

L 410 - Broader and Narrower Term References

BACKGROUND: Hierarchical references represent levels of superordination and subordination. In LCDGT they are indicated by the notations narrower term (NT) and broader term (BT). Terms in LCDGT display the genus/species (a.k.a. class/class member) relationship. Examples:

Catholics

BT Christians

Fighter pilots

BT Military air pilots

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

Nurses

BT Medical personnel

[explicitly coded]

Medical personnel

NT Nurses

[computer-generated]

This instruction sheet provides general guidelines on assigning BTs. For specific information about terms in particular categories, see the instruction sheet for the category (e.g., L 535 - Religion Category).

1. General rule. Make one or more BT references when one group is by definition part of another, 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 categories. *Examples:*

Marines

BT Soldiers

New Hampshireites

BT Americans

Children of gay men

not BT Children

*[Although **Children of gay men** appears to refer to people under thirteen years of age, the term refers to any child of gay men, including those who have reached adulthood. The BT **Children** is therefore not appropriate.]*

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

Watercolorists

BT Painters

[not **Watercolorists**

BT Artists

BT Painters]

2. Number of BTs.

a. General rule. Demographic group terms may have a single BT, multiple BTs, or no BT at all; that is, terms may be orphans.

Note: Most terms have a single BT or are orphans.

(1) Single BT. Assign one BT when the term is intrinsically part of a single, broader, demographic group that is in the same category. *Examples:*

Virginians

BT Americans

[Virginians and Americans are both in the Nationality/Regional category.]

Greek Americans

not BT Americans

[Greek Americans is in the Ethnic/Cultural category, and Americans is in the National/Regional category. They do not have a hierarchical relationship.]

(2) Multiple BTs. Assign multiple BTs when the term is intrinsically part of two or more groups. The BTs may be from different categories. See L 405 - Categories of Terms for general guidelines on assigning categories. *Example:*

Librarians

BT Information scientists

BT Library employees

(3) **Orphan terms.** Assign no BTs when the term is not intrinsically part of another established demographic group. Do not establish broader terms only to fill hierarchical gaps. Instead, bring related terms together through inverted UFs when possible (see L 420 - “Used For” References).

Examples:

Business school students

UF Students, Business school

[Business school students are by definition students, but a general term for students is not authorized because it is unlikely that the creators or contributors of a resource will be students of all levels, in all disciplines, or that students in general will be the intended audience of a resource. Instead, all demographic group terms for students are collocated by means of inverted UFs.]

Ukrainian speakers

[Ukrainian is a Slavic language, but terms for language groups are not generally established in LCDGT; a BT is not assigned.]

3. Revising existing BTs. When proposing a new term as an intermediate term in a hierarchy, note in the 952 field any associated records whose broader terms may be affected. The LCDGT Support Staff will update these associated records. *Example:*

*The terms **College freshmen**, **College sophomores**, **College juniors**, and **College seniors** were assigned the BT **College students**. When **Undergraduates** was proposed due to literary warrant, the BTs on the existing terms for **College freshmen**, etc., were cancelled and the BT **Undergraduates** assigned, resulting in the following hierarchy:*

College students

NT Undergraduates

Undergraduates

NT College freshmen

NT College juniors

NT College seniors

NT College sophomores