

Pattern Headings: Comics and Graphic Novels

H 1149.7

Pattern: *Biographical comic books, strips, etc.*

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A. Recent revisions

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B. Types of headings covered by the pattern

Headings for individual genres and forms of comics and graphic novels, including the general heading ***Comic books, strips, etc.*** Restrictions are noted in each section. *Examples:*

Biographical comic books, strips, etc.; ***Graphic novels***; ***Manga (Comic books)***;
Romance comic books, strips, etc.

B.1. General rule

Comics and graphic novels are considered to be a form that includes both the written word and visual art. Therefore, the free-floating subdivisions in this instruction sheet are drawn from pattern headings for art ([H 1148](#)) and literature ([H 1156](#)).

Period subdivisions are listed first, author groups second, and topical and form subdivisions last, which is the proper order for considering these elements when formulating subject headings about particular themes in comics and graphic novels.

B.2. Geographic subdivision

Headings for comics and graphic novels — including the heading ***Comic books, strips, etc.*** — may be subdivided geographically. Headings with geographic subdivisions may be further subdivided by topical and form subdivisions from [section F](#) and [G](#) below. Period and author group subdivisions from [section D](#) and [section E](#) below may not be combined in a single heading with geographic subdivisions. Instead, assign additional headings to bring out those aspects.

Examples:

650 #0 \$a Detective and mystery comic books, strips, etc. \$z Brazil.

[Base heading] + [Geographic subdivision]

650 #0 \$a Horror comic books, strips, etc. \$z Japan \$x Technique.

[Base heading] + [Geographic subdivision] + [Topical or form subdivision]

[not 650 #0 \$a Comic books, strips, etc. \$z Argentina \$y 21st century.]

[not 650 #0 \$a Graphic novels \$z Spain \$x Women authors.]

C. Conflicts

Any subdivision listed here can be used as a free-floating subdivision under any heading belonging to the category if it is appropriate and no conflict exists in the subject authority file. Subject authority records may exist for headings employing variant phrases or subdivisions equivalent to subdivisions on this list.

D. LC practice

If an exceptional variant form is to be retained, make a “Used for” reference from the equivalent free-floating subdivision form following the procedures in [H 195](#) if the reference does not yet exist. Otherwise, submit a proposal to change the variant form along with all bibliographic records requiring correction following procedures in [H 193](#).

E. Period subdivisions

E.1 General rule

Use the following free-floating general period subdivisions derived from [H 1148](#), section 1.

Period subdivisions may be followed by topical and form subdivisions from [section G](#) and [H](#) below, with the noted exceptions, but may not be combined with author group subdivisions from [section F](#) below, nor used after headings for comics or graphic novels with [geographic subdivision](#). If there are specific headings where these subdivisions are not appropriate, establish the appropriate subdivision under the specific heading.

Examples:

650 #0 \$a Queer comic books, strips, etc. \$y 20th century.

[Base heading] + [Period subdivision]

650 #0 \$a Graphic medicine (Comic books) \$y 21st century \$x Publishing.

[Base heading] + [Period subdivision] + [Topical or form subdivision]

[not 650 #0 \$a Comic books, strips, etc. \$y 21st century \$z Argentina.]

[not 650 #0 \$a Manga (Comic books) \$y 20th century \$x Buddhist authors.]

E.2. List of period subdivisions

\$y 15th century

\$y 16th century

\$y 17th century

\$y 18th century

\$y 19th century

\$y 20th century

\$y 21st century

F. Author group subdivisions

F.1. General rule

Use the free-floating author group subdivisions listed in [H 1156](#), section E, to denote author groups that identify subordinate bodies of comic or graphic novel genres. Author group subdivisions may be followed by any topical or form subdivision from [section G](#) and [H](#) below but may not be combined in a single heading with period subdivisions from [section E](#) above nor used after headings with [geographic subdivisions](#).

Following this pattern, establish new subdivisions for *national, ethnic, or religious groups only*. Establish new subdivisions under the pattern heading for literature and for comics and graphic novels. For other author groups, follow the pattern of the phrase headings, ***Children's writings, English—[place]*** or ***Prisoners' writings, French—[place]***.

