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This Issue:

**Subject Cataloging:
Critiques
and Innovations**



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Report of the SAC Ad-Hoc Subcommittee on Concepts Denoted by the Term "Primitive"

ABSTRACT. The Subcommittee recommends that the use of the term "primitive" in subject analysis be substantially reduced, that its use be limited to those subject areas in which it is still widely used in our society, and that in those cases its use be more narrowly defined. Specific recommendations are made for each of the headings in LIBRARY OF CONGRESS SUBJECT HEADINGS which contains the qualifier "primitive." The nature of these recommendations varies depending on the heading and includes all of the following: Maintain the heading for the present time; Maintain the heading, but restrict its use with a scope note; Cancel the heading and use already established headings in its place; Cancel the heading and establish new headings; Expand the usefulness of non-"primitive" headings by providing for use of ethnic qualifiers, geographic subdivision, and/or "doubling"; Recatalog items with little used headings, replacing them with other appropriate headings. Recommendations are made for replacing the term "primitive" with other terms in the few remaining occurrences in the captions in the DEWEY DECIMAL CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE. Similar specific recommendations are made for the more frequent occurrences of the term in captions in the Library of Congress Classification Schedules. The Library of Congress Subject Cataloging Division is urged to emphasize geographical area rather than evaluative characteristics when classifying materials about people.

REPORT

The SAC Ad-hoc Subcommittee on Concepts Denoted by the Term "Primitive" was created by the Subject Analysis Committee during the A.L.A. mid-winter meeting of 1981 and it first met during the annual A.L.A. convention last year. It was charged as follows:

This is the full report presented in June 1983 to the American Library Association's Subject Analysis Committee.

- To study and to recommend to the appropriate agencies changes in subject access to concepts currently labeled by “primitive,” with emphasis on the LIBRARY OF CONGRESS SUBJECT HEADINGS.
- To determine which, if any, current uses of the term “primitive” are appropriate.
- To recommend an alternative method of analysis in those cases where current use of “primitive” is deemed inappropriate.

Subject Analysis Committee awareness of the need for examination of the use of the term “primitive” had been heightened by the work of two previous subcommittees: The Ad-hoc Subcommittee on Subject Analysis of African and Asian Materials and The Racism and Sexism in Subject Analysis Subcommittee. One of the recommendations of the final report (1980) of the Racism and Sexism Subcommittee was that the Subject Analysis Committee “continue the effort to find appropriate terminology to describe traditional concerns and customs. The Subcommittee. . . [did] not find the term PRIMITIVE acceptable, at least with regard to Indian customs and activities.”

Discussion of this topic in both the African Studies Association Subcommittee on Cataloging and Classification and the RLG Task Force on Subject Headings for Art and Architecture provided additional impetus for the creation of a SAC subcommittee. The Cataloging Committee of the Music Library Association had made recommendations to the Library of Congress about the use of the term in music subject headings, and MUSIC CATALOGING BULLETIN, May, 1981, announced changes to be made in LIBRARY OF CONGRESS SUBJECT HEADINGS and in LC's policy for subject analysis of ethnic and national music. These changes included cancellation of the heading “Music, Primitive.”

Members of the SAC Subcommittee were chosen to represent groups or disciplines, other than those with music interests, which could be expected to be concerned about the issue, including librarians with expertise in African studies, anthropology, religion, and art. At the first meetings of the Subcommittee, in June, 1981, members were given various assignments, and the remainder of this report is excerpted from or based on those individual reports.

Professional concern about the use of the term “primitive” in subject analysis pre-dates the work of the SAC Subcommittee and the various special interest groups by many years. In PREJUDICES

AND ANTIPATHIES, published in 1971, Sanford Berman discussed the problem:

Primitive. . . inaccurately and—according to popular conceptions of the word—slurringly describes various forms and aspects of human life. No self-respecting social scientist is likely to use it. Why, then, should librarians? It is heavily overlaid with notions of inferiority, childishness, barbarity, and “state of nature” simplicity, whereas the societies, arts, economic modes, music, and religions it purportedly covers may be extremely complex, ingenious, creative, humane, and—depending on taste and WELTANSCHAUUNG—admirable. The term additionally implies, erroneously, a BY-GONE period, although a “primitive” artist, for example, may be a contemporary.

Berman stated that “no self-respecting social scientist” was likely to use the term “primitive.” A Subcommittee member, Greg Finnegan, analyzed the treatment of the term in three dictionaries of anthropology (Winick, C., *DICTIONARY OF ANTHROPOLOGY*, 1964; Panoff, M. and Perrin, M., *DICTIONNAIRE DE L’ETHNOLOGIE*, 1973; Hunter, D. and Whitten, P., *ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ANTHROPOLOGY*, 1976). His analysis did reveal use of the term, but discomfort with it, as well as with alternative terms.

Winick, p. 437: “It [‘primitive’] is not used today because it implies that nonliterate people are retarded and resist social change along the lines of western civilization, that they have not undergone any cultural evolution of their own, and that their way of life is like that of our prehistoric ancestors.”

Hunter and Whitten, p. 321: “. . .many anthropologists prefer not to use the term. . .at all, since in its popular usage it has derogatory connotations. And since the term implies earliest and original (coming as it does from the Latin *PRIMITIVUS*, meaning earliest or oldest), the use of *PRIMITIVE* to denote contemporary peoples carries the unfortunate connotation that these peoples represent the earliest stages of cultural development—which anthropologists know is not the case. Anthropologists have not agreed on a substitute term for *PRIMI-*

TIVE PEOPLES, although NONLITERATE PEOPLES is often encountered today.

In spite of these comments in the entry on PRIMITIVE PEOPLES, however, Hunter and Whitten did use "primitive" as a qualifier for several terms, such as, Art, Primitive and Medicine, Primitive.

Finnegan also analyzed data from AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGIST, from 1967 through 1982, to ascertain the level of current usage of the term. Of 630 titled articles and brief communications published during that period, only two titles used the term. One of these uses was an attack on the concept; the other was in reference to T.S. Eliot. Titles of thirty-one of the 7,146 books reviewed during that period included the word.

