

L 445 - Form of Authorized Term

BACKGROUND: This instruction sheet provides general guidelines on the form of authorized demographic group terms. For specific information about terms in a particular category, see the instruction sheet for the category (e.g., L 510 - Ethnic/Cultural Category).

1. Natural language. Establish new demographic group terms in direct order, using natural language.

2. Singular v. plural. Establish demographic group terms in plural form.

3. Articles in the initial position. Do not establish demographic group terms with an article (definite or indefinite) in the initial position. This instruction applies both to English articles and to all foreign-language equivalents in the nominative case.

4. Foreign terms.

a. General rule. Establish demographic group terms in a language other than English only if either of the following two conditions applies.

- No English term for the group exists and the group is normally referred to in foreign terms even in English-language resources (e.g., **Réunionese**).
- No citation can be found in any English-language reference source, and the concept appears to be unique to the language of the resource being cataloged.

Terms of this type are generally provided with scope notes to explain their meaning to English-language catalog users. They may be subject to change if English-language equivalents are subsequently found.

b. Romanization. When establishing demographic group terms in languages that are expressed in non-Roman scripts, use the Romanized form most commonly found in major English-language reference sources for the discipline.¹ If no conventional Romanized form is found in English-language sources, follow LC systematic romanization practice for the language in question.

c. Diacritics. For guidelines on establishing demographic group terms with or without diacritics, see Appendix C - Diacritics and Special Characters.

¹ When establishing demographic group terms in Hebrew, Aramaic, Yiddish, Ladino, or other Jewish languages, prefer terminology found in the most current available edition of the *Encyclopaedia Judaica* over that found in other English-language sources.