- K—Law (rarely used)
- QD—Chemistry (Use QU or QV for biochemistry or pharmacology)
- QH—Natural History. Biology (General) (use QU, etc. for biomedical aspects)
- QK—Botany (Use QV 766-770 for medicinal plants; or WB 925 for Herbal Medicine
- QP—(restricted to wild animals)
- T—Technology (Use QT for biomedical engineering)
- U—Military Science (Use only for administrative aspects)
- V—Naval Science (Use only for administrative aspects)

Special Instructions for using LCC class number

- When using an LC class number subdivided by geographic or A-Z topic, the appropriate cutter should be included in the NLM class number. Geographic cutters should be taken from the *Library of Congress Classification and Shelflisting Manual: Shelflisting, Section G300 Regions and Countries Table*
- If a double LC author cutter is present, NLM does not use the second cutter in the classification number
- Unlike LCC, NLM class numbers are formatted with a space between the alpha and numerical call number.

Index

Overview

The Index to the *NLM Classification* is a single index to the schedules, which consists primarily of Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) concepts used in cataloging. Some non-MeSH terms are used as cross references when no appropriate MeSH term is available. The MeSH entries in the Index are updated annually to be consistent with the latest edition of MeSH. The index terms are arranged in alphabetical order with Roman numerals filed as letters in this arrangement. Arabic numerals are found at the beginning of the Index.

The classification numbers assigned to the index terms are usually general numbers for the concept represented or numbers reflecting a medical view when that is more appropriate. The index entries

include NLM Classification numbers for medical concepts and LCC numbers for non-medical concepts. The pertinent LC schedules must be consulted since the numbers may change over time. Hyperlinks are not provided to LC class numbers.

Indented terms in the index entries represent more specific aspects of the subject or aspects of the subject to which a number different from the general number has been assigned. General references or see also references are listed at the end of the alphabetical sequence of the indented terms under the index term.

The Index is not a substitute for the main schedules. A user should always refer to the schedules for confirmation of the proper application of the number and its relationship to other numbers. Many headings are assigned a range of numbers rather than a specific number. The schedules of the NLM Classification or the Library of Congress Classification are the only source of the meaning of specific numbers within the range.

Relationship to MeSH

All main index headings are MeSH. All terms available in the MeSH thesaurus are not reflected in the Index. Index terms are included based on literary warrant reflected in the NLM collection. Supplementary concept records (SCRs) are not used in cataloging and are therefore excluded from the index. Very specific terms are generally excluded.

Components of NLM Call Numbers

Basic Components

An NLM call number consists of the following basic components when applicable:

- Classification number
- Table G number (geographic notation)
- Cutter number (For more detailed information regarding NLM's shelflisting practices see http://www.nlm.nih.gov/tsd/cataloging/shelf.html)
- Workmark
- Volume or issue number
- Year of publication
- Supplement number
- Year of supplement

Types of Call Numbers used by NLM

NLM assigns classification numbers to all monographs. Since June 2010, shelflisting (i.e. cutter numbers and dates) is only provided for material that will be shelved in the Reference Collection or the History of Medicine Division (HMD).

NLM classes serial analytics with the serial call number. W1 and W3 serial analytics also carry an alternative subject call number provided by NLM for libraries wishing to class such publications by subject.

MARC Coding

- All call numbers used by NLM are recorded in the 060 field with a 2nd indicator of 0 (zero) including LC class numbers used by NLM
- Classification numbers (including Table G notation and topical and geographic LCC breakdowns) are recorded in $a and the remaining parts of the call number are recorded in $b
- Unlike LCC practice, the information recorded in $b is not preceded by a period
- Alternate topical class numbers being supplied for other libraries for serial analytics has indicators of 10 because NLM is not shelving at that number
- Libraries that use the NLM Classification may record their call numbers in an 060 field with a 1st indicator of blank and 2nd indicator of 4 to indicate not assigned by NLM
- Libraries cataloging in OCLC may use the 096 field to record their NLM call number for original cataloging or if they need to change or adjust the number provided in the 060 field

General Principles of Classification

Overview

The class number chosen should represent, as nearly as possible the primary subject(s) of the material being cataloged, as modified by a topical subheading when appropriate, or, in some cases, by the form or type of material being cataloged. A work dealing with several subjects that fall within different areas of the classification is classed by emphasis, or if emphasis is lacking, by the first subject treated in the work.

Finding the Appropriate Class Number

After assigning the MeSH terms to a work, search the primary subject(s) in the index of the NLM Classification (Cf. Cataloging and Metadata Management: Using Medical Subject Headings (MeSH®) in Cataloging Course Module 4— Descriptors: Selecting the Main Concept(s)). Always verify numbers selected from the index in the main schedules because there may be an appropriate specific class number that is not listed in the index to the classification. Read all annotations and examine the schedule for expansions. (Note: Some general annotations appear at the beginning of the schedule). Take into account factors that may influence the classification (e.g., form, age group).