In the discipline of religion, another Subcommittee member, Diane Lauderdale, found "there are still prominent scholars who, while they may regret some connotations of the term, believe that the term represents a productive cross-cultural category."

In the discipline of art, the term is still in frequent use as the recent opening of the Rockefeller Wing of Primitive Art at the Metropolitan Museum in New York dramatically illustrates. THE OXFORD COMPANION TO ART defines three different ways in which the term is used, noting that two of these uses were based originally on false assumptions. Thirty-two respondents to a questionnaire distributed to the membership of the Art Library Society of North America (ARLIS/NA) and to the RLG art libraries indicated that they saw no problem with the continued use of the term "primitive," but twenty-four thought it should be eliminated. In summarizing the results of the survey and a discussion of the topic at an ARLIS meeting, Don Anderle, a Subcommittee member, made the following points: One, the results were far closer than anyone had anticipated. Two, feelings are running as high on this topic in the art community as elsewhere. Three, many libraries are resorting to various ad hoc solutions to eliminate these terms from their catalogs, but these local solutions do not appear to offer patterns which could be adopted for national level cataloging. Anderle emphasized, in addition, that "the majority, of course, favors keeping to present practices."

The Subcommittee has found it extremely difficult to reconcile various ideals while formulating recommendations for subject access to concepts denoted by "primitive." Among these frequently conflicting goals are the following:

1. To serve all elements of a multi-cultural society well by avoiding "words which connote inferiority or peculiarity" and "American/Western European ethnocentrism" (cf. J. Marshall, ON EQUAL TERMS),
2. To use access terms which are specific enough to bring together like items and exclude unlike items,
3. To provide patterns of access which are logical enough to facilitate access,
4. To choose access terms which are in common use for the concepts represented.

We have struggled not only with the formidable task of trying to achieve these various goals, but also with the nature of language itself, the shifting denotations and connotations of words and the difficulty of establishing meaning out of context.

Based on the complexity of the pattern of needs discussed above, the Subcommittee recommends that the use of the term "primitive" in subject analysis be substantially reduced, but not completely eliminated at this time; that its use be limited to those subject areas in which it is still widely used in our society; and that in those cases its use be more narrowly defined. We make specific recommendations below for maintaining or deleting each subject heading containing the term in the LIBRARY OF CONGRESS SUBJECT HEADINGS, a few recommendations about the use of the term in the DEWEY DECIMAL SCHEDULE, and recommendations regarding the use of the term in the Library of Congress classification schedules, as well as general patterns of classification in those schedules. By far the most important of these are the recommendations for changes in the LIBRARY OF CONGRESS SUBJECT HEADINGS because it is in subject headings that the pejorative connotation is most obvious to the library user.

I. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS SUBJECT HEADINGS

We make recommendations below concerning each of the headings containing the qualifier "primitive" in LIBRARY OF CONGRESS SUBJECT HEADINGS. In some cases, we recommend that the terms be maintained for the present; in most cases, however, we recommend substitution of other terms. In many of the latter cases, access to materials can be sufficiently achieved by other

terms already present in the list. In some cases, we recommend establishment of new terms, whenever possible using current LC patterns for the new subjects suggested. It should be noted that we only recommend use of the qualifier "traditional" in place of "primitive" when we could find justification for that term in citation indexes or other sources. Our recommendations are based on a survey of records to which LC has assigned these headings, which was carried out by the African Studies Association's Subcommittee on Cataloging. The number of occurrences of the headings on pre-and post-1940 records was compiled by Library of Congress staff in July, 1981. In some cases the numbers are approximations rather than actual counts. The number of occurrences of the headings on MARC records was compiled by Andrea Stamm at Northwestern University in April, 1983. In some cases the post-1940 records and the MARC records duplicate each other.

1. Agriculture, Primitive (established ca. 1906)

Pre-1940 records: 6

Post-1940 records: 45

MARC records: 38

The Subcommittee recommends that the heading be cancelled. Agriculture (Indirect) although it is already established, is not an acceptable substitute, especially because the file is very large. We recommend establishing two new subjects: Agriculture, Prehistoric, because 9 out of 29 books surveyed were in fact about prehistoric agriculture; and Agriculture, Traditional, because this term is widely used in the literature. (See SOCIAL SCIENCES CITATION INDEX, 1978-81).

2. Architecture, Primitive (established 1937)

Pre-1940 records: 0

Post-1940 records: 7

MARC records: 12

The heading should be cancelled and the following already established headings should be used in its place: Architecture (Indirect); Cave dwellings (Indirect); Dwellings, Prehistoric; Architecture, ethnic qualifier; Vernacular architecture. This selection is sufficient to describe works which are now accessed by the "primitive" heading.

3. Arms and armor, Primitive (established 1910)

Pre-1940 records: 4
Post-1940 records: 9
MARC records: 13

The heading should be cancelled. Arms and armor (Indirect) is already established and can be used appropriately on many records. We suggest in addition that Arms and armor, Prehistoric be reinstated and that "doubling" be implemented using the pattern Arms and armor—place and Arms and armor, ethnic qualifier.

4. Art, Primitive (established ca. 1900)

Pre-1940 records: 175
Post-1940 records: 500-600
MARC records: 221

Based on widespread current use of this term, the Subcommittee recommends that it be continued as an LC subject heading at this time. However, we are troubled not only by its pejorative connotation, but also by its lack of specificity and by the size of the file. We suggest that consideration be given to removing the provision for subdividing this heading by geographic area as a means of limiting the use of the term and the size of the file. We see a shift in attitude on the part of art librarians and urge the Subject Analysis Committee and the ARLIS/NA Cataloging Advisory Committee to continue to seek suitable alternatives.

5. Art metal-work, Primitive (established 1971)

Pre-1940 records: 0
Post-1940 records: 1
MARC records: 2

The Subcommittee recommends that the two records with this subject heading (74-866565, 82-72765) be assigned Art metalwork, African—Exhibitions and Art metal-work, African—Africa, West in place of Art metal-work, Primitive, which should be cancelled.

