

The German rules differ widely in this matter, so it is difficult to make a general statement describing the German practice. Some of them show a strong preference for geographical headings even with the risk of being inexact in their statements, others will use the adjective form almost always, some will invert the heading, others will retain the national adjective in first place.

The Zürich rules introduced five various categories of subject headings: Sachbegriffe, Personenbegriffe, Ortsbegriffe, Formbegriffe and Zeitenbegriffe. This classification has been taken up by all the other German rules, and practically they are found in the American Dictionary catalog also.

It is impossible to go further into details, but it will be of use to state the American practice in case of coincidence of two or more of these categories in one book. The personal subject headings as a rule will be in a class by themselves, taking precedence of all the categories. The same will apply to the geographical headings with the limitations indicated before. In all other cases the topical headings will have the prime importance and come first, eventually followed by a local subheading if treated from a local viewpoint or with a geographical reference, and if limited to a certain period, the inclusive years will follow. The formal entry is most frequently used as subheading, either alone, or in combination with other subheadings. When a general and a specific subject is correlated in a book, the specific subject will come in first position followed by the general.

It is impossible in the few minutes allowed to me, to make a detailed comparison of the vast material at hand, I have been able to suggest only some few of the salient points. One of the most striking differences I have not touched at all, because it principally regards the author, or nominal catalog: the corporative authorship; viz. the fact that institutions, bureaus, societies, or any corporative body is considered as author of their own publications and consequently these publications are entered in the author-catalog under the name of the corporative body. This incidentally and automatically also solves the question, how to enter in the subject catalog books that have such bodies as their subject.

Undoubtedly the alphabetical subject catalog has a great future also in European libraries. Librarians who consider to adopt this catalog can with great advantage study the American practice. It is only to be regretted that the rules are not codified as the case is for the author- and title catalog.