Select the class number annotated "General Works" if the subject is very general or the primary focus of the work includes several subjects within the schedule. A work dealing with several subjects that fall within different areas of the classification is classed by emphasis, or if emphasis is lacking, by the first subject treated in the work.

Primary Subject(s) not in Classification Index

When the primary MeSH term is not listed in the NLM Classification index, locate the broader term under which the primary MeSH term is treed and use that class number (Cf. Cataloging and Metadata Management: Module 3— MeSH Browser). Sometimes there are complex situations where a term is treed in more than one place. Read the MeSH scope note, annotation, and previous indexing field for the chosen term and for that of the next higher terms in the tree. Determine the context in which the term is used in the item being cataloged (i.e., determine the primary focus).

Classification by Disease, Region, Organ or Procedure

A work on a particular disease is classified with the disease. That, in turn, is classified with the organ or region chiefly affected, regardless of special emphasis on diet, drug, or other specific form of therapy or diagnostic procedure. Some organ disease headings have separate class numbers. In addition, some may have additional class numbers for subtopics such as diagnosis or therapy. Class general diseases of an organ in the class number for the organ if no separate number is available, unless otherwise instructed. Works about up to three diseases go with the disease given most emphasis or the one discussed first.

If the work is about a special form of therapy, diagnostic procedure, or environmental condition as a cause of disease, etc., and the disease is only mentioned in the context of the primary subject (the therapy, etc.), classify as always for the primary subject. Generally, class the reversal of a medical procedure in the same number as the procedure itself, if no separate number exists.

Diagnosis of diseases of famous persons, derived from records, memoirs, letters, portraits, etc. is classed in WZ 313.

A work dealing with a particular region of the body or organ system is classified with the region or organ system, depending on the emphasis of the work. For example, a general work on the region of the *Head* and *Neck* is classified with the *Musculoskeletal System* in the WE schedule. However, when the emphasis concerns dental problems and procedures related to the mouth, teeth, and jaws, the work is classed in WU with *Dentistry*. If the emphasis concerns the otolaryngological problems and procedures, related to the ear, nose, and throat, the work is classified in the WV schedule with *Otolaryngology*. If the emphasis is on the *Brain* and associated organs, the work is classified in WL with the *Nervous System*.

Drugs and Chemicals

Works on pharmacology in general or on the pharmacology of individual drugs or types of drugs are generally classed in the QV schedule grouped according to their specific action. Subsections on toxicology and pharmacy are also available in the QV schedule.

Special instructions:

- Classify works on an individual drug according to its principal action
- Classify works on the use of an individual drug in the treatment of a particular disease with the disease
- Classify works on the purely chemical or technological use of chemicals in LC's QD or T schedules
- Classify a drug derived from a plant with the drug and its action rather than with the plant
- Classify works on vitamins in QU; on endocrine preparations in WJ, WK, or WP; and non-endocrine biologicals in QW
- Classify the abuse of a drug in the appropriate WM number for the associated disorder
- Classify works on the history of a specific drug with the drug

Specialties

Form number 21, where available, is generally used for works about the specialty or profession. This includes works about ethics and peer review of a specific subject. General works about both the specialty and the disease are classed in the general works "100" class number.

Topical Subheadings

When a topical subheading is used with the primary subject, check both index and the main schedule to determine whether a specific number has been assigned to cover that aspect of the topic. Whenever a main heading/topical subheading concept is indexed to a specific number in the class schedule that matches the primary main heading/subheading chosen, use that class number.

Age Groups

NLM has two schedules devoted to specific age groups:

WS Pediatrics

Classify in the WS schedule works on diseases of specific body systems in children (includes adolescents), as well as works on diseases limited to the newborn or premature infant unless there are specific instructions to the contrary. Classify works on specific diseases in children with the disease (e.g., pneumonia in infants in WC 202; schizophrenia in childhood in WM 203, etc.) unless there are specific instructions to the contrary. Classify works on anatomy or physiology of the child in QS or QT. Classify works on other topics dealing with children with the topic unless there are specific instructions to the contrary. Classify general works on pediatric and adolescent nursing in WY 159. Classify works on pediatric and adolescent nursing in special fields by type, e.g., on pediatric surgical nursing in WY 161.

Some schedules other than WS have specific classification numbers devoted to children:

- QZ 275   Pediatric oncology. Adolescent oncology (General)
- WN 240   Pediatric diagnostic imaging
- WO 440   Pediatric anesthesia
- WO 925   Pediatric surgery
- WU 113.6   [Oral health and hygiene] Works for and about children
- WU 480   Pediatric dentistry. Dental care for children
- WW 600   Pediatric ophthalmology and optometry

WT Geriatrics

Classify general works on the aged (65 and above) in the WT schedule. Classify works on specific diseases of the aged with the disease unless there are specific instructions to the contrary. Classify works on other topics dealing with the aged with the topic unless there are specific instructions to the contrary.