6. Boats, Primitive (established 1979)

Pre-1940 records: 0
Post-1940 records: 0
MARC records: 4

The heading should be cancelled. The Subcommittee recommends that the subject be deleted from 77-452397 since Boats and boat-

ing—Brazil is used, and that Boats and boating—Origin be substituted for the primitive subject on records 80-499706 and 80-499707, and perhaps on 82-462968.

7. Cartography, Primitive (established 1910)

Pre-1940 records: 1

Post-1940 records: 0

MARC records: 1

The Subcommittee recommends that the heading be cancelled, that Cartography—Origin be assigned as the subject heading for one record (6-5952) and that maps as a subdivision under Eskimos be established for the other (79-122328).

8. Classification, Primitive (established 1973)

Pre-1940 records: 0

Post-1940 records: 10

MARC records: 28

Two concepts are currently covered by this subject heading: (1) the classification of the universe by non-industrialized people, and (2) the zoological and botanical classifications used by non-industrialized peoples. For books on zoological or botanical classification, the already established subject headings Zoology—Classification and Botany—Classification or Ethnozoology and Ethnobotany can be used. For books on the general classification of the universe, LC already has established the subject headings Cosmology; Categories (Philosophy); and Philosophy of nature, etc. We recommend adding to these the new subject heading Cosmology, ethnic qualifier, and cancelling Classification, Primitive.

9. Clothing and dress, Primitive (established 1951)

Pre-1940 records: 0

Post-1940 records: 0

MARC records: 0

The heading should be cancelled. If a heading for the topic is needed in the future, the Subcommittee recommends the use of specific subjects whenever possible (e.g., Breechcloths, Trousers). If the item is about the clothing and dress of specific peoples, we recommend Clothing and dress with an ethnic qualifier. If a general subject is needed, we recommend Clothing and dress without a qualifier.

10. Commerce, Primitive (established 1975)

Pre-1940 records: 0

Post-1940 records: 3

MARC records: 7

The Subcommittee recommends cancellation of the heading. The current headings Economic anthropology and Commerce and the subdivision Commerce used after place names could replace the use of Commerce, Primitive on all records cited. In addition, we suggest the establishment of a new heading, Ceremonial exchange (Ethnology) for some of the records.

11. Communication, Primitive (established 1968)

Pre-1940 records: 0

Post-1940 records: 1

MARC records: 0

The Subcommittee recommends that the heading be cancelled and that the record to which it is assigned (69-99097) be reassigned Communication—Papua New Guinea and Ethnology—Papua New Guinea.

12. Decoration and ornament, Primitive (established 1926)

Pre-1940 records: 7

Post-1940 records: 7

MARC records: 2

This term should be maintained for the present time. See the comments under Art, Primitive.

13. Drama, Primitive (established 1965)

Pre-1940 records: 0

Post-1940 records: 3

MARC records: 5

The heading should be cancelled. The current subject headings Drama—Origin and Drama—History and criticism could replace Drama, Primitive. In addition, we recommend establishing Drama, Traditional. (See ARTS AND HUMANITIES CITATION INDEX, 1978-81 and SOCIAL SCIENCES CITATION INDEX, 1978.)

14. Education, Primitive (established 1957)

Pre-1940 headings: 0

Post-1940 records: 2

MARC records: 3

The Subcommittee recommends that the heading be cancelled and that Educational anthropology be used in its place on records

74-79272 and 72-13962; Education—Origin on 79-545368; and, Education—Uganda on 72-980052.

15. Erotic art, Primitive (established 1973)

Pre-1940 records: 0

Post-1940 records: 1

MARC records: 1

The heading should be cancelled and the record (74-157170) be re-assigned Erotic art.

16. Ethics, Primitive (established 1950)

Pre-1940 records: 0

Post-1940 records: 5

MARC records: 3

Ethics (Indirect), Ethics—Origin, and Ethics, ethnic qualifier are already established LC subject headings and provide adequate access. The "primitive" heading should be cancelled.

17. Fishing, Primitive (established 1905)

Pre-1940 records: 6

Post-1940 records: 19

MARC records: 8

The Subcommittee recommends cancellation of the heading. Fishing (Indirect) and Fishhooks (Indirect) are already established. Most of the books surveyed dealt with archaeological finds of fishhooks. We suggest that Fishing, Prehistoric be re-established for archaeological works and that Fishing, ethnic qualifier also be used where appropriate.

18. Fortification, Primitive (established 1910)

Pre-1940 records: 4

Post-1940 records: 42

MARC records: 32

Earthworks (Archaeology) (Indirect) has already been established and could be used for the majority of the books surveyed as an acceptable substitute for the "primitive" heading. We also suggest Fortification, Prehistoric (Indirect) because the majority of books with this subject heading are actually about prehistoric sites, and Fortification, ethnic qualifier, to be used as appropriate. The "primitive" heading should be cancelled.

19. Games, Primitive (established 1948)

Pre-1940 records: 0
Post-1940 records: 5
MARC records: 4

Both Games and Games, Primitive have the same recommended call number span, GN 454-456. Four of the records with Games, Primitive fall in these numbers (80-492497, 78-12577, 75-35080, 62-35538). We recommend that these records be changed to read Games. We also recommend that 76-475792 be changed to read Games—Africa, Southern. The primitive heading should be cancelled.

20. Government, Primitive (established 1959)

Pre-1940 records: 0
Post-1940 records: 19
MARC records: 47

Political anthropology, Government—Origin, and the subdivision Politics and government under specific peoples have already been established. The Subcommittee recommends that Government, Primitive be cancelled and that these headings be used in its place.

21. Hunting, Primitive (established 1905)

Pre-1940 records: 4
Post-1940 records: 29
MARC records: 18

The heading should be cancelled. The subject heading Hunting and gathering societies (Indirect), recently established by LC, is an excellent alternate. Approximately forty-five percent of the surveyed titles with the "primitive" heading would be more properly analyzed using this new term. LC has also established the subdivision Hunting under individual Indian tribes and the general subject heading Hunting (Indirect). We recommend that as the need arises, Hunting also be established as a subdivision under cultural-linguistic groups other than Indian tribes.

