

L 515 - Language Category

BACKGROUND: *Terms in the Language category refer to the language associated with the group members (e.g., Kele speakers; Swahili speakers).*

Terms based on language groups (e.g., Slavic languages) are not established until there is a clear need for them. For example, the Bantu language is a large family of languages spoken by the Bantu peoples in the southern half of Africa. Since it is unlikely that creators/contributors would self-identify as Bantu speakers, or that the intended audience of a work would be the Bantu-speaking population as a whole, a collective language grouping term for Bantu speakers is not established. If such a work is cataloged, however, a term for Bantu speakers could be proposed for inclusion.

*In MARC authority records the Language category is represented by the three-letter code **lng**. This instruction sheet provides specific guidelines on assigning terms from the Language category to bibliographic records and to authority records for works, as well as guidelines on proposing 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. Language of resource as implied audience or creator/contributor demographic.

(1) General language resources. Do not assign a term from the Language category only to describe the language in which the resource being cataloged was written, produced, performed, etc. (See example below - Title: Gramática básica del estudiante de español).

(2) Audiences of resources that instruct speakers of one language in another language. For resources that instruct speakers of one language about another language, assign a term from the Language category for the language in which the resource is written. *Examples:*

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| <p><i>[Since the language of the resource is English, English speakers is the implied audience. The term Children would also be assigned.]</i></p> | <p><i>Title:</i> Fijian for kids. <i>Term:</i> English speakers</p> |
| <p><i>[Since the language of the textbook is English, English speakers is the implied audience.]</i></p> | <p><i>Title:</i> ¡Avance! : intermediate Spanish. <i>Term:</i> English speakers</p> |
| <p><i>[This Spanish-language resource about Spanish grammar was published in Barcelona. A term from the Language category is not assigned because Spanish is the language of the resource and the topic, and a specific audience other than Spanish speakers is not indicated. It is therefore treated as a general language resource (see sec. 1.b(1) above).]</i></p> | <p><i>Title:</i> Gramática básica del estudiante de español.</p> |
| <p><i>[This dictionary contains Dutch words with their French equivalents. The implicit audience is therefore Dutch speakers. French speakers may also find it useful, so the term French speakers may be assigned.]</i></p> | <p><i>Title:</i> Koenen woordenboek Nederlands-Frans. <i>Terms:</i> Dutch speakers French speakers</p> |
| <p><i>[This bilingual dictionary contains German words with their English equivalents, as well as English words with their German equivalents. The imprint and language of the title page make it clear that the primary audience is English speakers. German speakers may also find it useful, so the term German speakers may be assigned.]</i></p> | <p><i>Title:</i> Collins German-English, English-German dictionary. <i>Terms:</i> English speakers German speakers</p> |

Do not assign a demographic group term for the target language, which is the topic and is brought out with subject headings.

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 term. Use as the basis of the authorized term the form of the language name used as the entry element in English-language reference sources. Establish terms in the form [**name of language**] speakers (e.g., **Arabic speakers**; **Russian speakers**).

Establish users of particular sign languages in the form **[name of sign language] users** (e.g., **American Sign Language users**).

c. Conflict. In case of conflict, disambiguate authorized terms as follows.

(1) Multiple languages with the same name, spoken in different countries. Qualify the term by the adjective for the country or countries in which the language is spoken, followed by the word *language*. *Examples:*

Yaka speakers (Angolan and Congolese (Democratic Republic) language)

Yaka speakers (Congolese (Brazzaville) language)

For languages native to three or more countries, qualify by the adjective for the continent or region in which the language is spoken, followed by the word *language*. *Example:*

[name of language] (North African language)

[name of language] (Polynesian language)

(2) Multiple languages with the same name, spoken in the same country. Qualify the term by the adjective for the country followed by the word *language*, a space-colon-space, then the name of the highest-level jurisdiction that disambiguates it (e.g., a province). *Example:*

Awa speakers (Papua New Guinean language : Eastern Highlands Province)

d. References.

(1) Used For references.

(a) Variant names. Provide UFs for variant names found in English-language reference sources.

Optionally, also provide UFs for the name of the language in the official language(s) of the country in which the language is spoken, followed by the word *speakers*.

(b) Conflict. If an authorized term and a UF for another term are in conflict, prefer to qualify the UF in the same way that the authorized term is qualified, creating a parallel structure. *Example:*

Awa speakers (Papua New Guinean language : Eastern Highlands Province)

Imbongu speakers

UF Awa speakers (Papua New Guinean language : Southern Highlands Province)

If UFs are in conflict, prefer to qualify each UF by the authorized term to which it refers. Otherwise, qualify as described in sec. 2.b above. *Examples:*

Lingala speakers

UF Ngala speakers (Lingala speakers)

[Ngala is also the name of several other languages and dialects]

Zulu speakers

UF Isizulu speakers

UF Kingoni speakers (Zulu speakers)

UF Ngoni speakers (Zulu speakers)

UF Zunda speakers

[Ngoni also the name of another language, which also has the alternate name Kingoni]

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