Some schedules other than WT have specific classification numbers devoted to the aged:

- WO 445   Geriatric anesthesia
- WO 950   Geriatric surgery

- WU 490   Geriatric dentistry. Dental care for the aged
- WW 620   Geriatric ophthalmology and optometry

Biography and Autobiography

- For works that are biographical or autobiographical in nature, consider the emphasis of the work:
    - If it is primarily an account of a person (or two persons or a family) in a given medical or scientific field, generally classify in WZ 100
    - If it is not an account of a person in a medical or scientific field, class in the appropriate LCC number
    - If it is a personal narrative relating to an individual's experiences with a disease, specialty, etc., or, if there is generally a heavier emphasis on the subject than on the person, classify with the subject

- For collective biographies of medical or scientific personnel, prefer classification by:
    - Specialty (WZ 112-150)
    - Locality (WZ 140) if the specialty is not applicable
    - Special groups, e.g., African-American physicians (WZ 150) if the specialty is not applicable

- For non-medical or scientific personnel, class in the appropriate LCC number

Nursing Materials

Use the WY schedule for works that are about:

- Nursing procedures
- Nurse's role
- Nursing profession
- Nursing care given by non-professional caregivers, including family members

If the MeSH chosen as the primary subject contains "Nursing" in the main heading or uses the topical subheading *nursing*, classify in WY. Materials assigned the publication type *Nurse's Instruction* are classed with the subject, not in the WY schedule.

Works on nursing care of a specific disease in WY 150-164 are classified in the special field of nursing associated with the specialty (e.g., nursing care of eye diseases in WY 158). If the disease is treed in multiple places and there are two nursing specialties that are appropriate, use the nursing specialty associated with the class number assigned to the disease. For example, *Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome* is treed under *Coronavirus Infections* and *Respiratory Tract Infections*. It is classed in WC 505 in the Communicable Diseases schedule. Therefore, nursing of *Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome* is classed at WY 153, Communicable disease nursing rather than WY 163, Respiratory system nursing.

Library of Congress Classification vs. NLM Classification

LCC schedules augment the NLM Classification for subjects related to medicine. See section Relationship to Library of Congress Classification (LCC). Some LCC numbers or range of numbers appear in the NLM Classification index. Although these numbers are verified against the LCC schedules periodically, the pertinent LCC schedules must be consulted since the numbers may change over time. In some cases, a term is indexed to numbers in both the NLM and the LC classification schedules, depending on emphasis. If medical aspects predominate, classify the work in the NLM schedule. If social, religious, or other aspects predominate, classify in the LCC schedule. In case of doubt, prefer the NLM schedule.

Human Medicine vs. Animal Medicine

If the emphasis is human medicine, classify with the medical aspect in the NLM schedule. For example, a work discussing cancer research using laboratory animals in order to learn what causes cancer in humans is classified in QZ with works on the etiology of cancer in humans. In general, prefer classification with human medicine. For materials that discuss both humans and animals, prefer classification with the human.

When an animal is discussed in connection with research, classify in QY under the specific number for the animal, if available, or the general number for Animals, Laboratory, if no specific number is available. Care and breeding of laboratory animals also goes in QY.

When animal diseases, anatomy, and physiology, or the care and breeding of domestic animals are discussed, choose an appropriate number from the LCC schedules. When the focus is on the laboratory animal rather than the disease, class with the laboratory animal.

Later Editions

In general, assign the same classification to new editions of a work as that on the immediately preceding edition. The same Cutter number is assigned if the title and the main entry have not changed (see *Shelflisting Procedures for Monographs and Classed Serials*: Choosing Between Cutter Entries).

If the original title was incorrectly cataloged, or if the contents have been revised to the extent that the original class number is no longer correct, or if a new more precise class number has become available, assign the class number that represents the contents more accurately.

Do not revise the classification of earlier editions to match that of a later edition if the item was classified correctly at the time of cataloging, using available classification numbers and rules in effect at that time. Use judgment in determining whether an item was incorrectly classified according to the rules and classification available at the time of cataloging. Correct egregious errors.

Translations

In general, classify a translation with the original, unless a more appropriate number has been added to the classification schedule. Do not reclassify the original publication if it was correctly classified according to the schedule in use at the time. For special instructions on 19th century translations see section Classification of 19th Century Works and Early Printed Books.

Reprints/Facsimiles

NLM always classifies reprints and facsimiles using the original class number. Consider a modern compilation of reprints of pre-20th century articles or works to be a modern work. Classify collections of reprinted papers in the appropriate number for the subject. Reprints of several works that include publications from the 20th century or later are classed with current works.