22. Industries, Primitive (established 1910)

Pre-1940 records: 21
Post-1940 records: 100
MARC records: 64

LC recently clarified and narrowed the use of this heading with a

scope note at the same time it established the new heading Material culture. The Subcommittee applauds this move toward narrower use of headings containing "primitive" and recommends no change.

23. Ivories, Primitive (established 1978)

Pre-1940 records: 0

Post-1940 records: 0

MARC records: 1

The heading should be cancelled. The Subcommittee recommends that the subject be deleted from the one record (78-372487) as Ivories—Africa, West is already present as a subject heading.

24. Jewelry, Primitive (established 1976)

Pre-1940 records: 0

Post-1940 records: 0

MARC records: 1

The heading should be cancelled. Jewelry, Prehistoric is an acceptable alternative on the one record (76-487078).

25. Kings and rulers, Primitive (established 1947)

Pre-1940 records: 0

Post-1940 records: 20

MARC records: 7

The heading should be cancelled. Kings and rulers, standing alone or subdivided by Origins, and the subdivision Kings and rulers under the names of geographic areas and ethnic groups are acceptable substitutes.

26. Law, Primitive (established 1910)

Pre-1940 records: 41

Post-1940 records: 120

MARC records: 42

This heading seems to be needed as a descriptor and should be maintained, although the established headings Comparative law and State, The, fit some of the titles to which it has been assigned. The Subcommittee recommends that LC supply scope notes to clearly define the use of the headings Law, Primitive and Customary law. It should be noted that Primitive law is also used as a parenthetical qualifier with a variety of headings such as Inheritance and succession (Primitive law) and Land tenure (Primitive law). The Subcommittee was unable to compile a complete list of such headings.

We urge the Subject Cataloging Subcommittee of the American Association of Law Libraries to study the use of "primitive" in these headings and in the general heading Law, Primitive and to make recommendations regarding them to the Subject Cataloging Division of the Library of Congress.

27. Man, Primitive (established 1950)

Pre-1940 records: 0
Post-1940 records: 60
MARC records: 37

The Subcommittee recommends that this heading be cancelled. An analysis of the titles to which it has been assigned revealed no distinction between the use of this heading and the heading Society, Primitive. The various headings referred to under Society, Primitive below can be used in place of Man, Primitive. In addition, the established heading Man, Prehistoric provides appropriate access to some of the records.

28. Mathematics, Primitive (established 1973)

Pre-1940 records: 0
Post-1940 records: 1
MARC records: 2

The two records with this heading are about African finger counting. We suggest that LC establish Counting (Indirect) so that Counting—Africa, Sub-Saharan can be assigned to the two records (72-91248 and 77-26586). Better still, we suggest that LC establish Finger counting (Indirect) or Finger calculation (Indirect). Mathematics, Primitive should be cancelled.

29. Medicine, Primitive (established 1905)

Pre-1940 records: 6
Post-1940 records: 45
MARC records: 60

The Subcommittee recommends that this heading be cancelled. Medical anthropology (Indirect), Medicine as a subdivision under the pattern heading for individual Indian tribes, and a number of excellent specific subjects are already established. For many of the general works surveyed, the subject Medical anthropology will suffice. However, since the term actually refers to a discipline, we suggest also the heading Medicine, Traditional, with a reference from Ethnomedicine. Medicine, Traditional is found in the SOCIAL SCI-

ENCES CITATION INDEX, 1978-1981, ARTS AND HUMANITIES CITATION INDEX, 1980 and 1982, and in subject indexes, including Medical Subject Headings (MESH). We also recommend that as the need arises, Medicine be established as a subdivision under cultural-linguistic groups other than Indian tribes.

30. Money, Primitive (established 1949)

Pre-1940 records: 2

Post-1940 records: 8

MARC records: 5

Money (Indirect), Money—Origin, and many forms of money (e.g., Shell money, Coal money) are already established, as is Barter. Although these headings will suffice in most cases, we suggest also the new heading Trade goods for a specialized aspect of the subject. The "primitive" heading should be cancelled.

31. Navigation, Primitive (established 1910)

Pre-1940 records: 1

Post-1940 records: 18

MARC records: 22

The Subcommittee recommends that the heading be cancelled. Most of the books carrying this subject heading are about the navigation of Polynesian and Micronesian peoples. Navigation methods of these peoples are highly sophisticated and should not be considered "primitive." LC has already established Maritime anthropology, Nautical astronomy, Navigation (Indirect). The first of these is frequently assigned to Polynesian material. We recommend that in addition Navigation, ethnic qualifier be used when appropriate.

32. Oratory, Primitive (established 1975)

Pre-1940 records: 0

Post-1940 records: 2

MARC records: 3

The Subcommittee recommends cancellation and the substitution of Sociolinguistics on the records 74-10736 and 77-21590; Oratory—Somalia on record 81-18072; and deletion with no substitution on 75-10736.

33. Painting, Primitive (established 1971)

Pre-1940 records: 0

Post-1940 records: 2

MARC records: 1

On records 74-171018 and 74-160160 the primitive heading could be eliminated without significant loss of subject access. The primitive heading should be cancelled.

34. Philosophy, Primitive (established 1953)

Pre-1940 records: 1
Post-1940 records: 15
MARC records: 20

Historically the heading seems to have been used as a catch-all for works about symbolism, psychology, and the religious thought of non-industrialized peoples. Ethnopsychology; Religion; Philosophy of nature, etc., have already been established. We recommend that Ethnophilosophy be established, patterned after the LC subject heading Ethnopsychology, and that Philosophy, Primitive be cancelled.

35. Pottery, Primitive (established 1965)

Pre-1940 headings: 1
Post-1940 headings: 12
MARC records: 11

The heading should be cancelled. Many of the books with the "primitive" heading are analyses of pot sherds. We recommend the use of the established heading Pottery, Prehistoric for these books. For books about the pottery of non-industrialized peoples we suggest the headings Folk pottery and Pottery, Traditional. The juxtaposition of "pottery" with "traditional" was found several times in a search of the Scorpio data-base. Another useful heading would be Pottery—Classification.

