

L 500 - Age Category

BACKGROUND: Terms in the Age category refer to the chronological age of the group members. In MARC authority records the category is represented by the three-letter code **age**. This instruction sheet provides specific guidelines on assigning terms from the Age category to bibliographic records and to authority records for works, as well as guidelines on establishing new terms in the category. For examples of MARC 21 records to which demographic group terms have been assigned, see

- L 550 - MARC Coding for Audience in Bibliographic and Work Authority Records
- L 555 - MARC Coding for Creators in Bibliographic and Work Authority Records
- L 560 - MARC Coding for Entity Attributes in Personal Name Authority Records

For examples of MARC 21 authority records for LC demographic group terms, see L 545 - MARC Authority Records for LCDGT.

1. Assigning terms in bibliographic records and in authority records for works.

a. General rule. Assign terms in accordance with the special provisions below, and with the following instruction sheets.

- L 480 - Assignment of Terms: Audience Characteristics
- L 485 - Assignment of Terms: Creator Characteristics
- L 490 - Assignment of Terms: Entity Attributes for Persons

b. Post-coordinating with terms from the Educational Level category. Assign one or more terms from the Age category when the intended audience of a resource, or a resource's creator/contributor, is people of particular age. Because users looking for resources by or for people under the age of 18 may search by either age group or educational level, *optionally* assign a term from the Educational Level category if the appropriate term is immediately apparent. *Example:*

Title: I lived on Butterfly Hill.

Audience: Ages 10-14

Terms: Preteens

Teenagers

Middle school students

Junior high school students

[Middle school students and Junior high school students optionally assigned to provide access by educational level]

c. Limitations on assigning terms.

(1) Resources for adults. Do not routinely assign the term **Adults** to describe either the intended audiences or the creators/contributors of resources. Assign the term only when the resource explicitly indicates that adults are the intended audience.

(2) Diffuse audience. Do not assign a term from the Age category to describe the intended audience if it is so diffuse that the resource can be described as being for a general audience. If the resource explicitly indicates that the intended audience consists of a broad age group, however, assign terms to describe the audience. *Example:*

Title: Road adventures USA.

Data: Ages 10 and up

Terms: Preteens

Teenagers

Adults

[Audience explicitly stated; three terms are necessary to describe it]

2. Proposing terms. There are no specific guidelines for proposing terms in the Age category. Establish terms according to the guidelines for submitting proposals in L 435-L 465.