Supplements

For separately published works that are dependent on another work to be fully useable (e.g., review manuals, study guides, updates, etc.), assign the same classification and cutter number as for the main work. Append the word "Suppl." and the year of publication of the supplement to the call number for the main work. These instructions apply even if a publication type that might otherwise determine the classification is assigned to the supplement. In such cases, do not classify in a form number; use the classification number of the main work. These instructions do not apply to companion volumes. Classify works that are identified as "companion volumes" or "sequels" to another work appropriately for actual content, not necessarily paralleling the classification of the original work.

Companion Volumes

For independent works that are identified as "companion volumes" or "sequels" to another work, classify for the actual content, not necessarily paralleling the classification of the original work.

TABLE G

Table G Principles

General

Table G is a cutter system of notations that provides geographical or jurisdictional arrangement of materials under specific class numbers in the *NLM Classification.* The use of Table G permits a shelving order which is controlled geographically and alphabetically. The "Table G" geographic Cutter tables of the *NLM Classification* are provided at http://www.nlm.nih.gov/class/TableGOutline.html The geographic tables consist of nine geographic regions. Additionally, special provision is made for international agencies that frequently publish materials related to medicine. Each region or group is identified by a letter.

> A--United States (Federal Government)
> AA1--United States (as geographical area)
> D--Americas
> F--United Kingdom
> G--Europe
> H--Africa
> J--Middle East and Asia
> K--Australasia

L--Islands of the Pacific and Indian Oceans
M--International Agencies
P--Polar Regions
Historical Geographic Locations
Obsolete Table G Notations

Exclusions

Although specific states, the District of Columbia, and regions of the United States are listed, no specific breakdowns are given for other countries, e.g., Canadian provinces or Australian states.

With the exception of New York City, no cities are included in Table G. See Local Modifications for additional information.

Cross references (Entry Terms) already included in the MeSH vocabulary generally are not duplicated in Table G.

Naming Conventions for the Table G Name

Generally, the current name of the country is used as recorded in the MARC Code List for Countries. The name is in direct order. Qualifiers may be added as needed. Table G names are not always the same as the corresponding MeSH Z tree term.

Construction of Table G Notation

The notation is composed of two letters and one or two numbers. The first letter of a notation represents the geographical region or jurisdiction, and the second one is the first letter of the name of a country or, in the case for the states of the United States, a state. Additional numbers may be added to the notation as needed.

For monographic materials, the Table G number for an international agency is used only when an international agency is given as a subject added entry and there are no geographic subjects. Usually (but not always) the agency will be the main entry. When an international agency given as the subject does not have a specific Table G number, "M1" is used. Do not use the Table G number for the geographic location of the agency. The Table G number of the parent body may be used for subordinate sections of the international agency.

Maintenance of Table G

New geographic notations are interpolated into Table G when needed following the established pattern. When a country changes its name the existing Table G notation is assigned to the new name. For example, when East Timor became Timor-Leste, the cutter remained LE1.

Instructions for Applying Table G

General

Table G is applied only when an NLM class number is annotated by "(Table G)." For every number in the schedule annotated "Table G," there is a corresponding number annotated "Not Table G" that is used for works on the same topic that have no geographic emphasis. For example WG 11 History (Table G) is the number for the history of cardiology in particular geographic areas and WG 11.1 General coverage (Not Table G) is the number for books with general coverage of the history of cardiology.   Do not use a Table G geographic cutter with any classification number that is not annotated "Table G" even if a geographic subject is assigned to the work being cataloged.

Do not apply NLM Table G cutters if you have to assign an LC classification number to the work being cataloged. When *LC Classification* numbers are used, the geographical breakdown or tables provided in the LC schedules are applied.

A work that discusses one country primarily, and one or two other countries secondarily, is classified with the appropriate Table G geographic cutter for the predominant country,
A work that discusses more than three countries is classified in the "Not Table G" number, if no one country predominates and a broader jurisdiction is not used. AA1 is used for the United States and also for materials that span four or more states or territories, unless there is a number for the region.

The notation for the latest form of a name is used regardless of which form of name is found in the item or when the item was produced. For example, for a work about Lahore prior to the 1940s, when the city was under Indian jurisdiction, use the cutter for Pakistan where the city is currently located.

Exception: For serials classed in W2, use the appropriate Table G notation for the country name used at the time of publication. For serial publications from the government of Lahore prior to the 1940s, use the cutter for India.
Exception: For works about historic jurisdictions that no longer exist, use the cutter from the "Historical Geographic Locations section. For example, for a work about Yugoslavia, use the cutter for Yugoslavia.

