BACKGROUND: *In 1987, the Library of Congress began to acquire and catalog computer software, both through the* CIP *program and through regular acquisition channels. This instruction sheet provides guidelines on assigning classification numbers to computer software and to works about individual computer programs. It applies only to items of software for which the bibliographic records are in the* COMPUTER FILES *format, not to books with accompanying software for which the bibliographic records are in the* BOOKS *format. For information on assigning subject headings, see H 2070.*

1. Classification. Class an item of software in the same number in which a book about that software would be classed.

If a particular schedule has a provision of the type "Special programs, A-Z," class software in that number. In most other cases, class software in the number for "Data processing" or its equivalent under the topic in question, if one exists.

2. What is included in the class number. Assign only the $a subfield, not the $b subfield, of the 050 field, i.e., assign only the classification number, not the book number.

3. Include Cutter numbers for topics, places and persons. Assign as specific a number as is already established and printed in the classification schedules, including Cutter numbers for topics, place, or persons if they are already printed in the schedule. Supply Cutter numbers for places or individuals if the caption in the schedule reads, for example, "By region or country, A-Z," or "Individual, A-Z," and printed Cutter numbers are not present. Do not assign spans of numbers or Cutters.

4. Specific topic not yet established. If the specific topic has not been established, submit a proposal to establish it in the normal manner.

LC *practice:*
5. Custodial assignment. For custodial information see G 610 and DCM B18.5.1.