36. Primitive property (established 1957)

Pre-1940 records: 0
Post-1940 records: 6
MARC records: 2

The headings Property and Land tenure both cover the content of the books surveyed. We therefore recommend that the subject be cancelled. We recommend that the subject be deleted from 77-980617 as the other subject headings cover the content of the book well. We also recommend that the subject Property be used on 04-22285 so that it will match the record for the later edition of the same work (17-439) which has the subject without the qualifier.

37. Religion, Primitive (established 1910)

Pre-1940 records: 500
 Post-1940 records: 1,000
 MARC records: 150

The Subcommittee recommends that Religion, Primitive be maintained but that its use be limited with a scope note specifying that the heading be used for works about the concept or category of primitive religion and works about the religion of nonliterate, preindustrial ethnically homogeneous peoples in general, but that individual ethnographic studies should be entered under the heading for the specific people with the subheading Religion.

38. Sculpture, Primitive (established 1910)

Pre-1940 records: 15
 Post-1940 records: 250
 MARC records: 108

This heading should be maintained for the present time. See comments under Art, Primitive.

39. Society, Primitive (established 1910)

Pre-1940 records: 150
 Post-1940 records: 850
 MARC records: 171

Although the Subcommittee does not recommend cancellation of this heading, we urge the use of more specific headings such as Village communities, Tribes and clans, Blood brotherhood, whenever possible. We also recommend that Social anthropology be established following the patterns of Political anthropology and Economic anthropology and that scope notes be written for Society, Primitive; Social anthropology; and Ethnology.

40. Surgery, Primitive (established 1905)

Pre-1940 records: 3
 Post-1940 records: 3
 MARC records: 0

The Subcommittee recommends that the heading be cancelled. Deformities, Artificial; Self-mutilation; Circumcision; Clitoridectomy; and Trephining are established headings which cover specific forms of surgery very well. We recommend that Surgery, Ritual (Indirect) and Scarification, Ornamental (Indirect), both of which are used in the literature, be established for general works.

41. Theater, Primitive (established ?)

Pre-1940 records: 0
Post-1940 records: 1
MARC records: 1

The Subcommittee recommends cancellation of the heading and that the heading on record 74-32656 be changed to Theater—Origin.

42. Transportation, Primitive (established 1905)

Pre-1940 records: 6
Post-1940 records: 9
MARC records: 3

The heading should be cancelled. Specific forms of transportation are well covered by the LC subject headings. Some of these are Sleighs and sledges, Litters, Handcarts. An acceptable established alternative for general works is Transportation (Indirect)—History.

43. Warfare, Primitive (established 1974)

Pre-1940 records: 2
Post-1940 records: 6
MARC records: 13

The Subcommittee recommends that the heading be cancelled. The subdivision Warfare is established for use under names of specific peoples. We recommend that LC establish Warfare, Traditional as it corresponds to Warfare, Conventional.

44. Wit and humor, Primitive (established 1968)

Pre-1940 records: 0
Post-1940 records: 1
MARC records: 0

We recommend that the one record (63-37780) be reassigned either Wit and humor—Origin or Wit and humor, and that the “primitive” heading be cancelled.

45. Wood-carving, Primitive (established 1971)

Pre-1940 records: 0
Post-1940 records: 9
MARC records: 22

There is a duplication of subject headings on many of the records surveyed. The first subject contains the “primitive” qualifier and the second subject is the same heading without any qualifier. We

recommend that LC examine the records with this heading and eliminate this duplication by removing the "primitive" qualified subject, which should be cancelled. Wood-carving (Indirect) and Wood-carving, ethnic qualifier are acceptable alternate headings. In addition, our analysis of the titles under the Wood-carving headings indicated the need for a scope note to distinguish between the use of the headings Wood-carving and Sculpture.

II. DEWEY DECIMAL SCHEDULE

A Subcommittee member, Janie Morris, compared the Dewey 18 and 19 editions to see which areas of the schedules covered "primitive" topics and whether there had been any change in the use of terms relating to "primitive" subjects from one edition to another. She found that essentially the same topics were covered in both editions, but that the terminology varied. Typically in Dewey 18 the category of people referred to is called "primitive" or "preliterate" whereas in Dewey 19 they are referred to as "nonliterate." Furthermore, the phrase "including primitive traditions" was omitted from explanatory notes in Dewey 19. Morris was also able to ascertain that the numbers relating to nonliterate people are used sparingly by the Library of Congress Decimal Classification Division. If the PROPOSED REVISION OF 780 MUSIC is adopted, a separate number for music of nonliterate people (781.71 in Dewey 18 and 19) will be eliminated.

The Subcommittee discussed the use of the term "nonliterate" and was somewhat uncomfortable with it since literacy is not always the distinguishing factor. "Traditional societies" was suggested as an alternative, but was felt to be vague and ambiguous. For lack of a better term, the Subcommittee recommends retention of "nonliterate."

The Subcommittee also discussed the retention of the term "primitive law" in Dewey 19. The alternatives "customary law" and "law of traditional societies" were suggested. "Law of traditional societies" was dismissed as also being vague and ambiguous. Morris surveyed people with expertise regarding the term "customary law" and found that it is a broader term than the concept referred to at 340.52. Therefore, to maintain consistency with terms used throughout the schedule, the Subcommittee recommends that the wording at 340.52 be changed to "Law of nonliterate peoples."

The Subcommittee recommends the following revisions between

classification numbers 615.88 and 615.889 to eliminate the use the term "primitive" in that area:

- Change the note at 615.88 to read For folk, traditional, ancient, medieval remedies, see 615.89,
- Delete 615.882 Folk medicine,
- Revise 615.899 to read Folk, traditional, ancient, medieval remedies.

The word "Primitive" is also used in Dewey 19 in the area of suspension bridges. The Subcommittee recommends that bridges be categorized according to type, rather than according to whether they are early or modern. This would parallel the change in treatment of weapons in Dewey 19. (See 623.441.) The following terms are suggested for bridges:

- 624.5 Suspension bridges
 - .52 Non-metal
 - Rope bridges of hammock and basket types
 - .55 Metal
 - Wire-cable, self-anchored, eye-barchain, rope-strand cable suspension bridges.
 - Including plate-girder suspension bridges (formerly 624.7).

