

Chronological and geographic subdivisions for subject headings for jazz and popular music

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From *Subject Cataloging Manual: Subject Headings* (See the *Manual* for the complete instructions)

H 1916.5, 2: Geographic and chronological subdivisions:

Select the chronological subdivision on the basis of:

For **written music**, in the following order of preference:

1. when the music was popular,
2. date of composition,
3. date of publication

For **performed music** (sound recordings, moving images materials, etc.):

1. when the music was popular,
2. by the date of the recording, etc.

According to H 1916.5, there are only seven headings for jazz and popular music that can be subdivided chronologically by decade [[listed below](#)], each of which have explicitly established (but not free-floating) chronological subdivisions that reflect their specific historical development. The standard century subdivisions listed in H 1916.5 (e.g., --To 500, --500-1400, --15th century, etc.) are not used as subdivisions for jazz and popular music subject headings or for subject headings for folk or non-Western music. The latter is covered under H 1917:

Music of ethnic, national, and religious groups. There is no provision for chronological subdivision in H 1917.

Source: edited from MLA-L messages from Jay Weitz and Chuck Herrold, June 18, 2008

H 1160, 3: Musical compositions: Geographic subdivisions:

This instruction sheet applies to headings representing musical forms and types of compositions, medium of performance, style, etc. Rock music is given as an example. The following instructions, excerpted from H 1160, apply to jazz and popular music subject headings:

Use geographic subdivisions to bring out the origin of the music when the geographic focus is stated or implied in the title or series. Exceptions are made for jazz and popular music styles and genres that originated in the United States [[listed below](#)].

When both chronological and geographic subdivisions are used in a heading, the geographic subdivision comes before the chronological subdivision.

[Chronological subdivisions for popular music](#)

For chronological subdivisions for classical music (i.e., western art music), see [Chronological subdivisions](#) [3]

Subject heading	Chronological subdivision
Bluegrass music	--To 1951; 1951-1960 ... 1981-1990; 1991-2000; 2001-2010; 2011-2020
Blues (Music)	--To 1931; 1931-1930 ... 1981-1990; 1991-2000; 2001-2010; 2011-2020
Country music	--To 1951; 1951-1960 ... 1981-1990; 1991-2000; 2001-2010; 2011-2020
Jazz	--To 1921; 1921-1930 ... 1981-1990; 1991-2000; 2001-2010; 2011-2020

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Popular instrumental music	--To 1901; 1901-1910 ... 1981-1990; 1991-2000; 2001-2010; 2011-2020
Popular music	--To 1901; 1901-1910 ... 1981-1990; 1991-2000; 2001-2010; 2011-2020
Rock music	--To 1961; 1961-1970 ... 1981-1990; 1991-2000; 2001-2010; 2011-2020

SOURCE: *Music Cataloging Bulletin*, vol. 19, no. 4, p. 4; *LC Subject Cataloging Manual* H 1619.6

[Jazz and popular music subject heading subdivisions](#)

Certain popular music styles and genres that originated in the United States are not subdivided by --United States. They may, however, when appropriate, be subdivided by regions, states, and cities of the United States.

Subject heading	Subdivide chronologically?	Subdivide by --United States if brought out in item	Add 043 n-us--- when implied in the subject heading
Big band music	No	No	Yes
Bluegrass music	Begin --To 1951	No	Yes
Blues (Music)	Begin --To 1931	No	Yes
Boogie Woogie (Music)	No	No	Yes
Bop (Music)	No	No	Yes
Calypso (Music)	No	Yes	No
Christian rock music	No	Yes	No
Contemporary Christian music	No Begin --To 1951	Yes No	No Yes
Country music			
Disco music	No	Yes	No
Dixieland music	No	No	Yes
Doo-wop (Music)	No	No	Yes
Folk-rock music	No	No	Yes
Funk (Music)	No ¹	No	No ¹
Gospel music	No	Yes/No ²	Yes
Honky-tonk music	No	No	Yes
Jazz	Begin --To 1921	No	Yes
Jazz vocals	No	No	Yes
Klezmer music	No	Yes	No
Old-time music	No ¹	No	Yes ¹
Popular music	Begin --To 1901	Yes	No
Popular instrumental music	Begin --To 1901	Yes	No
Ragtime music	No	No	Yes
Rap (Music)	No	No	Yes
Reggae music	No	Yes	No
Rhythm and blues music	No	No	Yes
Rock music	Begin --To 1961	Yes	No
Rockabilly music	No	No	Yes
Salsa (Music)	No	Yes	No
Soul music	No	No	Yes
Steel band music	No	Yes	No
Swing (Music)	No	No	Yes
Western swing (Music)	No	No	Yes
Women's music ³		No	Yes

¹ [Inferred from LC practice.](#)

² [Original](#) LC handout said no; however, *LC Subject Cataloging Manual* H 1619.6 does not list Gospel music as one of the headings *not* to be subdivided by "--United States."

³ Do not confuse with the subject headings Music by women composers and Feminist music Sources: LC handout, 1992 OLAC meeting; *Music Cataloging Bulletin*, vol. 33, no. 3, Mar. 2002; *LC Subject Cataloging Manual* H 1619.6

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