Historical Geographic Locations

With the 2009 edition of the NLM Classification, a new Table G Section was created for historical jurisdictions or entities that existed in the past and whose former territories are not encompassed by a single present day country. Some of the jurisdictions listed in this section were removed from the Obsolete Table G Notations section. Some cutters of present day countries are also being used for

the historical lands even though these are not one-to-one matches. For example, GR9, the cutter assigned to Russia (Federation), is also assigned to the USSR and Russia (Pre-1917).

United States Government Publications

For serial publications only, special provisions are made for United States government documents published at the federal, state or local level. (Note: AA1 is used for monographic and serials pertaining to the United States as a whole but not to the internal affairs of the government) Works pertaining to the internal affairs of the various departments or agencies of the U.S. Federal Government, with the exception of the Armed Forces, take the designation "A."

Publications pertaining to the internal affairs of the Armed Forces take the following designations:

A1 Department of Defense

A2 Department of the Army

A3 Army Air Forces (to 1947)

A4 Department of the Air Force

A5 Department of the Navy

Call Number	Main Entry/Title
W2 A3	United States. Army Air Forces. Matériel Command. AAF technical report

For monographs, use AA1 For the United States as a geographical area.

Application of Table G to W2 Serial Documents

In addition to the standard Table G cutters, when cataloging local government documents, apply the instructions for the subordinate political units in the Local Modifications section of this document.

Call Number	Main Entry/Title
W2 FA1	Great Britain. General Register Office Quarterly return of marriages, births, and death ...
W2 DC2.1 S2	Saskatchewan. Bureau of Public Health Annual report

Application of Table G to WX 2 Hospital Reports

WX 2 serial hospital reports are assigned an appropriate Table G cutter followed by a notation for the specific location of the hospital if applicable. The notation should begin with the letter of the local place followed by numbers to allow the title the item to fit in alphabetically with other material in the collection.

Civilian Hospitals

Call Number	Main Entry/Title

WX2 AP4 P5	Hahnemann Hospital tidings [hospital located in Philadelphia, PA]
WX2 GG4 M8	Kuranstalt Neuwittelsbach bei München. Aerztlicher Bericht der Kuranstalt Neuwittelsbach bei München. [hospital located in Munich, Germany]
WX2 AF4 J2	St. Luke's Hospital (Jacksonville, Fla.) Annual report

U.S. Military Hospitals

Named military hospitals have fixed locations and are assigned a Table G notation for the appropriate United States government body followed by the appropriate Table G notation dropping the initial "A." Foreign military hospitals follow the instructions for civilian hospitals.

Numbered military hospitals do not have fixed locations and geographical notation is not applied. The number of the hospital is added instead.

Call Number	**Main Entry/Title**
WX2 A2D6	United States. Army. Walter Reed Army Hospital, Washington, D.C. Annual report
WX2 A2 141	United States. Army. General Hospital No. 141 Year book

Local Modifications

While not practiced at NLM (with the exception of W2 serials), other institutions may expand Table G to better accommodate materials in their collection.

Table G provides a state or political unit breakdown only for the United States and Great Britain. A work that is limited to a city, or a state, province or its equivalent, takes the geographic notation for the state or country, or for the smallest area below the national level that has its own notation. Other heavily used state or country notations may be modified to form county (province, state, etc.) or city notations by the addition of .1 (county) or .2 (city) to the appropriate notation.

Examples:

Table G	**Subordinate Political Unit**
AM3	Maryland
AM3.1 M7	Montgomery County
AM3.2 B2	Baltimore
DC2	Canada
DC2.1 B8	British Columbia
DC2.2 V2	Vancouver
FE5	England
FE5.1 M6	Middlesex
FE5.2 L6	London

The expanded country notation below for Australia is an example of how a cataloging agency may expand the notation of a state, country, etc. when the need arises. This kind of pattern can be used for any single country number.

Table G	Organizational Entity
KA8	Australia
.C6	Commission of Inquiry into Poverty
.D3	Department of Health
.D32	Department of Labor and Immigration
.D34	Department of Science
.D4	Department of Social Security
.H6	Hospitals and Health Services, etc.
KA8.1	
.A8	Australian Capital Territory
.N3	New South Wales
.N6	Northern Territory
.Q3	Queensland, etc.
KA8.2	
.A3	Adelaide
.B8	Brisbane
.C2	Canberra, etc.

Form Numbers

Overview

Form numbers are group of numbers in each schedule ranging generally from 1-49 which are used to classify materials by publication type (e.g., dictionaries, atlases) or special emphasis (e.g., history, education, or legislation). Even though form numbers W1–W9 are displayed online with a space in between, do not input a space when recording these numbers in a bibliographic record.

Some main schedules are divided into sections with form numbers in each section. For example, within the QV schedule for Pharmacy and Pharmaceutics, form numbers QV 701-735 are used instead of the numbers QV 1-39 that are used for the rest of the Pharmacology schedule.