The Subcommittee applauds the efforts of the Decimal Classification Editorial Policy Committee and the Dewey Division to remove offensive terms from the schedule and the Division's practice of using separate classification of "primitive" subjects sparingly.

III. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULES

A. Current Treatment of Peoples of the Non-Western World in LCC

In 1976, the G Schedule and particularly the GN section underwent major revision and restructuring. LC attempted to objectively define the ethnological and ethnographic subfields of anthropology. The word "primitive" as a qualifier for customs and institutions was removed and the terms "preliterate and/or folk societies" were

introduced. Specific instruction is now given to place materials on specific topics relating to a particular group in D-F, thus arranging by geographical location rather than by subjective description of the level of the culture. Recently the section of the D schedule for African countries has been revised and expanded to include "ethnography" for each country's itemization.

Because of the generally perceived role of anthropology as the examiner of the primitive peoples of the world, there exists in LCC an inherent bias which will be difficult to eliminate. Works studying a western culture using anthropological techniques are classed geographically in D-F or in HM (Social History). In many areas of the LCC, this subtle distinction between "primitive" and "civilized" is made through notes referring to GN and particularly in chronological arrangement where "primitive" is equated with prehistoric and before the division of "ancient, medieval, and modern." (See the R schedule examples below.) Depending on the date of revision, varying degrees of insensitivity are displayed in the structure of individual schedules.

B. Caption Language in LCC

Since few of the captions in LCC actually employ the word "primitive," LC could adopt uniform and neutral language to describe preliterate and folk societies with minimum disruption, and we recommend that this be done. While the phrase "preliterate and/or folk societies" is not accepted by all social scientists, the use of this term in place of "primitive" would conform to existing LC language in GN 301-699. Also, the simple addition of the qualifier (Ethnology) to a term removes a major portion of the judgmental overtones of "primitive." Other options include elimination of portions of the caption, adding "ethno-" to a base word, or introduction of the concept of "origins" to the caption. The special problems of the N Schedule can only be itemized at this time. We suggest that the ARLIS/NA Committee on Cataloging Problems review the schedule and make recommendations for appropriate changes.

C. Summary Recommendations

1. We request that LC alter the language of the current captions to eliminate the term "primitive" and other words carrying judgmental overtones from captions.

2. We encourage LC to class by geographical area rather than evaluative characteristics.
3. We encourage LC, SAC, and other professional groups to remain aware of the improvements in language used to define preliterate people and/or folk societies and to initiate or recommend future changes as appropriate.

D. Itemization of the Use of the Word "Primitive" in the Captions, Notes, and Index Terms of the Library of Congress Classification Schedules, with Recommendations for Changes

BL-BX (2nd Edition, 1962)

- BL (370) Classification of religions. Primitive peoples, see GN 470-474
 RECOMMENDATION: Substitute "Preliterate and/or folk societies," or "Religion (Ethnology)" for "Primitive peoples." (These terms conform to captions and notes used in GN 301-699.)
- BL 900-975 Other primitive European religions
 RECOMMENDATION: Use "early" for "primitive."
- BL 2670 Religions of primitive peoples (General), see GN 470+
 Comment: Added in list 197.
 RECOMMENDATION: Use "preliterate and/or folk societies" for "primitive peoples."
- BV 6 Worship (Public & Private). History. By period. Primitive and early church
 Comment: Retain "primitive." The term is not pejorative in this context as it refers to the church in its pure form.
- BV 416 Hymnology. Hymns. Hymnbooks. Other
 .M5 Methodist churches. Primitive Methodist Church.
 Comment: Retain "primitive"; proper name.
- BV 716 Ecclesiastical theology. Church law. Sources.

- .A3 &
.A15 Primitive and early church. Ancient church orders (Collective)
Comment: Retain "primitive." The term is not pejorative in this context as it refers to the church in its pure form.
- BX 6380-
6389 Old School, Old Order or Primitive Baptists, "Hardshell Baptists"
Comment: Retain "primitive"; proper name.
- BX 6460-
6460.9 National Primitive Baptist Convention of the U.S.A. Formerly Colored Primitive Baptists
Comment: Changed in List 185. Retain "primitive"; proper name.
- BX 7771-
7772 Primitive Friends
Comment: Retain "primitive"; proper name.
- BX 8370-
8379 Primitive Methodist Church
Comment: Retain "primitive"; proper name.
- BL-BX Deities
Primitive European
Index RECOMMENDATION: Use "Early."
- C (3rd Edition, 1975)
- CE 15 Comparative chronology
Primitive, see GN 476.3
RECOMMENDATION: Substitute "Chronology (Ethnology)."
- G (4th Edition, 1976)
- G 81 History of geography. General special
Cf. GN 476.4, Primitive geography
RECOMMENDATION: Substitute one of the following: "Geography (Ethnology)" or "Ethnological geography."
- GN 296 Medical anthropology
Cf. GN 477, Primitive medicine
Comment: Note realigned in List 190.
RECOMMENDATION: Use "Medicine (Ethnology)."

Note
before
GN 301

Ethnology. Social and cultural anthropology
Many topics provided for here represent concepts also encompassed by the discipline of sociology in HM. In cases of overlap, the following principle should normally apply, unless specific instructions are made to the contrary. Class here those works which deal with the nature of human societies in general, as well as those works which deal specifically with preliterate and/or folk societies. For those works which deal principally with modern civilization, see HM.

Comment: This note illustrates the difficulty LC has had finding appropriate terms to describe the discipline of anthropology and its subfields of ethnology and ethnography. Although many object to the terms "preliterate" and "folk societies," they are more acceptable than "primitive."

GN 492

Cultural traits, customs, and institutions.

Political organization. Political anthropology.

Cf. JC 20+, The primitive state (Political theory)

Comment: Probably retained in G (4th Edition) to conform with language used at JC 20+.

