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Edited by Clément Arsenault

Book Review Editor

Joseph Miller and Barbara A. Bristow, *Sears List of Subject Headings*, 19th ed. New York, Dublin: H. W. Wilson, 2007. li, 823 p. ISBN: 978-0-8242-1076-2 (hbk.)

The Sears List, first published in 1923, has survived times of destabilizing changes while keeping reasonable continuity with the past. Dr. Joseph Miller, at the helm since 1992 and the longest-serving editor in the eighty-four years of the List's existence, first edited the 15th edition of the *Sears* (1994). Over the years, the *Sears* has achieved more than it had hoped for: ever-increasing use the world over. In fact, the turbulent progress of media and information theories has forced the *Sears* to keep up with the changing times. Knowledge organization is a shifting sand in the electronic era. Vast and varied changes generate not only new information, but also new terms and phrases. It is trite to say that the electronic media have transformed the way in which we access information and knowledge. The new edition of the *Sears* has absorbed these changes to reflect the times.

The 19th edition, released in May 2007, has about 440 new headings, to bring the new total to over 8000 headings, which keeps the growth rate at five percent. Newly-added headings generally fall into one of two categories: a) headings for the new and current subjects and b) headings previously missed. A few more have been modified. New editions are produced regularly to:

– incorporate terms for new subjects,
– restructure the form of old headings to suit the changing information needs and information-seeking behaviour of the users,
– add new terms to old subject headings to reflect current usage,
– delete the obsolete subjects,
– forge new relations between subjects and their terms.

Two major areas of new additions are in the fields of Islam, as might be expected, and the graphic novel—the latter has thirty headings perhaps drawn from the WilsonWeb Database on Graphic Novels Core Collection. Islam has constantly remained in the news since the 9/11 attacks, and many US schools have now introduced curricula on Islamic religion and culture. Some other new headings are: **Reality television programs**, **Suicide bombers**, **Stem cell research** and **Body piercing**, as well as many others drawn from literary warrant. Other changes include cancelled or modified headings: **Biological diversity** becomes **Biodiversity** and **Native peoples** has been replaced by **Indigenous peoples** (p. xlii). Some headings have been fine-tuned: for example, **Fictitious character** becomes **Fictional character**. The "Principles of the Sears List of Subject Headings" have been extended slightly to allow for formulation of new headings under **Native Americans**, **Mythology** and **Folklore**.

Some omissions have been detected. Though **Sexual behavior** has been changed to **Sex**, **Sexual behavior** still exists as a subdivision. But no guideline in the main list is given for the proper use of this subdivision. Some subdivisions in the main list do not appear in the separate "List of Subdivisions Provided for in the Sears List" (p. xlv-1). The following examples reflect only a random sample:

Bible—Natural history
Food—Fiber content
Photography—Enlarging
Popular music—Writing and publishing

In fact, these are very specific and exclusive subdivisions resulting from the de-inversion of all the headings and are thus not subdivisions in the real sense. Furthermore, one might contend that **Hindu philosophy** be changed to **Indian philosophy**—the latter is the apt and accepted term. Technically speaking, Hindu philosophy is only a part of Indian philosophy. However, in the *Sears*, **Indian philosophy** has not even been recognized as a non-preferred term. Another anomaly is the presence of two synonymous headings, **Earth—Satellites** and **Moon**, for the same celestial entity. One wonders which small library will

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need SH **Napkin folding: Table setting and decorations** seems more than sufficient.

Key headings form a vital part of the system of coining new headings, which keeps the volume slim and trim. This short list has been frozen for a long time (p. xli). It would be time to identify and designate more key headings. Some candidate headings for such elevated positions are obvious. **Bible** has seventy headings, both preferred and non-preferred, while, for example, **Koran** has only two, and **Vedas** has a single entry. Most of the Biblical phrased headings or subdivisions could be smoothly transferred to other scriptures. On the Biblical analogy, we could have SHs such as **Koran in literature**, **Koranic cosmology**, and **Koran—Prophecies.** Another heading that requires updating is **Napoleon I, Emperor of the French**.

Carrying things further, we could make every preferred heading a potential key heading for its NTs. For example, from the SH **Flowers** we could derive SHs:

Roses—United States
Roses—Drying
Rose arrangement
Roses in art
Even, **Artificial roses.**

To cite a few more examples, we could derive **Computer games industry** out of **Computer software industry** and **Broadcast journalism—Objectivity**, as well as **Reporters and reporting—Objectivity**, out of **Journalism.** For what is true of a broad class is equally true of its narrow class, by the principle whereby phylogeny recapitulates ontogeny.

Applying this principle would enormously enhance the capacity of the *List* without adding even an iota to its text. Awaited is a single command from the editors to authorize this. All that is required is for them to make this provision explicitly in the introduction.

The lapses are minor and could be forgiven; they in no way detract from this continuously-expanding and well-established tool for subject-cataloguing in small and medium libraries. The handy List and its lucid introduction make *Sears* an excellent and convenient tool for teaching subject headings' use and principles, as well as methods of vocabulary control.

With its glossy and flowery cover, clear typeface and high production standards, the new edition is particularly welcome.

M P Satija, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar-143005, India, satija_mp@yahoo.com

Helen Heinrich. *E-journal Invasion: A Cataloger's Guide to Survival*. Oxford: Chandos Publishing, 2007. 233 p. ISBN 1-84334-193-X (hbk.)

The subtitle of this book says it all. The author's intent is to provide catalogers and cataloging managers with important background information on electronic journal description and access. As such, this text serves as a good overview of the issues and problems catalogers face in working with electronic journals. The five chapters can be characterized as presenting:

– A broad overview of existing metadata schema
– Current practices and issues in e-serial cataloging
– Unique issues and problems of aggregated sources
– A case study in providing description for and access to e-journals
– Access to e-journal content beyond the traditional catalog record.

As someone who has seen his position change to respond to the rise of electronic journals, I am fully aware of the skills required in order to "survive" in this new environment. To my knowledge, this text is the first specifically aimed at the cataloging community (versus the more general serialist community) that is more than "how to create an electronic journal catalog record."

Ms. Heinrich starts with a broad discussion of the metadata schema she believes will be of most use to the general serialist: MARC (including MARC XML), MODS, Dublin Core and ONIX. For each of these schemas, the author provides background on the development of the standard, identifies what purpose it best serves, and gives an overview of the record structure. The author also provides a good discussion of the relationships between the various schemas and highlights their strengths and weaknesses. Unfortunately, a presentation of examples is lacking in the MARC and ONIX sections and the example of a MODS record for an electronic serial (figure 1.5) is slightly inaccurate as what is being described is an article within the serial, not the serial itself. The discussion of MARC goes very quickly from a general overview of the MARC record structure—useful for someone not familiar with MARC—to specific changes made to accommodate the description of electronic resources. Those not familiar with a MARC record (e.g., vendors) will be quickly lost in the details. At this point, it might have been helpful to provide not only the tables of