Preface

Since the first edition in 1923, the Sears List has served the unique needs of small and medium-sized libraries, suggesting headings appropriate for use in their catalogs and providing patterns and instructions for adding new headings as they are required. The successive editors of the List have faced the need to accommodate change while maintaining a sound continuity. The new and revised headings in each edition reflect developments in the material catalogued, in the use of the English language, and in cataloging theory and practice. The aim is always to make library collections as easily available as possible to library users.

The Principles of the Sears List, which follows A History of the Sears List, is intended both as a statement of the theoretical foundations of the Sears List and as a concise introduction to subject cataloging in general. The List of Commonly Used Subdivisions, which follows the Principles, lists, for the purpose of easy reference, every subdivision for which there is a provision in the List, no matter how specialized. For every subdivision there is also an entry in the alphabetical List with full instructions for the use of that particular subdivision. There are also many examples of the use of subdivisions, emphasizing that the use of subdivisions is an essential method of expanding and adapting the List to a library’s particular needs.

The Sears List of Subject Headings is also available as a database and as MARC records for direct integration with a library’s ILS. Ask your sales rep for more information.

What is New in This Edition

This is the first edition of Sears List produced by Grey House Publishing, which acquired the title in 2018. In addition to updating the look of Sears List with cleaner lines and more accessible typography, the content is now also available as a free, online database that librarians can access, at no charge for one year. Grey House is pleased to welcome you to this new edition with its many new and improved features.

The major feature of this new edition of the Sears List is the inclusion of more than 1,600 new and revised subject headings. New headings in this edition reflect the changing needs of library users, which includes addressing the growing literature in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The following are a sample of new STEM headings added since the last edition: Androids, Environmental risk, Bioengineering, Graphic medicine, Traumatic brain injury, STEM education, Sinkholes, and more. With same-sex marriage reaching full legal status in all 50 states in 2015, and some terms becoming pejorative, the Sears database updated a number of LGBTQIA headings in 2016, including but not limited to: Asexual people, Transgender teenagers, and LGBT people in the military. This edition also includes new headings for genres of literature and music, based on the genre/form approved by the Library of Congress in 2015. In these and other areas many provisions have been added for creating more new headings as needed. Many of the headings new to this edition were suggested by librarians representing various sizes and types of libraries, by commercial vendors of bibliographic records, and by the catalogers, indexers, and subject specialists at EBSCO Information Services.

In addition to those new headings, the sixth edition of The Sears List Canadian Companion is now fully incorporated into this edition of the Sears List. This incorporation included the expansion and
reconciliation of notes where the Canadian Companion contained more information and options, and the revision of Canadian headings Fur trade and Lacrosse to Fur trade — Canada and Lacrosse — Canada. The Sears List subdivision Description and travel was chosen over the Canadian subdivision Description. This inclusion aims to improve the efficiency and accessibility of the Sears List for catalogers by assembling the vocabulary into one volume. It also reflects the increasing international use of the Sears List in library cataloging. Those headings that originated in The Sears List Canadian Companion are not identified as such, as this edition of Sears List and those going forward, are treated as one inclusive vocabulary.

With the twenty-first edition, all headings conform to the new RDA standards. RDA, which stands for Resource Description and Access, is the cataloging standard that replaced AACR2 in early 2013. While many of the rules have stayed the same, there is an impact on the format of subject headings in certain areas. This new edition of the Sears List makes a concentrated effort to adhere to those new standards where applicable including bringing headings for fictional characters, legendary characters, and deities into compliance.

Other revisions address the changing demographics of library users and aim to correspond more closely to current literature and library patron search expectations. This includes canceling headings such as Elderly in favor of Older people, and Aliens (Foreign population) in favor of Noncitizens, both of which may be subdivided geographically by continent, region, country, state, or city.

For the convenience of librarians maintaining their catalogs, these revisions and all other revisions are spelled out in the List of Canceled and Replacement Headings found on page A-57.

This twenty-second edition of the Sears List, the first to be published by Grey House Publishing, was edited by Barbara Bristow, a former H. W. Wilson employee and long-time colleague of Joseph Miller, editor of the fifteenth and subsequent editions.