Subdivisions for religious author groups are used for comics and graphic novels written by authors who are members of the group, whether or not the comic or graphic novel includes religious themes. For example, assign ***Comic books, strips, etc.—Christian authors*** to comics or graphic novels by Christians. Comics and graphic novels with religious themes are entered under phrase headings for the genre, for example, ***Christian comic books, strips, etc.***

Examples:

650 #0 \$a Science fiction comic books, strips, etc. \$x Black authors.

[Base heading] + [Author group subdivision]

650 #0 Comic books, strips, etc. \$x Jewish authors \$x History and criticism.

[Base heading] + [Author group subdivision] + [Topical or form subdivision]

[not 650 #0 \$a Graphic novels \$x Women authors \$z Spain.]

[not 650 #0 \$a Manga (Comic books) \$x Buddhist authors \$y 20th century.]

F.2. List of author group subdivisions

\$x Algerian authors

\$x Anglican authors

\$x Arab authors

\$x Armenian authors

\$x Asian authors

\$x Azerbaijani authors

\$x Bahraini authors

- \$x Bakhtiari authors
- \$x Bangladeshi authors
- \$x Basque authors
- \$x Bedouin authors
- \$x Bengali authors
- \$x Black authors [Not valid under headings for American literature or its genres.]
- \$x Buddhist authors
- \$x Calvinist authors
- \$x Cambodian authors
- \$x Caribbean authors
- \$x Catalan authors
- \$x Catholic authors
- \$x Celtic authors
- \$x Chinese authors
- \$x Christian authors
- \$x Christian Science authors
- \$x Czech authors
- \$x Czechoslovak authors
- \$x Dalit authors
- \$x Dravidian authors
- \$x Druze authors
- \$x East Asian authors
- \$x East Indian authors
- \$x European authors
- \$x Finnish authors
- \$x Foreign authors
- \$x Garifuna authors
- \$x German authors
- \$x Greek authors
- \$x Hindu authors
- \$x Hungarian authors
- \$x Icelandic authors
- \$x Iranian authors
- \$x Irish authors
- \$x Italian authors
- \$x Jaina authors
- \$x Japanese authors
- \$x Jewish authors

\$x Jewish Christian authors
\$x Korean authors
\$x Kurdish authors
\$x Kyrgyz authors
\$x Latter Day Saint authors
\$x Lebanese authors
\$x Lutheran authors
\$x Luxembourg authors
\$x Madurese authors
\$x Male authors
\$x Māori authors
\$x Maratha authors
\$x Maya authors
\$x Mennonite authors
\$x Methodist authors
\$x Minority authors
\$x Mongolian authors
\$x Muslim authors
\$x Northern Irish authors
\$x Orthodox Eastern authors
\$x Palestinian Arab authors
\$x Parsee authors
\$x Polish authors
\$x Protestant authors
\$x Puritan authors
\$x Pushto authors
\$x Quaker authors
\$x Romani authors
\$x Romanian authors
\$x Scottish authors
\$x Sindhi authors
\$x Slovak authors
\$x South Asian authors
\$x Swami-Narayani authors
\$x Tibetan authors
\$x Turkic authors
\$x Turkish authors
\$x Turkmen authors

\$x Ukrainian authors
\$x Welsh authors
\$x White authors
\$x Women authors
\$x Yoruba authors

G. Topical Subdivisions

G.1. General rule

Use the free-floating topical subdivisions listed in [H 1148](#) and in [H 1156](#), section G. These subdivisions may also be used under period subdivisions from [section E](#) above, or author group subdivisions from [section F](#) above with the noted exceptions. They may also be used after headings with geographic subdivision.

Examples:

650 #0 \$a Documentary comic books, strips, etc. \$x Authorship.

[Base heading] + [Topical subdivision]

650 #0 \$a Fantasy comic books, strips, etc. \$x Social aspects \$z Germany.

[The subdivision *—**Social aspects*** may be subdivided geographically.]