RECOMMENDATION: Alter JC 20+.

GN 493-494

Social control

Cf. K 190, Primitive law

Comment: Probably retained in G (4th Edition) to conform to usage at K 190.

RECOMMENDATION: Alter K 190.

Note
before
GT

Manner and customs (General)

Class here comprehensive works on social life and customs, as well as works on certain specific customs. For general works on the broader topic of civilization, i.e., the aggregate of characteristics displayed in the collec-

tive life of literate peoples, including intellectual life, the arts, etc., as well as social life and customs, see CB. For general works on the social life and customs of preliterate and folk societies, see GN 301+.

Comment: Good example of the division in LC thinking on the concepts of civilization and the relationship of literacy.

- GV 571 Sports. History. General works. By period
 Preliterate, see GN 454+
 Comment: Awkward compromise as GV 573 is defined as the ancient period of sports history. The implication is that preliterate is chronological and older than "ancient."

H-HG (4th Edition, 1981)

Note Economic history and conditions. History.
 before By period. Prehistoric, primitive, see GN
 HC 31 448+

RECOMMENDATION: Substitute "Preliterate and/or folk societies" for "Prehistoric, primitive."

Line Land use. History. Primitive
 before RECOMMENDATION: Change line to Pre-
 HD 115 literate and/or folk societies, see GN449+.
 Enclose numbers 115, 117, 118, 119, 121 in parentheses.

HD 4843 Labor. History. Primitive
 RECOMMENDATION: Change line to Early, see GN 448.5+. Enclose 4843 in parentheses.

HE (155) Transportation and communications. History.
 Primitive, see GN 438+
 RECOMMENDATION: Substitute "Preliterate and/or folk societies" for "Primitive."

HF (361) Commerce. History. Ancient. Primitive, see
 GN 450+
 RECOMMENDATION: Substitute "Preliterate and/or folk societies" for "Primitive."

- HG 231 Money. General works.
Primitive, see GN 450.5
RECOMMENDATION: Use "Preliterate and/or folk societies" instead of "Primitive."
- HM-HX (4th Edition, 1980)
- HQ 504 Family. Marriage. Home. History. Primitive. Origins.
Cf. GN 480+, The family among savages
RECOMMENDATION: Eliminate "primitive" as "origins" covers the concept sufficiently; change "The family among savages" to "The family (Ethnology)."
- HS 407 Freemasonry among primitive races
Cf. GN 490.8, Anthropology
Comment: The Subcommittee could find no evidence of use of this number.
RECOMMENDATION: Delete line.
- HV 6118 Causes of crime. Criminal etiology. Primitive conceptions. Fall of man. Dualism. Freedom of will, etc.
RECOMMENDATION: Omit "Primitive conceptions."
- HV 8505 Penology. Prisons. Penitentiaries. Punishment and reform. History and antiquities. Primitive.
RECOMMENDATION: Eliminate "primitive" and allow "antiquities" to cover the concept.
- J (2nd Edition, 1966)
- JA 81 History of political science. General
Primitive, see JC 20
RECOMMENDATION: Change caption at JC 20.
- JC 20-24 The primitive state
Cf. GN 490-495
RECOMMENDATION: Substitute "Formative state. Early state."

- JC 26-29 Tribal institutions
 Cf. GN 488-495
 The family in relation to primitive political organization and institutions, see GN, HM, HQ
 RECOMMENDATION: Use "preliterate and/or folk" rather than "primitive."
 Forms of state. Primitive
- JC (369) Family. Patriarchy. Matriarchy, see JC 20-29
- JC (370) Tribe. Clan, see JC 20-29
- JC (371) Mark. Village. Commune, see JC 31-45
- JC (373) Theocracy
 Cf. JC 20-89
 RECOMMENDATION: Use "Formative state" rather than "Primitive."
- J Index Primitive state JC 20-45
 RECOMMENDATION: Use "Formative state" rather than "Primitive state."
- K (1st Edition, 1977)
- Note Ethnological jurisprudence. Primitive law.
 before Class here works on the laws of preliterate
 K 190 people in general, not limited to a particular region or country. For works on the primitive law of special areas or tribes, see customary law in the subclass for the appropriate region or country.
 RECOMMENDATION: Eliminate Primitive law after Ethnological jurisprudence in the heading and the word primitive in the fourth line of the text.
- K 325 Historical jurisprudence. General works
 Primitive law, ethnological jurisprudence see K190+
 RECOMMENDATION: Use only the term "Ethnological jurisprudence."

- K 520+ Comparative law. International Uniform Law
Cf. K 190+, Primitive law
RECOMMENDATION: Use "Ethnological jurisprudence" in place of "Primitive law."
- K 589 Modern and ancient law
Primitive law, see K 190+
RECOMMENDATION: Use "Ethnological jurisprudence" for "Primitive law."
- K Index Primitive law K 190+
RECOMMENDATION: Eliminate entry
- L Index Primitive education GN 488.5
RECOMMENDATION: Cancel. GN was completely restructured in 4th edition.
- M (3rd Edition, 1978)
- ML 156.4 Bibliography. Catalogs. Sound recordings.
Discography. Lists. By topic, A-Z
.P7 Primitive music
RECOMMENDATION: Cancel ".P7 Primitive music;" substitute appropriate cutter number for acceptable music term covering the concept of ethnic music.
- M Index Primitive music
Discography: ML 156.4.P7
RECOMMENDATION: Delete entire entry and cover concept with some form of "ethnomusicology."
- N (4th Edition, 1970)
- Note Primitive art.
before Used here to denote art produced outside the traditions of the art of Europe, the Mediterranean area, and Asia. That is, the art of the Negro peoples of sub-Saharan Africa; of the inhabitants of the islands of the Pacific
N 5311

Ocean, Australia and some areas off the coast of Southeast Asia.

Does not include "primitive" or "naive" artists who, while seemingly untutored, work in the traditions of European folk art or easel painting.