The Scope of the Sears List

No list can possibly provide a heading for every idea, object, process, or relationship, especially not within the scope of a single volume. What Sears hopes to offer instead is a basic list that includes many of the headings most likely to be needed in small libraries together with patterns and examples that will guide the cataloger in creating additional headings as needed. New topics appear every day, and books on those topics require new subject headings. Headings for new topics can be developed from the Sears List in two ways, by establishing new terms as needed and by subdividing the headings already in the List. Instructions for creating new headings based on the pattern in Sears and sources for establishing the wording of new headings are given in the Principles of the Sears List. The various kinds of subdivisions and the rules for their application are also discussed in the Principles of the Sears List.

It is only by being flexible and expandable that Sears has been able over the years to fill the needs of various kinds of libraries. The degree or level of specificity required for a collection depends entirely on the material being collected. While a small library is unlikely to need very narrow topics of a technical or scientific nature, it is not at all unlikely that it might have a gardening book on Irises. That term is not in the List, but it would be added as a narrower term under Flowers.
Form of Headings

It was the policy of Minnie Sears to use the Library of Congress form of subject headings with some modification, chiefly the simplification of phrasing. The Sears List still reflects the usage of the Library of Congress unless there is some compelling reason to vary, but those instances of variation have become numerous over the years. A major difference between the two lists is that in Sears the direct form of entry has replaced the inverted form, on the theory that most library users search for multiple-word terms in the order in which they occur naturally in the language. In most cases cross-references have been made from the inverted form and from the Library of Congress form where it otherwise varies.

Scope Notes

As in previous editions, all the new and revised headings in this edition have been provided with scope notes where such notes are required. Scope notes are intended to clarify the specialized use of a term or to distinguish between terms that might be confused. If there is any question of what a term means, the cataloger should simply consult a dictionary. There are times, however, when subject headings require a stricter limitation of a term than the common usage given in a dictionary would allow, as in the case of Marketing, a term in business and economics, not to be confused with Grocery shopping. Here a scope note is required. Some scope notes distinguish between topics and forms, such as Encyclopedias and dictionaries for critical and historical materials and the subdivisions Encyclopedias and Dictionaries under topics for items that are themselves encyclopedias or dictionaries. There are also scope notes in Sears that identify any headings in the area of literature that may be assigned to individual works of drama, fiction, poetry, etc.

Classification

The classification numbers in this edition of Sears are taken from the Abridged WebDewey, the continuously updated online version of the Abridged Dewey Decimal Classification. The numbers are intended only to direct the cataloger to a place in the DDC schedules where material on that subject is often found. They are not intended as a substitute for consulting the schedules, notes, and manual of the DDC itself when classifying a particular item. The relationship between subject headings and classification is further discussed in the Principles of the Sears List.

Usually only one number is assigned to a subject heading. In some cases, however, when a subject can be treated in more than one discipline, the subject is then given more than one number in the List. The heading Chemical industry, for example, is given two numbers, 338.4 and 660, which represent possible classification numbers for materials dealing with the chemical industry from the viewpoints of economics and technology respectively. Classification numbers are not assigned to a few very general subject headings, such as Charters, Exhibitions, Hallmarks, and Identification, which cannot be classified unless a specific application is identified. The alphabetic notation of B for individual biographies is occasionally provided in addition to Dewey classification numbers for such materials. Numbers in the 810s and 840s prefixed by a C are given as optional numbers for topics in Canadian literature.

The Dewey numbers given in Sears are extended as far as is authorized by the Abridged Dewey Decimal Classification, which is seldom more than four places beyond the decimal point. When an item being classified has a particular form or geographic specificity, the number may be extended by
adding form and geographic subdivisions from the Dewey tables. Only a few examples of built
numbers are given in Sears, such as 940.53022 for World War, 1939-1945 — Pictorial works. No
library should feel the need to extend classification numbers beyond what is practical for the size of
the library’s collection. For a discussion of close and broad classification and for instructions on
building numbers from the Dewey tables, the cataloger should consult the introduction to the most
recent edition of the Abridged Dewey Decimal Classification and Relative Index.

Style, Filing, Etc.

