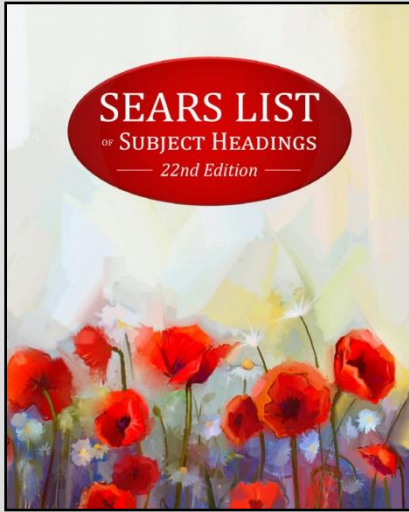


Sears List of Subject Headings

REVIEWS



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“The 22nd edition of *Sears Subject Headings* (hereafter *Sears 22*) has important changes. There are now three associate editors and the **publisher is now Grey House Publishing**, although “H.W. Wilson” appears before its name on the title page. The size of the volume has increased, not only in its number of pages but, more surprisingly, in its format. The traditional height of the volume has been retained, but its traditional width has changed—it is one and a half inches wider, which allows “cleaner lines and more accessible typography” (A-7). The tight binding in the 21st edition made the subject headings near the spine on the right hand pages slightly less accessible than in the previous editions. **I am happy to report the inner columns in the 22nd edition are more easily read. This readability also is enhanced by a larger print size.** There are also major changes in the way the subject headings are presented. Gone are the symbols used in earlier editions, such as UF, SA, BT, NT, RT; they are now written out: “Use For,” “See Also,” “Broader Term,” “Narrower Term,” “Related Term.” **I have stated in reviews of previous editions a beginning cataloguer can learn much from Sears’ introductory pages even if their library uses the Library of Congress (LC) classification.** A new contribution to this section is “A History of the Sears List” (A-11- 13), which, while not necessary for the application of the *Sears List*, gives a picture of its development since the publication of its first edition in 1923. I can attest to two *Sears* editors’ responsiveness to the needs of cataloguers because of two experiences. Barbara Westby, the editor of the 9th to the 12th editions, sat down beside me at an American Library Association conference and asked me to suggest possible subject headings that were not found at that time in *Sears*, particularly those that should be available in dealing with non-book materials. Joseph Miller, a later *Sears* editor, responded quickly to my concerns about the proper names for Canada’s indigenous peoples.¹ (An aside: when I wrote to the LC cataloguing department, appropriate changes/additions were also made.)

Continued on Page 2



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Sears List of Subject Headings

This edition of *Sears* includes more than 1,600 new and revised subject headings. These additions and changes reflect the growing areas in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) and the change in the legal status and acceptance of alternate forms of adult intimate relationships. Some revisions in terminology reflect changes in the use of language; for example, the subject heading “Elderly” is now “Older people” and “Aliens (Foreign population)” has changed to “Noncitizens.” The editors state that *Sears 22* adheres to new *RDA* standards where applicable, such as headings for fictional characters, legendary characters, and deities.²

I have written many times about the excellence of the “Principles of the Sears List of Subject Headings” (xv-xli), which has been included in the preliminary pages of every edition beginning with the 9th edition. It is one of the reasons why all institutions that teach subject analysis and all libraries with untrained technical services staff should buy *Sears 22*, even if the library assigns LC subject headings. The *Sears* explanation of subject headings is written in clear English and is an excellent description of their function and construction. In the first sentence of the Preface, the editors state that *Sears* serves “the unique needs of small and medium-sized libraries (A-7).” Libraries that assign LC subject headings can easily adapt the “Principles of the Sears List” to refer to the LC subject list because the fundamental principles of subject heading assignment are the same. **Much to my delight, *Sears 22* has absorbed completely the 6th edition of *Sears List of Subject Headings: Canadian Companion*, which was last published in 2001.** And the verso states the volume was published in New York State and printed in Canada—a truly North American product. When this 22nd edition is purchased, the buyer is also entitled to a free one year subscription to the Sears online database, which appears to be for a single user. If a library only wants the database, the price is still \$195.00. ***Sears 22* in any format is highly recommended.**”

Technicalities, 2019