In general, classification by publication type takes precedence over classification by subject. For example, atlases illustrating the pathology of Liver Diseases are all classed in WI 17 along with atlases on any other subject covered by the WI schedule for Digestive Diseases.

When both a main heading and a subheading have their own form numbers, generally classify for the subheading. When both a topical subheading and a publication type are classified by form, classify for the publication type. When more than one publication type is used, classify for the one deemed most important.

Special Cases

Popular Works

Some, but not all of the schedules have a form number for popular works. When using the publication type *Popular Work,* check if there is a specific number available in the schedule. The index entry for *Popular Work* provides a listing of the form numbers available in the various schedules. If no form number is available for popular works, classify by subject.

Fictional Works

There is no special form number for fictional works.

A fictional work written by a health care professional is classed in WZ 350, regardless of topic. WZ 330 should never be assigned to fictional works since it is to be applied to non-fiction works discussing medicine in literature.

Fictional works not written by a health care professional that are primarily about a medical subject, should be classified by the medical subject of the book.
- If the work is about the general life of medical personnel or a fictional biography, e.g. Dr. Kildare, the work should be classified in W 21 (Medicine as a profession)
- If the work is a fictional account of a real person(s), the work should be classed in WZ 100 or the appropriate collective biography number

Fictional works not written by a health care professional, that are not primarily about a medical subject, should be classified in the LC literature class (the P class). E.g., The Time Machine.

Collected Works

In general, the form number 5 is used for collected works by several authors, form number 7 is used for collected works by individual authors, and form number 9 is used for addresses, essays, or lectures. The schedule should be consulted for exceptions. With the 2017 summer edition, collected works and works comprised of addresses, essays, and lectures that cover a particular subject are also classed in their respective form numbers within the schedule. For example, Psychiatry - Collected Work is classified in WM 5 or WM 7. Psychotherapy - Collected Work is also classified in WM 5 or WM 7.

History

In general, the form number 11 is used for works dealing with the history of any aspect of a subject within a classification schedule. For example, WM 11 is used for both Psychiatry - history and Psychotherapy - history. There are exceptions to the use of the form number for history, which are generally noted under the particular form number (e.g., WC 11, is annotated "classify history of a single infectious disease with the disease"). The history of schools, laboratories, hospitals, institutes, etc., is classed in the appropriate form number for the type of entity. Furthermore, the form number 11 is not assigned to the schedules W and WB. The history of health professions and the practice of medicine are instead classified in the WZ schedule, except where otherwise annotated.

Legislation

Classify in the form number for laws (generally 32) in the appropriate schedule for the primary subject when 50% or more of the content consists of the text of laws, statutes, etc.

When the content of an item consists of discussion of law, etc., classify in the form number for discussion of law (generally 33) in the appropriate schedule for the primary subject.

The LC K schedule may be used for non-medical subjects but the preference is to try as much as possible to find an appropriate NLM class number whenever possible.

Congressional hearings and appropriations are generally classified by subject if the subject falls into the NLM schedules using form number 32 or 33 number in the appropriate schedule.

Statistics

Use the form number for statistics and tables (generally 16) in the appropriate schedule for the primary subject when 50% or more of the content of the item consists of statistical data or is presented in tabular form. Surveys are also classified in form number 16. General public health statistics for monographic materials are classed in WA 900.

Statistical studies of a disease are classed with the disease and not form number 16. Exception: Since the entire WC schedule is for Communicable Diseases, statistical studies of communicable diseases in general are classed in WC 16.

Bibliographies and Related Materials

Bibliographies, Abstracts and Indexes

Publications (monographs and serials) consisting primarily of bibliographies, abstracts or indexes are classed by subject. If the class number falls within the scope of the NLM Classification, it is prefaced with a capital "Z" with no space in between the letter "Z" and the other letters. If the class number falls outside the scope of the NLM Classification, generally the LCC Z schedule for bibliography, Z 1001-Z 9000 is used with a space in between the letter "Z" and the number.

Exceptions:

- A bibliography of a single author's work is classed in WZ 100
- A bibliography of commentaries on a single work is classed in WZ 294
- ZSF [and number] is used for subjects in the LCC SF schedule
- Use ZW 1 (not ZWB 100) for serials consisting of bibliographies of medical serials
- Use ZQ 1 for serials consisting of bibliographies of general scientific periodicals
- Biobibliographies are classified like biographies rather than bibliographies, i.e., in WZ 100-150 for persons in medically related fields or in the appropriate LCC number for persons in non-medically related fields

Dissertations

Bibliographies of general dissertations are classed in Z 5053-5055. ZQS-ZWZ, ZSF is used for bibliographies of dissertations of schools of dentistry, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, public health, veterinary medicine, etc.