For spelling and definitions the editor has relied upon Webster’s Third New International Dictionary
of the English Language, Unabridged (1961) and the Random House Webster’s Unabridged
Dictionary, 2nd ed., revised and updated (1997). Capitalization and the forms of corporate and
geographic names used as examples are based on the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, 2nd ed.,
2002 revision, and have been updated to be RDA compliant. The filing of entries is alphabetical by
main heading, with subheadings following, also alphabetically. This is a change from the filing of
the twentieth edition, but catalogers should note that they are not obligated to change the order used
in their library. Corporate name headings for corporate entities within other entities, such as United
States, Army, are interfiled with the subdivisions for the main corporate heading.

Every term in the List that may be used as a subject heading is printed in boldface type whether it is
a main term; a term in a Use reference; a broader, narrower, or related term; or an example in a
scope note or general reference. If a term is not printed in boldface type, it is not used as a heading.
### List of Subdivisions Provided for in the Sears List

The following is a list of every subdivision for which there is a specific provision in the Sears List. This list is meant for handy reference only. For instructions on the use of a particular subdivision, see the entry for that subdivision in the main body of the alphabetical List. The following list is not exhaustive. It does not, for example, contain geographic or chronological subdivisions, which should be established by the cataloger as needed. Further topical and form subdivisions may also be required in libraries that contain specialized material, and they too should be established as needed and used consistently.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accidents</th>
<th>Autographs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounting</td>
<td>Authorship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accreditation</td>
<td>Automation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adaptations</td>
<td>Awards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>Battlefields</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aerial operations</td>
<td>Behavior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American authors</td>
<td>Biblical teaching</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>Bibliography</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aging</td>
<td>Bio-bibliography</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Biography</td>
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<tr>
<td>Air conditioning</td>
<td>Bishops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol use</td>
<td>Black authors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allusions</td>
<td>Blockades</td>
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<tr>
<td>Almanacs</td>
<td>Book reviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alphabet</td>
<td>Books and reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amphibious operations</td>
<td>Boundaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analysis</td>
<td>Brakes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anatomy</td>
<td>Breeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anecdotes</td>
<td>Buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anniversaries</td>
<td>Calendars</td>
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<tr>
<td>Antiquities</td>
<td>Campaigns</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apologetic works</td>
<td>Captivities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appointment</td>
<td>Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appointments and retirements</td>
<td>Cartoons and caricatures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriations and expenditures</td>
<td>Case studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archives</td>
<td>Casualties</td>
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<tr>
<td>Armed forces</td>
<td>Catalogs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Armistices</td>
<td>Catechisms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Army</td>
<td>Catholic Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Art and the war</td>
<td>Causes</td>
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<td>Art collections</td>
<td>Censorship</td>
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<td>Assassination</td>
<td>Census</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atlases</td>
<td>Centennial celebrations, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atrocities</td>
<td>Chaplains</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attitudes</td>
<td>Characters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Audiences</td>
<td>Charities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Audiovisual aids</td>
<td>Charts, diagrams, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditing</td>