- Cf. E-F, American Indian art
 GN 429-434, Primitive arts and crafts
 N 7432.5.P7, Naive art
 NB 62-64, Primitive sculpture
 NC 54, Primitive drawing
 ND 1482.P7, Naive painting
 NK 1177, Primitive ornament

Comment: The term "primitive" in the art world appears to be a necessary evil; to the layperson, primitive carries a connotation of crude, rudimentary and unlearned, which should cover artists irrespective of their national origins. The singling out of those living in certain areas as "primitive" is unnecessary as there is ample provision for division of all art subjects by geographical location or chronological subdivision.

RECOMMENDATION: Change "Negro" in fourth line of text to "black."

In this N section, the captions with a form of primitive are reproduced without further comment in most cases.

- N 6494 History. Modern art. By century. 20th century. Special aspects or movements, A-Z
 .P7 Primitivism. Groupe Henri Rousseau
 Comment: "Groupe Henri Rousseau" added in List 179.
 History. Special countries. America.
- N (6501.5) Primitive American art, see E 59.A7; E 98.A7; F1219.3.A7; etc.
- N 7428.5 General special. Influences and relationships between cultures
 e.g., Comparisons of ancient and modern

art; comparisons of primitive and modern art

List 178

- N 7428.5 Comparative art
Including influences and relationships between cultures, e.g., comparisons of ancient and modern art; comparisons of primitive and modern art

List 193

- N 7428.5 Comparative art
N 7429 Influences and relationships between cultures, e.g., comparisons of ancient and modern art; comparisons of primitive and modern art

- N 7432.5 Technique, composition, etc. Styles. Special styles, A-Z
.P7 Primitivism. Naive art
Especially the "naive" art produced in countries whose culture is basically modern European, or derived from it
Prefer N 5311 where applicable

Architecture. History. Primitive
Cf. Gn 413-415. Ethnology

- NA 205 General works

- NA (207) Primitive American, see E-F
Sculpture. History

- NB 61.5 Prehistoric sculpture
Primitive sculpture. (Includes note found before N 5311)

- NB 62 General works

- NB 64 General special
Special countries, see NB 201-1113

- NC 54 History of drawing. Primitive
Cf. NK 1177, Primitive ornament

- NC 55 Ancient
- ND 1482 Painting. Technique. Styles. General styles, A-Z
.P7 Primitive painting. Naive painting (Includes note below N 7432.5.P7)
- NK 605 Decorative arts. Primitive
- NK 1177 Decoration and ornament. History. Primitive ornament. Evolution of decorative art
Cf. GN 419, Anthropology
NC 54, Primitive drawing
- NK 3795 Other arts and art industries. Ceramics. History. Primitive
For aspects other than aesthetic, see GN 433
- N Index Primitive art: N 5310.7-5313
Architecture: NA 205
Ceramics: GN 433, NK 3795
Decoration and ornament: NK 1177
Decorative arts: NK 605
Drawing, design: NC 54
Illustration: NC 54
Sculpture: NB 62-64
See also Naive art; Primitivism (Art); Primitivism as a style in art
Primitive art, American E 59.A7, F 1219.3. A7, etc.
Primitivism
Visual arts
General
Canadian primitivism: N 6540.5.P7
United States primitivism: N 6505.5.P74
By period
Colonial period
American primitivism. N 6505.5.P7
17th-18th centuries
English primitivism: N 6766.5.P74
19th century
American primitivism: N 6510.5.P7

20th century

American primitivism: N 6512.5.P7

Belgian primitivism: N 6968.5.P74

Canadian primitivism: N 6546.5.P7

Dutch primitivism: N 6948.5.P74

French primitivism: N 6848.5.P7

German primitivism: N 6868.5.P7

Hungarian primitivism: N 6820.5.P7

Italian primitivism: N 6818.5.P7

Romanian primitivism: N 7228.5.P7

Swedish primitivism: N 7088.5.P7

Yugoslavian primitivism: N7242.5.P7

Comment: The index terms under "Primitivism" were altered by List 178; these areas in the N schedule were not included as they are repetitious and the formal name of a style of European art.

Q (6th Edition, 1973)

Q 141.2 Elementary mathematics. Numeration, number concept, numeration systems. History
Cf. GN 476.1, Primitive numeration
RECOMMENDATION: Use "Numeration (Ethnology)" rather than "Primitive numeration."

Q Index Primitive numeration (Anthropology): GN 476.1
RECOMMENDATION: Eliminate "Primitive" and use "Numeration (Ethnology)."

R (4th Edition, 1980)

R 131+ Medicine. History
Cf. GN 477+, Primitive medicine
GR 880, Folk medicine
RECOMMENDATION: Substitute "Medicine (Ethnology)" for "Primitive medicine."

RD 22 Surgery. History. Primitive
Cf. GN 477.5+, Ethnology

- RECOMMENDATION: Use "Origins" rather than "Primitive."
- RG 53 Gynecology and obstetrics. History. Primitive
RECOMMENDATION: Use "Origins" rather than "Primitive."
- RG 512 Obstetrics. History. Primitive
RECOMMENDATION: Use "Origins" rather than "Primitive."
- T (5th Edition, 1971)
- T (32) Technology. History. Primitive peoples, see
GN 429-434
RECOMMENDATION: Replace caption with "Technology. History. Material culture, see GH 429-434. For material culture of individual peoples, see the D, E, and F schedules."
- TH 16 Building construction. History and description. Ancient
Including primitive construction
RECOMMENDATION: Omit phrase "Including primitive construction."
- TJ 901 Hydraulic machinery. Pumps and pumping engines.
General special.
Including ancient and primitive pumps.
RECOMMENDATION: Alter last line to read "Including history."
- T Index Primitive industries: GN 429-434
RECOMMENDATION: Use "Industries (Ethnology) and Material culture."
- Z (5th Edition, 1980)
- Religions (non-Christian)
- Z 7833 General bibliography. General special bibliography.

Including primitive religions, sex worship, phallicism, etc.

RECOMMENDATION: Substitute "religion (ethnology)" or "religions of preliterate and/or folk societies" for "primitive religions."

Z Index

Primitive religions: Z 7833

RECOMMENDATION: Use "Religion (Ethnology)."