

## L 510 - Ethnic/Cultural Category

**BACKGROUND:** *Terms in the Ethnic/Cultural category refer to the ethnic or cultural identification of the group members (e.g., Armenian Americans; Asian Canadians; Chosŏnjok; Navajo). In addition to people who self-identify with a particular ethnicity or cultural background, the category includes nationals of one country who permanently reside in another when there is a collective term for them in either English or in the vernacular of the country in which they reside.*

*Terms for collective ethnic groupings based on language, region, etc. are not included unless there is clear need for them. For example, the Apache are classified as an Athapascan tribe because Apache is an Athapascan language. Since it is unlikely that creators/contributors would self-identify as Athapascan, or that the intended audience of a work would be the Athapascan grouping as a whole, a term for Athapascans is not established. If such a work is cataloged, however, a term for Athapascans could be proposed for inclusion. Likewise, general terms such as “Slavic people” are not generally in scope for LCDGT.*

*The category does not include ethnic and cultural groups that are also demonyms associated with a country, which are included in the Nationality/Regional category (e.g., Germans; Japanese).*

*In MARC authority records the Ethnic/Cultural category is represented by the three-letter code **eth**. This instruction sheet provides specific guidelines on assigning terms from the Ethnic/Cultural 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 or persons.***

***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 Nationality/Regional category.** When assigning one or more terms from the Ethnic/Cultural category, also assign a term from the National/Regional category if the term is immediately apparent and it would increase access. The terms are not redundant, even if they share some wording, because they are from different categories. *Example:*

An author self-identifies as a Japanese Canadian. Assign **Japanese Canadians** from the Ethnic/Cultural category. Optionally also assign **Canadians** from the Nationality/Regional category if it would provide useful access.

## **2. Proposing terms.**

**a. General rule.** Propose terms according to the guidelines in L 435-L 465 and the special provisions below.

**b. Form of authorized term.** Establish terms in English. Terms may be established in other languages if

- no English term for the ethnic or cultural group exists and the group's name is normally expressed in foreign terms even in English-language works and reference sources, or
- after doing proper authority research, no citation can be found in any English-language resource, and the concept appears to be unique to the language of the resource being cataloged (e.g., **Chosŏnjok**, ethnic Koreans with Chinese nationality who reside chiefly in the Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture).

Use the plural form if it is known. If two plural forms exist, one of which is also the singular form, use as the authorized term the plural that matches the singular form. For example, *Webster's* indicates that there are two plural forms for Cherokee: *Cherokee* and *Cherokees*. Choose *Cherokee* as the basis of the authorized term, because it is both singular and plural.

**c. Form of qualifier.** Qualify ethnic groups that are closely identified with a single continent or region and that are not also demonyms (see L 525 - National/Regional Category) by the adjective for the continent or region, followed by the word *people*. In case of conflict within a continent or region, qualify by the adjective for the country or countries in which the group resides or by some other appropriate qualifier. *Examples:*

Dravidians (Indic people)

Hmong (Asian people)

Kyrgyz (Central Asian people)

Sotho (African people)

Muscogee (North American people)

Lamba (Congolese (Democratic Republic) and Zambian people)

*[There is another ethnic group named Lamba in other countries of Africa.]*

Arabs

*[Not qualified because Arabs are closely identified with two continents, Africa and Asia.]*

#### **d. References.**

##### **(1) Used For references.**

**(a) Variant forms of name.** Make UFs for variants found in English-language reference sources. *Optionally*, if the authorized term is in English, make UFs for the name of the group in the official language(s) of the country in which the group resides. *Example:*

##### **Finnish Canadians**

UF Canadiens d'origine finlandaise

*[Canada has two official languages, French and English.]*

**(b) Inverted UF references.** If the authorized term is a phrase, and the final portion of the phrase consists of the demonym for a country, then make an inverted UF reference from the final portion of the authorized term. *Examples:*

##### **Filipino Americans**

UF Americans, Filipino

##### **Mexican Canadians**

UF Canadians, Mexican

UF Canadiens d'origine mexicaine

UF Mexicaine, Canadiens d'origine

**(c) Qualifiers.** Qualify UFs for ethnic groups that are native to a region and are not also demonyms according to the principle in sec. 2.c above.

**(2) Broader terms.** Do not make a BT unless the collective grouping has been established by exception (see the Background statement, above).