<td>Chemical warfare</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Non-alpha Headings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-alpha Headings</th>
<th>Broader Term(s):</th>
<th>Use:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>‘Id al-Fitr</td>
<td>Eid al-Fitr</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 years’ war</td>
<td>Hundred Years’ War, 1339-1453</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th of November</td>
<td>Remembrance Day (Canada)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920s</td>
<td>Nineteen twenties</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930s</td>
<td>Nineteen thirties</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1940s</td>
<td>Nineteen forties</td>
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<td>1950s</td>
<td>Nineteen fifties</td>
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<td>1960s</td>
<td>Nineteen sixties</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1970s</td>
<td>Nineteen seventies</td>
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<td>1980s</td>
<td>Nineteen eighties</td>
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<tr>
<td>1990s</td>
<td>Nineteen nineties</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1st of July</td>
<td>Canada Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Sussex Drive (Ottawa, Ont.)</td>
<td>Twenty-four Sussex Drive (Ottawa, Ont.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>24th of May</td>
<td>Victoria Day</td>
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<td>3-D photography</td>
<td>Three-dimensional photography</td>
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<td>3-D printing</td>
<td>Three-dimensional printing</td>
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<td>4-H clubs</td>
<td>Agriculture — Societies</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Agriculture — Study and teaching</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boys’ clubs</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Girls’ clubs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>401(k) plans</td>
<td>Individual retirement accounts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th of July</td>
<td>Fourth of July</td>
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</tr>
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### A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>Dewey:</th>
<th>Broader Term(s):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abacus</td>
<td>513.28</td>
<td>Calculators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abandoned children</td>
<td>362.73</td>
<td>Exposed children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographic Note:</td>
<td>May subdivide geographically</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Broader Term(s): Child welfare
Related Term(s): Children
Abandoned towns
Use: Extinct cities
Ghost towns
Abandonment of family
Use: Desertion and nonsupport
Abbeys
Geographic Note: May subdivide geographically
Dewey: 271; 726
See Also: names of individual abbeys [to be added as needed]
Broader Term(s): Church architecture
Monasteries
Narrower Term(s): Westminster Abbey
Related Term(s): Cathedrals
Abbreviations
Dewey: 411
Use For: Contractions
Broader Term(s): Writing
Narrower Term(s): Acronyms
Code names
Related Term(s): Ciphers
Shorthand
Signs and symbols
ABCs
Use: Alphabet
Abdominal exercises
Dewey: 613.7
Use For: Stomach exercises
Broader Term(s): Exercise
Abduction
Use: Kidnapping
Abduction of humans by aliens
Use: Alien abduction
Abilities
Use: Ability
Ability
Dewey: 153.9
Use For: Abilities; Aptitude; Skill; Skills; Talent; Talents
See Also: types of ability [to be added as needed]
Narrower Term(s): Creative ability
Executive ability
Leadership
Mathematical ability
Musical ability
Related Term(s): Success
Ability — Testing
Geographic Note: May subdivide geographically
Dewey: 153.9; 371.26
Use For: Aptitude testing
Broader Term(s): Educational tests and measurements
Intelligence tests
Psychological tests
Ability grouping in education
Geographic Note: May subdivide geographically
Dewey: 371.2
Use For: Grouping by ability
Broader Term(s): Education
Educational psychology
Grading and marking (Education)
Narrower Term(s): Nongraded schools
ABMs
Use: Antimissile missiles
Abnormal children
Use: Children with disabilities
Exceptional children
Abnormal growth
Use: Growth disorders
Abnormal psychology
Dewey: 616.89
Scope Note: Use for systematic descriptions of mental disorders. Materials on clinical aspects of mental disorders, including therapy, are entered under Psychiatry. Popular materials and materials on regional or social aspects of mental disorders are entered under Mental illness.
Use For: Mental diseases; Pathological psychology; Psychology, Pathological; Psychopathology; Psychopathy
Broader Term(s): Mind and body
Nervous system
Narrower Term(s): Affective disorders
Attention deficit disorder
Codependency
Compulsive behavior
Depression (Psychology)
Eating disorders
Hallucinations and illusions
Mental illness
Mental retardation
Multiple personality
Neuroses
Panic disorders
Personality disorders
Psychosomatic medicine
Self-mutilation
Absentee parents
Life skills

