

Appendix E: Geographic Area Codes

BACKGROUND: *MARC Geographic Area Codes (GACs) provide for broad retrieval of cataloging records by geographic areas of interest. Codes exist for countries, regions, some first order political divisions, mountain ranges, bodies of water, etc. GACs are selected on the basis of the headings assigned to the work being cataloged. Codes are required for headings that imply geographic orientation, as well as for those that are explicitly geographical. Codes are entered by catalogers in the 043 field. This instruction sheet provides guidelines for assigning GACs. The complete list of GACs is published in the **MARC Code List for Geographic Areas**.*

Note: Until 2010, the Library of Congress assigned a maximum of three GACs to any one bibliographic record. In 2010, that restriction was lifted. There is currently no limit on the number of GACs that may be assigned to a record.

1. General rule. Bring out by code the geographic areas that appear or are implied in the headings assigned to the work being cataloged. If a heading is tagged 651 or contains a geographic subdivision (a \$z subfield), assign a code. Assign codes for ethnic groups, nationalities, civilizations, topics qualified by ethnic groups or nationalities, individual named entities, including corporate bodies, and events.

Note: Although there is no limit on the number of codes that may be assigned to any individual bibliographic record, if a large number of codes would be required to cover all of the places that the subject headings encompass, consider assigning one or more GACs at a broader level that would include all of the individual places.

	<i>Code for:</i>
Japan–Commerce	Japan
Education–France	France
Country music	United States
[<i>UF Country music–United States</i>]	
African Americans	United States
British	Great Britain
Civilization, Germanic	Europe
University of Illinois	Illinois
Biennale di Venezia (Venice, Italy)	Italy

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2. Coding for local entities. Assign the appropriate code for the country or the first order political division for a work about a local geographic feature, region, or jurisdiction that is located within a country or first order political division.

	<i>Code for:</i>
Rabat (Morocco)	Morocco
Bloke Plateau (Slovenia)	Slovenia
Children–New York (State)– New York	New York (State)
Education–Washington (State)– Seattle	Washington (State)
Architecture–Australia– Sydney (N.S.W.)	New South Wales
Vladivostok (Russia)	Russia (Federation)

Note: Separate codes for the first order 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. For any work dealing with one of these Russian regions as a whole, assign the code indicated. For an entity, such as a city, located within one of these regions, assign the code for Russia (Federation) instead. For example, for a work about Siberia as a whole, assign e-urs, but for a work about the city of Irkutsk, located in Siberia, assign e-ru.

3. Regions, valleys, watersheds, etc. For a region, valley, watershed, etc., associated with a particular feature for which a code exists, assign the code for the corresponding feature.

	<i>Code for:</i>
Great Lakes Region	Great Lakes
Mississippi River Valley	Mississippi River

4. Entities located in several countries. Code for each country or for the larger geographic area if appropriate.

	<i>Code for:</i>
Euphrates River	Turkey; Iraq; Syria
European Economic Community countries	Europe

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4. *Entities located in several countries.* (Continued)

If an entity is located in several first order political divisions, for countries having separate codes for political divisions, apply the above rule at the division level.

	<i>Code for:</i>
Yellowstone River	Wyoming; North Dakota; Montana
Colorado River	West (U.S.)

5. *Historic jurisdictions, empires, kingdoms, etc.* Assign codes that correspond to modern-day jurisdictions or areas.

	<i>Code for:</i>
Byzantine Empire	Mediterranean Region
Rome	Europe; Africa, North; Middle East
Confederate States of America	Southern States

Note: These examples illustrate 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, assign the appropriate code for the particular place.

6. *Parts of regions.* If a work discusses only part of a large geographic region for which a code exists, code for both the region and the locality if subject headings for both are assigned. *Example:*

Title: Water resource problems and priorities in the Appalachian region counties of North Carolina.
650 0 \$a Water-supply \$z Appalachian Region.
650 0 \$a Water-supply \$z North Carolina.

Code for: Appalachian Region; North Carolina

If a single code does not exist specifically for the region, code only for the part of the region covered by the work being cataloged.

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7. *Ethnic groups, nationalities, civilizations, etc.* Assign codes for the jurisdictions or areas where they are located. For an individual element in the population, assign a code only for the present locality, not the place of origin, as long as the people are citizens or permanent residents.

	<i>Code for:</i>
Ashantis (African people)	Ghana; Togo; Ivory Coast
Hopi Indians	Arizona
Indians of North America– Alaska	Alaska
British	Great Britain
Japanese Americans–Ohio	Ohio
African Americans	United States
Civilization, Germanic	Europe

Foreign members of a population. Assign codes 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.

