

BACKGROUND: Hierarchical references represent levels of superordination and subordination. In LCGFT they are indicated by the notations narrower term (NT) and broader term (BT). Terms in LCGFT may display one of two hierarchical relationships:

- **Genus/species (or class/class member)**

Animal films
BT Motion pictures

Nautical charts
BT Loran charts

- **Whole/part**

Film excerpts
BT Motion pictures

Radio outtakes
BT Radio programs

Only the BTs are explicitly included in LCGFT authority records; the NTs are computer-generated for display. Example:

Apocalyptic comics
BT Science fiction comics
[explicitly coded]

Science fiction comics
NT Apocalyptic comics
[computer-generated]

1. General rule. Make appropriate BT references when establishing a new term, following the general principle above. Also follow the guidelines for making BT references for particular types of terms that are given in specific instruction sheets for the disciplines.

1. General rule. (Continued)

Link a new term only to the next broader term in the logical hierarchy by means of a BT.
Example:

Operas
BT Dramatic music

[not Operas
BT Dramatic music
BT Music]

2. Number of BTs.

a. General rule. Make at least one BT when establishing a new term. Make this BT even if both terms begin with the same word. *Example:*

Television comedies
BT Television programs

“Orphan” terms – terms having no BT – are prohibited in LCGFT, except for the topmost term in each hierarchy (e.g., **Instructional and educational works; Law materials; Visual works**).

b. Number of BT references. Most single-concept terms belong to only one hierarchy and require only one BT. Some terms may incorporate more than one hierarchy and therefore require BTs in each hierarchy, but more than three BTs are rarely provided. Link the new term to the next broader term in each hierarchy. *Examples:*

Morality plays
BT Allegories
BT Didactic drama
BT Religious drama

Textured books
BT Tactile works
BT Toy and movable books

3. Revising existing hierarchical references. When establishing a new term that is an intermediate term in a hierarchy, add the new term as a BT to the authority records for all existing narrower ones, and delete any BTs that link any existing terms to terms broader than the newly-established intermediate term. *Example:*

The term **Sepolcric** was assigned the BT **Lenten music**. When **Holy Week music** was proposed, the BTs on the existing term **Sepolcric** was cancelled and the BT **Holy Week music** assigned, resulting in the following hierarchy:

Lenten music

NT Holy Week music

Holy Week music

NT Sepolcric