For NLM's historical collection, W 4 is used for dissertations of foreign schools of dentistry, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, public health, veterinary medicine, etc.; ZW 4 is used for the bibliographies. W 4A is used for American dissertations on clinical research arranged by author. ZW 4A is used for the bibliographies. Classify dissertations which qualify as Americana in WZ 270.

Library Holdings

NLM classes general holdings of libraries in special fields (including private libraries) with the type of library. Note: NLM does not follow LC's practice of classifying with the individual library (Z 729-875).

Archives

General works about archives are classed in the LCC schedule at CD 931-4280. General works about medical archives are classed in WZ 24. Works about archives from a specific institute are classed with the institute. A bibliography or the holdings of a specific archive that is part of a library is classed with the library. A bibliography or the holdings of a specific archive that is not part of a library is classed with the institute with a "Z" in front of the class number.

Continuing Resources

A continuing resource is a publication in any physical or electronic format that is intended to be issued with no set ending, and generally carries numbering, dates or both. Serials and integrating resources are types of continuing resources. Serials are issued in separate parts, while integrating resources do not have separate issues.

Serial Publications

Almost all serials at NLM are classified in the form number W1, rather than by topic.

Exceptions to W1 Classification

- Serial government publications that are administrative or statistical in nature are classed in W2, along with ongoing reports about multiple hospitals under government administration.
- Serial hospital publications that are administrative or statistical in nature, including reports of single government hospitals are classed in WX 2.
- Serial publications consisting of bibliographies, indexes, or abstracts are classed for subject, in the same way as monographs. (Cf. Section on Bibliographies and Related Materials)
- Other non-periodical serials may be classed by topic when the classification schedule specifically says the number may be used for both monographs and serials.
- This most commonly occurs for specific publication types, such as directories, handbooks, dictionaries, legislation, etc.

Numbered Congresses

- Serial publications of congresses were classed in W3 until July 1988, as were ongoing named, numbered, and dated monographic congresses.
- All newly acquired serial publications that are proceedings or reports of meetings are now classed in W1. All newly acquired monographic congresses, including those ongoing named meetings previously classed in W3 are now classed in the appropriate subject classification number.
- W3 is still used for individual volumes in serial analytics that were assigned a W3 call number prior to 1988.

Locating Serial Classification Numbers

To find all the classification numbers that may be used for serials, search the schedule for the word "serials" on the Classification home page

Serials Classification

- Use of the W1 classification number allows NLM and other libraries to arrange their serials on the shelf alphabetically by title
- Use of the W2 and WX 2 classification numbers allows government and hospital serial publications to be arranged on the shelf by jurisdiction or location
- NLM does not supply alternate call numbers for serials
- Libraries that prefer to shelve serials by topic need to assign their own call numbers to serial titles
- Exception: NLM supplies alternate topical call numbers for analyzed volumes of serials classed in W1 and W3

Cuttering of Serial Call Numbers

- Cutters are only assigned to tangible serial resources. E-journals and other serials on the Internet do not have a cutter added to the W1 or other serial classification number
- Dates are not assigned to serial call numbers
-

Cuttering of W1 Call Numbers

- The cutter is based on the title established for the serial at the point of order, using the *Cutter-Sanborn Three Figure Author Table (*1969 ed.).
- A W1 cutter consists of the first two letters of the main entry in uppercase letters, followed by the Cutter-Sanborn number (may be extended up to four digits and/or additional uppercase letters if needed to make the cutter unique). However, numbers will be adjusted to make the title fit in proper alphabetical order with other NLM titles

Exceptions to Strict Alphabetical Arrangement for W1 Serials

- If the title or main entry changes between the time of order and the time the title is cataloged, the cutter is not changed

- When a new serial record is created for a major title change and the previous title is in NLM's collection and the numbering of the previous title is continued, NLM retains the cutter of the original title on the new title

Change from a Classification Number Assigned at Order
If at the time of cataloging it was determined that the W1 call number was assigned in error and the serial should really get a subject classification number (because the serial is a directory, handbook, etc.), then the W1 call number is changed

Cuttering of W2 and WX 2 Call Numbers
- All W2 and WX 2 serials are assigned a Table G number as part of the class number (See Section on Table G)
- A W2 or WX 2 cutter consists of an LC cutter number taken from the first word of the main entry (or the subordinate unit of the main entry, if the main entry is identical to the country in the Table G number). This cutter may be extended up to four digits and/or additional uppercase letters if needed to make the cutter unique. A lower case workmark for the title is added, if the title is not the main entry.

W2 and WX 2 Cuttering Exception
Beginning in August 2006, W2 and WX 2 serials that had a preassigned cutter beginning with the letter "Z" are not being recuttered to reflect the main entry.

Integrating Resources
Integrating resources are classified the same way as monographs. All numbers in the NLM Classification may be used for integrating resources. Like other material in the NLM collection, cutters are not assigned to intangible electronic resources, but are assigned for print. Cuttering for integrating resources follows monographic cuttering practices.