[Base heading] + [Topical subdivision] + [Geographic subdivision]

[not 650 #0 \$a Underground comic books, strips, etc. \$x History and criticism \$z United States.]

[The subdivision *—**History and criticism*** may not be subdivided geographically.]

[not 650 #0 \$a Biographical comic books, strips, etc. \$x History and criticism \$y 20th century.]

[not 650 #0 \$a Romance comic books, strips, etc. \$x History and criticism \$x Women authors.]

G.2. List of topical subdivisions

[A-D](#) | [E-H](#) | [I-M](#) | [N-S](#) | [T-Z](#)

Topical subdivision	May Subd Geog	Notes
\$x Adaptations		Use as a topical subdivision under comics for works about adaptations of those comics.
\$x African influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x American influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Appreciation	Yes	Use as a topical subdivision under comics for works on public response and reception, praise, etc., of the comic.
\$x Arab influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Asian influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Attribution		
\$x Audio adaptations		Use as a topical subdivision under comics for works about audio adaptations of works from that type of comics. Not valid under period subdivisions.
\$x Australian influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Bibliography		Use as a topical subdivision under comics for works about bibliography on those comics.
\$x Brazilian influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Buddhist influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Caribbean influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Catalogs		Use as a topical subdivision under comics for works about listings of comics that have been produced, that

Topical subdivision	May Subd Geog	Notes
		are available or located at particular places, or that occur on a particular market, often systematically arranged with descriptive details, prices, etc., accompanying each entry.
\$x Celtic influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Censorship	Yes	
\$x Chinese influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Christian influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Classical influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Confucian influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Conservation and restoration	Yes	Use as a topical subdivision under comics for works on preserving and restoring comics.
\$x Copying		
\$x Criticism, Textual		
\$x Czech influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Dutch influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Egyptian influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x English influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x European influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Expertising	Yes	
\$x Explication		

Topical subdivision	May Subd Geog	Notes
\$x Film adaptations		Not valid under period subdivisions.
<i>Film and video adaptations</i>	--	See <i>“Film adaptations”</i> and <i>“Television adaptations”</i>
\$x Finnish influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x First editions		Use as a topical subdivision under comics for works about first editions of those comics.
\$x Foreign influences		Use as a topical subdivision under individual comics subdivided by place for works on general outside cultural influences on those comics. Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Forgeries		
\$x French influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Galician influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x German influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Greek influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Haitian influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x History and criticism		Use as a topical subdivision under literary, music, film, television program, and video recording form headings.
\$x History and criticism \$x Theory, etc.		
\$x Hungarian influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Illustrations		Use as a topical subdivision under comics, comic forms, and types of published materials for works about pictorial representation of those works.

Topical subdivision	May Subd Geog	Notes
\$x Indian influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Indic influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Influence		Use as a topical subdivision under comics for works discussing their influence.
\$x Iranian influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Irish influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Islamic influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Italian influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Jaina influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Japanese influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Jewish influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Korean influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Latin American influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Manuscripts		Use as a topical subdivision under comics for works about manuscripts of those literatures.
\$x Mayan influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Medieval influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Mediterranean influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.

Topical subdivision	May Subd Geog	Notes
\$x Memorizing		
\$x Mexican influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Minangkabau influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Musical settings		Use as a topical subdivision under comics for works on musical compositions based on those comics.
\$x Musical settings \$x History and criticism		
\$x Mycenaean influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Northern Thai influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Old Norse influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Periodization		
\$x Polish influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Political aspects	Yes	Use as a topical subdivision under comics for works on the political dimensions or implications of nonpolitical topics.
\$x Portuguese influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Provençal influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Psychological aspects		
\$x Publishing	Yes	
\$x Reproduction		Use as a topical subdivision under comics for the processes of producing images of the comics.
\$x Roman influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.

