

Background

Definition of Subfield ⚭v

Form subdivisions indicate what an item **is** rather than what it is about. Items can be assigned form subdivisions because of:

- Their physical character (e.g., photographs, maps)
- The particular type of data that they contain (e.g., bibliography, statistics)
- The arrangement of information within them (e.g., diaries, indexes)
- Their style, technique, purpose, or intended audience (e.g., romances, popular works)
- A combination of the above (e.g., scores)

Form subdivisions are not new, but subfield ⚭v is!

(Excerpted and modified from MARBI Proposal 95-02)

Why Subfield ⚭v Implemented

- To facilitate improved index displays in online catalogs
- To allow for greater precision in searching
- To provide more effective machine manipulation for database maintenance and validation
- Information in the new form subfield could easily be moved to field 655 (Index Term--Genre/Form) at a later date if agencies decide to make more widespread use of that field

(Excerpted and modified from MARBI Proposal 95-02)

LC Implementation

In February 1999, the Library of Congress began to:

- Code form subdivisions in bibliographic records using subfield ⚭v
- Code form subdivisions in subject authority records using subfield ⚭v
- Create subdivision authority records using the new 18X fields

(Click [here](#) [1] to see record examples.)

All subdivision authority records include basic usage statements and instruction sheet numbers from the LC Subject Cataloging Manual. Some also include cross-references.

The creation of subdivision authority records is not yet complete.

Source URL: <https://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/authorities/subfieldv/background>

Links

[1] <http://web.library.yale.edu/node/2132/>