Classification of 19th Century Works and Early Printed Books

Classifying Pre-20th Century Works

19th Century Schedule
A simplified subject classification derived from the letters that represent the preclinical and clinical subjects covered by the NLM Classification is used for 19th century (1801-1913) monographs. The 19th century schedule is not part of the main NLM Classification. It is accessible via a link from the NLM Classification homepage: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/class//19thcenturyschedule.html

This abbreviated classification is limited to combinations of letters derived from the letters that represent the preclinical and clinical subjects and the classification notations W1-6, W 600, WX 2 and the form number 22 that appears throughout the schedule. In addition, the entire WZ schedule, History

of Medicine, is used for 19th century titles. When the subject falls outside of the schedules of the NLM Classification, only the letters of the LC schedule representing the subject are used, e.g., BF Psychology, SF Veterinary Medicine, etc. Facsimiles and reprints of entire 19th century works are classified in the 19th century schedule. Translations of works originally published from 1801-1913 are classed in the 19th century schedule only if the translation itself is published from 1801-1913. Bibliographies imprinted in the nineteenth century use the special plan for Bibliographies rather than the 19th century schedule.

Early Printed Books (WZ 230-270)

Works published before 1801 and Americana, i.e., early imprints from North, South and Central America and the Caribbean islands, are considered early printed books and are classified in the WZ schedule, WZ 230-270. These books are arranged alphabetically by author within each century or in the Americana number. These numbers are used only for original publications. Reprints and translations of pre-1801 works are classified in WZ 290-292, and modern criticism of early works in WZ 294.

Manuscripts (WZ 220-225)

WZ 220-225 is used for manuscripts produced before 1601: WZ 220—Early Western manuscripts and WZ 225—Other early manuscripts, Manuscripts produced after 1601 are classified at NLM as MS B (Manuscripts Books), MS C (Manuscripts Collections), or MS F (Manuscripts Oversize books).

Modern Versions and Commentaries of Early Works (WZ 290-294)

WZ 290—Modern versions of early works

- Used for reprints, facsimiles, or preservation microform of works originally published before 1801
- Not used for 19th century revised editions of 18th century imprints (use the 19th Century Schedule)

WZ 292—Modern collections of early works

- Used for collections (including serials) which contain pre-1801 works of three or more authors
- Classify works of only two authors in WZ 290

WZ 294—Modern commentaries of early works and bibliographies about single titles

- Used for studies, commentaries, etc., of pre-1801 works including Americana
- Classify in WZ 100 if it is largely the biography of one or two authors
- Classify in WZ 290 works that include the original text unless it is subordinate to the commentary
- Used for a bibliography of commentaries on a single work
- Classify in WZ 100 a bibliography of a single author's works (Cf. Section on Bibliographies and Related Materials)

NLM Classification Assignment – Historical Practices and Changes

Numbered Congresses W3, W 3.5 and ZW 3

NLM discontinued classifying serial publications of congresses or sequentially issued, numbered and dated monographic congresses in W3 in 1988. All newly acquired monographic congresses, including those of named meetings previously classified in W3, are classed in the appropriate subject classification number. Newly acquired serial publications that are proceedings or reports of meetings are classified in W1. Analytics of serials classified in W3 continue to be classified in the original W3 call number.

Subdivision by Language and Publication Date

For a brief period, with publication of the *NLM Classification*, 4th edition, 1978, certain classification numbers were subdivided by language and date. Throughout the schedule, classification numbers that were heavily used were categorized as materials published earlier than 1978 and from 1978 forward and were further modified by appending a .3 (for English language) or .4 (for foreign language). This practice was discontinued in 1980 and the numbers dropped from the *NLM Classification*, 4th ed., rev., published in 1981. Materials which were already classified in these numbers were not reclassified.

Nurses' Instruction

Since 1984 materials on specific subjects, prepared for nurses, have been classified with the subject, when the nurses' role is not discussed. For example, material on the physiopathology of hypertension, written for nurses, is classified with Hypertension in WG 340. However when nursing techniques are included the material is classified in WY. Prior to 1984 background materials were classified in the WY schedule together with materials dealing with nursing techniques in special fields of medicine.

Accession Numbers

From 1994- 2020, accession numbers, sequential numbers based on date of receipt, were provided in the 060 field of the bibliographic record for all print monographs in the General Collection and all AV materials shelved in the General Collection from 2004-2020. As of May 2020, shelving locations are recorded only in the holdings record in the 852 $h, rather than the bib record.

Changes in Cuttering Practices

As of June 21, 2010, NLM ceased providing cutter numbers for most of the classification numbers assigned to print monographs that the Library catalogs with the exception of material being shelved in the NLM Reference collection or titles cataloged for the NLM History of Medicine Division.