

**BACKGROUND:** The heading **Islam** denotes the religion of which Muhammad is the prophet. Other connotations of the term **Islam** are (1) the community of believers, (2) their cultural system or civilization, and (3) the countries that share the Islamic religion. These concepts are represented by specific subject headings which are respectively: (1) **Muslims**; (2) **Islamic civilization**; (3) **Islamic countries**. The obsolete forms **Mohammedan** and **Mohammedanism**, and related headings, were changed in LCSH in 1964.

**1. Islamic.** Use **Islamic** as an adjective indicating "of, relating to, or characteristic of Islam" as a religion, cultural system, or civilization, as well as the group of national political units that share the Islamic religion, for example, **Islamic sects**; **Islamic literature**; **Islamic law**; **Islamic pottery**; **Islamic countries**.

**2. Muslim.** Use **Muslim** as an adjective whenever the noun modified refers to persons, the believers of Islam, for example, **Muslim converts**; **Muslim saints**; **Muslim women**. The adjective **Muslim** may also be used in other instances when this is warranted by predominant usage.

**3. References.** When establishing headings qualified by the terms **Islamic** or **Muslim**, add 450 fields with the alternative forms. *Examples:*

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150 ## $a Muslim converts
450 ## $a Islamic converts

150 ## $a Islamic shrines
450 ## $a Muslim shrines
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