Related Term(s): Life (Biology)

Life (Biology)

Dewey: 570.1
Scope Note: Use for materials on life from a scientific point of view. Materials on philosophical or religious considerations of life are entered under Life.

Broader Term(s): Biology
Narrower Term(s): Biosphere
Gaia hypothesis
Genetics
Life cycles (Biology)
Middle age
Protoplasm
Reproduction

Related Term(s): Life

Life — Origin

Dewey: 113
Use For: Germ theory; Origin of life

Life after death

Use: Future life
Immortality

Life care communities

Geographic Note: May subdivide geographically
Dewey: 362.61; 363.5
Scope Note: Use for materials on retirement communities that guarantee services and medical care for the rest of a person’s life.

Use For: Continuing care communities; Continuing care retirement communities

Broader Term(s): Retirement communities

Life change events

Dewey: 155.9
Use For: Events, Life change; Experiences, Life change

Broader Term(s): Developmental psychology
Related Term(s): Stress (Psychology)

Life cycles

Use: Life cycles (Biology)

Life cycles (Biology)

Dewey: 571.8
Use For: Life cycles
See Also: types of plants or animals with the subdivision Life cycles [to be added as needed]

Broader Term(s): Biology
Cycles
Life (Biology)

Life expectancy

Geographic Note: May subdivide geographically
Dewey: 304.6
Use For: Expectancy of life; Expectation of life

Broader Term(s): Age
Life
Vital statistics

Narrower Term(s): Longevity

Life histories

Use: Biography

Life insurance

Geographic Note: May subdivide geographically
Dewey: 368.32
Use For: Insurance, Life

Broader Term(s): Group insurance
Related Term(s): Annuities

Life on other planets

Dewey: 576.8
Scope Note: Use for materials on the possibility of indigenous life in outer space. Materials on the biology of humans or other earth creatures while in outer space are entered under Space biology.

Use For: Astrobiology; Extraterrestrial life

Broader Term(s): Astronomy
Planets
Universe

Narrower Term(s): Extraterrestrial beings
Interstellar communication
Related Term(s): Human-alien encounters

Life quality

Use: Quality of life

Life saving

Use: Lifesaving

Life sciences

Geographic Note: May subdivide geographically
Dewey: 576
Use For: Biosciences
Science

Broader Term(s): Agriculture
Biology
Medicine

Related Term(s): Bioethics

Life sciences ethics

Use: Bioethics

Life skills

Geographic Note: May subdivide geographically
Dewey: 158; 646.7
Scope Note: Use for materials on skills needed by an individual to exist in modern
society, including skills related to education, employment, finance, etc.

Use For:
- Basic life skills; Coping skills;
- Functional competencies;
- Fundamental life skills; Life skills guides; Living skills; Personal life skills

See Also:
- groups and classes of persons with the subdivision Life skills guides, e.g. Elderly — Life skills guides [to be added as needed]

Broader Term(s):
- Interpersonal relations
- Success

Narrower Term(s):
- Conduct of life
- Older people — Life skills guides
- Self-help techniques
- Self-improvement
- Social skills
- Study skills
- Survival skills

Related Term(s):
- Human behavior

Life skills guides
Use: Life skills

Life span prolongation
Use: Longevity

Life styles
Use: Lifestyles

Life support systems (Medical environment)
Dewey: 362.1
Broader Term(s): Hospitals
- Terminal care

Life support systems (Space environment)
Dewey: 629.47
Broader Term(s):
- Ergonomics
- Space medicine

Narrower Term(s):
- Apollo project
- Lunar bases
- Space suits

Life support systems (Submarine environment)
Dewey: 627
Broader Term(s):
- Ergonomics

Life, Future
Use: Future life

Life-work balance
Use: Work-life balance

Lifeguards
Geographic Note: May subdivide geographically
Dewey: 797.21
Broader Term(s):
- Water safety

Lifelong education
Use:
- Adult education
- Continuing education

Lifesaving
Geographic Note: May subdivide geographically
Dewey: 363.1
Use For: Life saving
Broader Term(s):
- Rescue work
Related Term(s):
- First aid

Lifestyles
Geographic Note: May subdivide geographically
Dewey: 306
Use For: Life styles
See Also:
- types of lifestyles [to be added as needed]

Broader Term(s):
- Human behavior
- Manners and customs

Narrower Term(s):
- Alternative lifestyles

Lift-the-flap books
Dewey: 099
Scope Note:
- Use for individual works, collections, or materials about lift-the-flap books.

Broader Term(s):
- Picture books for children
- Toy and movable books

Lifts
Use:
- Elevators
- Hoisting machinery

Light
Dewey: 535
Broader Term(s):
- Electromagnetic waves
- Physics

Narrower Term(s):
- Color
- Lasers
- Lighting
- Luminescence
- Refraction

Related Term(s):
- Optics
- Photometry
- Radiation
- Spectrum analysis

Light — Therapeutic use
Use:
- Phototherapy

Light and shade
Use:
- Shades and shadows

Light production in animals
Use:
- Bioluminescence

Light ships
Use:
- Lightships