	<i>Code for:</i>
British–United States	Great Britain; United States
African American students–France	United States; France
Americans–France [as unnaturalized expatriates]	United States; France

Influence of one nation on another. For the impact of one place on another, code for both.

	<i>Code for:</i>
Great Britain–Colonies– America	Great Britain; America
Japan–Intellectual life– American influences	Japan; United States

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7. *Ethnic groups, nationalities, civilizations, etc.* (Continued)

Special topics modified by names of ethnic groups or nationalities. Code for the ethnic group or nationality. If the work is limited to a specific locality, code for the locality only. If it deals with an area outside of the area normally associated with the people, code for both places.

Technical assistance, American	<i>Code for:</i> United States
African American authors	United States
Art, English	Great Britain
Poets, American–Ohio	Ohio
Pottery, Chinese–Canada	China; Canada

8. *Language.* Code for the location of a language if the work deals with geographic aspects of the language.

French language–Dialects [a work on the distribution of the dialects of France]	<i>Code for:</i> France
French language–Dialects– Belgium	Belgium
Hopi language [a distribution study]	Arizona

Assign no code to grammars, textbooks for learning the language, histories of linguistic changes such as changes in phonology, etc.

Assign no code if the heading assigned is intended to bring out the language of a publication, e.g.,

Sermons, German
English poetry
Buddhism–Prayer-books and devotions–English

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9. Literature. Assign no code to the *texts* of belles lettres or folk literature unless a subject heading that has a geographic element is assigned to the work. Assign GACs, however, to works that *discuss* particular literatures.

American poetry–California	<i>Code for:</i> California
American poetry–History and criticism	United States
United States–History–War of 1812–Fiction	United States
Folk poetry, Tamil–Burma	Burma
Canadian drama	[no code]

10. Named entities. Code for the location of individual named entities, including corporate bodies (i.e., entities tagged 610 in bibliographic records), buildings and structures, roads, waterways, railroads, monuments, camps, parks, gardens, etc. For government agencies, code for the jurisdictions the agencies serve.

University of Illinois	<i>Code for:</i> Illinois
Folger Shakespeare Library	Washington (D.C.)
Library of Congress	Washington (D.C.)
American Water Works Association	United States
New England Library Association	New England
Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co.	United States
Old Manse (Concord, Mass.)	Massachusetts
Brooklyn Bridge (New York, N.Y.)	New York (State)
Southern Pacific Railroad	United States
Yellowstone National Park	Idaho; Montana; Wyoming
United States. Department of Agriculture	United States
Baltimore County Public Schools	Maryland
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)	United States

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11. *Events, exhibitions, movements, etc.* Assign a code for the location of the occurrence. Do not code for participating countries unless the country is brought out in a heading assigned to the work being cataloged.

	<i>Code for:</i>
Dunkirk, Battle of, Dunkerque,, France, 1940	France
World War, 1914-1918	Europe
World War, 1939-1945	[no code]
World War, 1939-1945– Germany	Germany
Reformation–Germany	Germany
Reformation	Europe
United States–History– War of 1812	United States
Maryland–History– War of 1812	Maryland
Canadian Grand Prix Race	Canada
Expo (International Exhibitions Bureau) (1967 : Montréal, Québec)	Québec (Province)
Occitan movement	France
United States–History– Revolution, 1775-1783	United States

12. *Biography and genealogy.* Assign codes to any work of biography, individual or collective, and to any work of genealogy, to which headings covered by the general rule are assigned.

Do not assign a code to genealogical works to which the only heading assigned is a family name.

13. *Specific types of material and specific places.* Many individual instruction sheets in this manual include information about assigning GACs when cataloging either specific types of material or material about specific places. These instruction sheets are listed below.

Specific types of material

- Core level records. See H 170, sec. 4
- Genealogical works. See H 1631, sec. 4
- Microforms. See H 1893, sec. 3
- Jazz; Popular music. See H 1916.5, sec. 2.d.
- Non-music sound recordings; Visual materials. See H 2230, sec. 7

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13. *Specific types of material and specific places.* (Continued)

Specific places

- Bosnia and Herzegovina; Croatia; Former Yugoslav Republics; Kosovo; Macedonia; Montenegro; Serbia; Serbia and Montenegro; Slovenia; Yugoslavia. See H 1055, sec. 5
- Congo. See H 928, sec. 5
- Former Soviet Republics; Soviet Union. See H 1023, sec. 6
- Gaza Strip; Golan Heights; Jerusalem; Palestine; West Bank. See H 980, sec. 5
- Hong Kong. See H 978, sec. 5
- Vatican City. See H 1045, sec. 4