Topical subdivision	May Subd Geog	Notes
\$x Romanian influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Russian influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Scandinavian influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Scottish influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Shamanistic influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Slavic influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Slovak influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Social aspects	Yes	
\$x Sources		Use as a topical subdivision under types of comics for works about sources of ideas or inspiration for these works.
\$x Soviet influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Spanish influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Stories, plots, etc.		Use as a topical subdivision under comics for works about the stories or plots of those comics.
\$x Taoist influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Technique		Use as a topical subdivision under comics for works on artistic technique.
\$x Television adaptations		Not valid under period subdivisions.
\$x Thai influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.

Topical subdivision	May Subd Geog	Notes
\$x Themes, motives		Use as a topical subdivision under names of individual comics forms.
\$x Translations		Use as a topical subdivision under names of comics for works about translations of those comics. Do not use for single translations.
\$x Translations \$x History and criticism		
\$x Translations into French, [German, etc.]		Use as a topical subdivision under names of comics for works about translations of those comics into those languages.
\$x Translations into French, [German, etc.] \$x History and criticism		
\$x Turkic influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Ukrainian influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Uzbek influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x West Indian influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.
\$x Western influences		Not valid under period subdivisions or under headings for comics identified in the subdivision.

H. Form subdivisions

H.1. General rule

Use the free-floating form subdivisions listed in [H 1148](#) and in [H 1156](#), section H. These subdivisions may also be used under period subdivisions from [section E](#) above, or author group subdivisions from [section F](#) above with the noted exceptions. They may also be used after headings with [geographic subdivision](#).

LC practice: As stated in H 1075, Library of Congress catalogers will no longer use form subdivisions. Instead assign an appropriate term or terms from Library of Congress Genre/Form Terms (LCGFT) to bring out the form(s) and/or genre(s) of the resource being cataloged. To replace a form subdivision that includes a demographic group, also assign Library of Congress Demographic Group Terms (LCDGT) to bring out the audience of the resource being cataloged. The form subdivisions maintained on this list are not available for use by LC catalogers. Catalogers at institutions external to LC may use them as dictated by their own institutional policies.

H.2. List of form subdivisions

Form subdivision	May Subd Geog	Notes
\$v Adaptations		Use as a form subdivision under comics for collections of adaptations of those works.
\$v Audio adaptations		Use as a form subdivision under comics for collections of audio adaptations of those works.
\$v Bibliography		Use as a form subdivision under comics for works consisting of bibliographies about the comics.
\$v Bio-bibliography		Use as a form subdivision under comics for works containing both biographical information about persons associated with the comics and bibliographies of writings by and/or about them.
\$v Catalogs		Use as a form subdivision under comics for listings of comics that have been produced, that are available or located at particular places, or that occur on a particular market, often systematically arranged with descriptive details, prices, etc., accompanying each entry.
\$v Chronology		Use as a form subdivision under headings for comics for lists of dates of events pertinent to the subject in order of their occurrence.
\$v Concordances		Use as a form subdivision under comics and comics genres for indexes to the principal words found in those works.

Form subdivision	May Subd Geog	Notes
\$v Film adaptations		Use as a form subdivision under comics for collections of film adaptations of those comics.
<i>Film and video adaptations</i>	--	<i>See "Film adaptations" and "Television adaptations"</i>
\$x First editions \$v Bibliography		Use this subdivision combination as a form subdivision under comics for lists of first editions of those comics.
\$v Illustrations		Use as a form subdivision under comics, comics forms, and types of published materials for collections of pictorial representations of those works.
\$v Musical settings		Use as a form subdivision under comics for musical scores or sound recordings in which those literary texts have been set to music.
\$v Stories, plots, etc.		Use as a form subdivision under comics for works consisting of summaries of the stories or plots of those comics.
\$v Television adaptations		Use as a form subdivision under comics for collections of television adaptations of those comics.
\$v Translations		Use as a form subdivision under comics for collections of translated works.
\$v Translations into French, [German, etc.]		Use as a form subdivision under comics for collections of translated works into those languages.

Revision history

2025-04: Created instruction sheet.