

# Searching by Subject Heading in the Library Catalog

**Subject Headings** are specific words or phrases used to find and organize books and articles by topic. They are different from keywords in that they are specific terms assigned to a subject by an organization. Most subject headings used in the library catalog come from the Library of Congress.

Subject headings are important because you can use them **to find similar information more efficiently**. Since they are the way a database or catalog defines a topic, searching by subject can be a more precise way to find the information you are looking for. Also in many search tools subject headings are displayed as links so you can click on them and get more books or articles on that specific topic.

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Subject headings can often be found on the page of a book that provides the publisher's information, or at or near the bottom of the page of an online record of a book or article. The subject heading can be used to search for related books or articles when copied exactly as printed.

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# Searching by Subject Heading in the Library Catalog Online

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In the library catalog and many databases, an item's subject(s) will be a link, so that you can click on the subject heading to find similar items. You also might want to note the exact words to search them as a keyword later.

Details	
<b>Title</b>	<a href="#">Cancer</a> (Online)
<b>Other title</b>	Issued with: <a href="#">Cancer cytopathology</a> 1997-
<b>Publisher</b>	New York, NY : John Wiley & Sons : American <a href="#">Cancer</a> Society Print began with vol. 1 in May 1948.
<b>Creation Date</b>	1948
<b>Frequency</b>	Semimonthly
<b>Notes</b>	Published: [Hoboken, N.J. : John Wiley & Sons, Inc.] : American <a href="#">Cancer</a> Society, <2005-> Use copy-- Restrictions unspecified-- MiAaHDL-- star Chemical abstracts 0009-2258 Master and use copy. Digital master created according to Benchmark for Faithful Digital Reproductions of Monographs and Serials, Version 1. Digital Library Federation, December 2002-- <a href="http://purl.oclc.org/DLF/benchrepro0212">http://purl.oclc.org/DLF/benchrepro0212</a> -- MiAaHDL
<b>Subject</b>	<a href="#">Cancer</a> > <a href="#">Medical Oncology</a> > <a href="#">Neoplasms, Experimental</a> > <a href="#">Health and social care</a> > <a href="#">Electronic journals</a> > <a href="#">Periodicals</a> >

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If we click on the subject heading cancer, it will take us to another results page that has 2.4 million hits of other sources that have been identified with the subject heading Cancer.