Report on Library and Archives Canada (LAC), Published Heritage Branch

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**Canadian Subject Headings (CSH)**

[Canadian Subject Headings](https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/services/canadian-subject-headings/Pages/about-csh.aspx#b) (CSH) is a list of access points in the English language, using controlled vocabulary, to express the subject content of documents on Canada. The scope of CSH is mostly limited to the Canadian cultural, economic, historical, literary, political and social experience, with few subject headings in other fields of study. While the headings in CSH are only in the English language, they have French language equivalents in *Répertoire de vedettes-matière* (RVM), published by the Bibliothèque de l'Université Laval.

CSH is designed to be used in tandem with LCSH. CSH follows the same principles for the structuring of the headings and most of the same policies as LCSH. Headings that are divergent from what would be permitted in LCSH are often based on an LCSH policy adapted for use in CSH. For example, Italian Canadians is based on LCSH's Italian Americans Also, the term "Provincial" in CSH is substituted where the user may find "State" in LCSH. Differences in headings or policy in CSH are sometimes necessary to provide appropriate subject access to materials on Canada. However, it is the aim of LAC to minimize those instances. Decisions to diverge intentionally from the LCSH pattern have been taken only after a thorough investigation and weighing of the available options.

**CSH in WMS**

In December 2018, LAC implemented OCLC’s WorldShare Management Services (WMS) to replace its former integrated library management system AMICUS. As part of this transition, the CSH records which were previously stored in AMICUS were migrated to WMS and LAC staff now add new CSH and edit existing CSH in the WMS Record Manager interface. CSH headings in WMS Record Manager can be “controlled” in the same way as LCSH and NACO authorities. In order to view CSH, libraries need an OCLC full cataloguing subscription and access to Record Manager (access is not available via OCLC Connexion). LAC no longer maintains a separate web search interface for CSH as was available when CSH was hosted in AMICUS. However LAC makes copies of the complete CSH file in MARC21 freely available via SFTP to libraries and other organizations, to load into their own systems. For information about how to access CSH using WMS Record Manager, or to obtain an account to download CSH, please contact LAC at bac.servicesauxbibliotheques-libraryservices.lac@canada.ca

**CSH Statistics**

2019 was a transition year for LAC as we adopted our new library system. We only added five new CSH to WMS and replaced seventy-one CSH headings. We expect to make many more changes in 2020.

**CSH related to Indigenous Peoples**

The collective heading in CSH for Canada's aboriginal or native peoples is Native peoples—Canada. This heading is used for works discussing Indians or First Nations, Inuit and Métis. This use of the term "native" extends to specific topics on native peoples, e.g. Native art—Canada; Native peoples—Legal status, laws, etc.—Canada.

Because the language describing Indigenous materials in CSH is often not reflective of the terminology preferred by First Nation, Inuit and Métis Nation communities in Canada, in 2019, LAC started a review of CSH headings. LAC is developing replacements using the term "Indigenous" for occurrences of the word "Indian" or "aboriginal" in preferred headings.

The [Canadian Federation of Library Associations](http://cfla-fcab.ca/en/home-page/) (CFLA) and the [Report on Truth and Reconciliation Commission](http://cfla-fcab.ca/en/indigenous/trc_report/) recommended that libraries, archives and cultural memory institutions better reflect Indigenous cultures, including in their approaches to descriptive and subject cataloguing tools. This should be done by engaging with communities, particularly First Nation, Inuit and Métis Nation, in integrating Indigenous knowledge into cataloguing practices.

[LAC’s Indigenous Heritage Action Plan](http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/aboriginal-heritage/initiatives/Pages/actionplan.aspx) developed in 2019 states that we will adapt the way we describe LAC’s collection related to First Nations, Inuit and the Métis Nation to enhance access and to ensure a culturally appropriate and respectful approach. A key goal of [LAC’s new three-year plan](https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/about-us/publications/three-year-plan-2019-2022/Pages/default.aspx) is to seek out and support collective solutions for a more cohesive documentary heritage community at home and abroad. A key strategy in support of this goal is to closely collaborate with Indigenous communities in order to better understand and preserve Indigenous heritage, as well as, implement the actions identified in the Indigenous Heritage Action Plan developed in collaboration with LAC’s Indigenous Advisory Circle.

**LAC and NACO**

LAC is now a NACO contributor in addition to the SACO contributions we have been making for the last several years.

Unique English-language name authorities previously found in the bilingual Canadiana file are gradually being added by LAC to the NACO file, but the process will take time. Once an authority record is added to the NACO file, a 667 note in the NACO record identifies it as a part of LAC’s “Canadiana Conversion Project” and indicates that a minimal amount of revision work has been done to the record.

The Canadiana Name Authorities in French were migrated into WMS in 2018. These headings are available in Record Manager (not Connexion) for controlling and searching and as with CSH can be downloaded from an LAC SFTP server.