

Library of Congress Subject Headings

The **Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH)** is a reference tool that assists the researcher in locating the correct word(s) to use when searching by SUBJECT in the library's online catalog. **LCSH** also provides help in finding both narrower, broader and related terms for a subject. **LCSH** (five large, red volumes) are located by the Ready Reference Collection in the Reference Department.

The following codes are used in the **LCSH**:

USE	=	Use this heading instead of another
UF	=	Used For (do not use this heading)
BT	=	Broader Topic (less specific)
NT	=	Narrower Topic (more specific)
RT	=	Related Topic (similar)
SA	=	See Also (additional terms)

Example:

Suppose you must write a research paper on a health-related topic and you are unsure of where to begin. If you consult the **LCSH** you will find the following:

Health	Here are entered works on optimal physical, mental and social well being, as well as, how to achieve and preserve it. Works on personal body care and cleanliness are entered under Hygiene, etc.
UF	Personal health Wellness
BT	Medicine Physiology
RT	Diseases Holistic medicine Hygiene
SA	<i>subdivision <u>Health</u> under names of individual persons; also subdivision <u>Care and hygiene</u> under parts of the body, e.g. Foot – Care and hygiene; also subdivision <u>Health and hygiene</u> under classes of persons and ethnic groups; and subdivision <u>Health</u> aspects under subjects.</i>
NT	Alexander technique Animal health Astrology and health Cardiovascular fitness

The **LCSH** indicates that if you want to research this topic, “**HEALTH**” is the term you should use when searching by subject in the catalog instead of the term “**WELLNESS**”. Also, by reviewing the list, you may decide to narrow your topic to the positive effects of exercise on health. Using the **LCSH**, you have successfully narrowed your topic and have found the correct term to use, “**Cardiovascular fitness**,” searching the catalog.