Newspaper Classification:

An Expansion of the Library of Congress "A" Classification to Accommodate International Newspapers

Naomi Kietzke Young

Principal Serials Cataloger

George A. Smathers Libraries

University of Florida

naomi@uflib.ufl.edu

Classifying Newspapers : an Expansion of the Library of Congress AN Schedule

Why devise a classification system for newspapers at all?

It may at first seem foolish to devise a system for the classification of newspapers. Catalogers who look to the Library of Congress (LC) as a guide to practice will find only limited warrant for such a system. The AN schedule has been reserved in the Library of Congress Classification (LCC), but never developed or used. A description of LC practice may be found in the classification schedules under AN:

> Domestic newspapers at the Library of Congress are arranged in checklists and on shelves as follows: [1] By state; [2] By city, town, etc.; [3] By important word in title. Eighteenth century newspapers are arranged by first word of title (excluding the initial article of the title); [4] By date Foreign newspapers at the Library of Congress are arranged in checklists and on the shelves as follows: [1] By country; [2] By city, town, etc.; [3] By first word in title (excluding the initial article of the title); [4] By date

Additionally, PN4899-5650 has been reserved for the *history and description* of individual newspapers.

So if LC doesn't bother, why should we? There are arguments against going to the trouble of classifying newspapers. It is true that Freeland and Bailey's study (2008) indicated that use of current print newspapers has dwindled significantly. And for current, print newspapers alone, an alphabetic arrangement might well suffice for all but the largest collections. Digital archives do not require a call number for sorting and retrieval. However, digitization projects have not yet approached anything like creating access for the entire corpus of newspaper production. Partially as a result of the Tasini decision (*N.Y. Times Co. v. Tasini*, 533 U.S. 483, 505 (2001)), many digitized collections contain only some articles, omitting advertisements, freelancer-created articles and syndicated content. Furthermore, digitization projects are not yet practical in much of the developing world (Loubser, 2006), and there are doubts about the viability of digital formats for long-term preservation. As Brown and Fenton (2006, p.65) contend:

"Preservation microfilming reduces the potential of significant risk of loss inherent in both the nature of the acidic hardcopy papers and in the digital repositories which need to be systematically backed up, refreshed and/or migrated to ensure their ongoing accessibility. Microfilm then becomes an integral step in the expanding future of newspaper digitisation programs." Until and unless these shortcomings can be overcome, microfilm collections are likely to remain important for genealogists, social historians, and others seeking primary source material.

Why *this* classification system: The existing situation

The need for a new classification system for microfilm newspapers arose at the University of Florida when library renovations made it desirable to collocate several separate microform collections into a single location. Newspapers in these collections were classified in Library of Congress

Classification (LCC), primarily the F schedule; Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) and a DDC-like, locally-created Florida History classification system. Some papers were shelved by title, and some reels that had scattered issues of various titles could only be used with the assistance of a curator. The collection managers of the Florida newspapers expressed a strong desire, based on observed patterns of use, for all the newspaper microfilm to be shelved in its own sequence. Library administration was strongly discouraging separate sequences of shelving within the collection, opting for a single A-Z LCC sequence. The only way we could avoid creating a separate sequence, or intershelving the newspaper film with other film in the same subject area was to create a sequence specifically for newspapers that would integrate seamlessly with the rest of the LCC materials in the collection. We decided that the best way to meet local needs was to develop the AN schedule, using a geographic hierarchical structure similar to that used in the MARC 752 field. We had initially intended this classification system primarily for the Florida newspapers, although a few regional newspapers of national interest were included. (One title, the Wall Street Journal, was not integrated into this system, as it was considered more appropriate to shelve it with other business and finance periodicals than with general newspapers.) However, the Selectors in our area studies departments wanted us to expand the system so that it covered their materials as well.

In order to expand the scheme to accommodate international papers, we adapted Table H8 from the LCC H schedule. This table arranged all regions and nations in a reasonably logical arrangement, although some areas (such as the Caribbean) were more compressed than what would be ideal, requiring decimal numbers, while in other places there were large gaps. Still, adapting an existing list was more expedient than creating a new one, and allows catalogers accustomed to LCC's divisions of the world to find the desired country quickly. There are similar tables that could be used, but this one had a suitable degree of specificity for our needs.

For US and Canadian titles, each number has three Cutters: the first for the state or province, the second for the city or county, and the third for the title. City or county codes may be taken from the LCC G schedule, or derived according to the standard Cutter table. If the geographic area a paper serves is not immediately evident, check the 752 field of the catalog record to identify it. See the examples below.

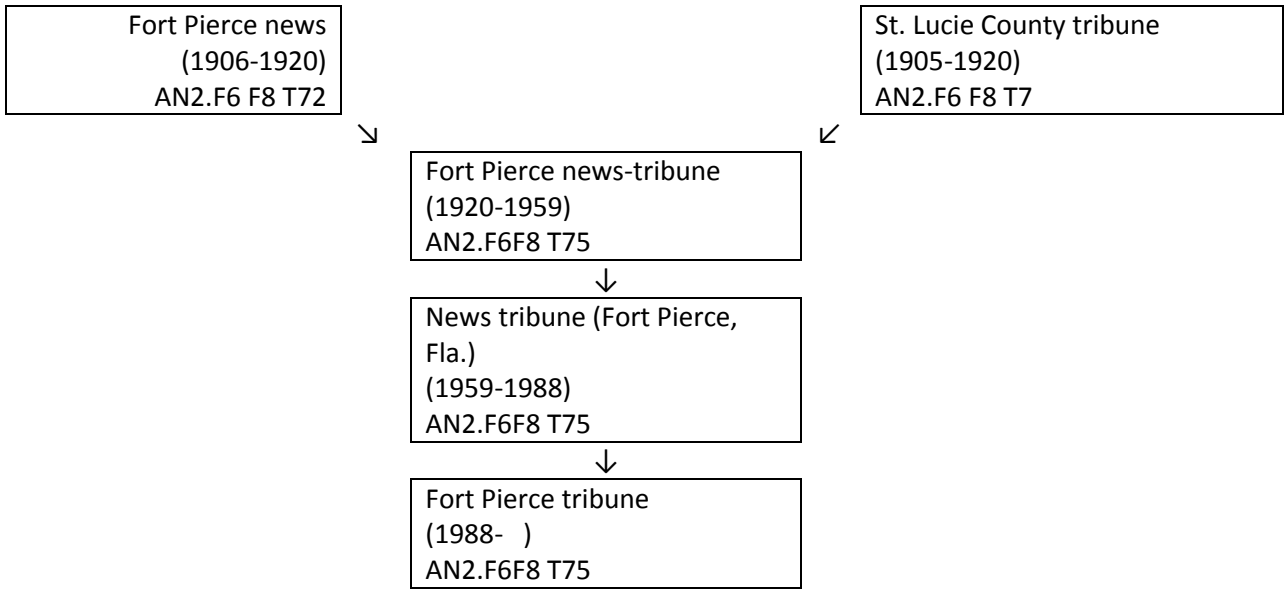
Gainesville Sun, Gainesville, Florida

AN2 ← designates the item as a US newspaper
.F6 ← geographic Cutter for the state of Florida
G2 ← geographic Cutter for the city (can be derived from LCC G schedule)
G35 ← title Cutter

Edmonton Sun, Edmonton, Alberta
AN10 ← designates the item as a Canadian newspaper
.A3← geographic Cutter for province of Alberta
E36← derived Cutter for Edmonton
E37 ← title Cutter

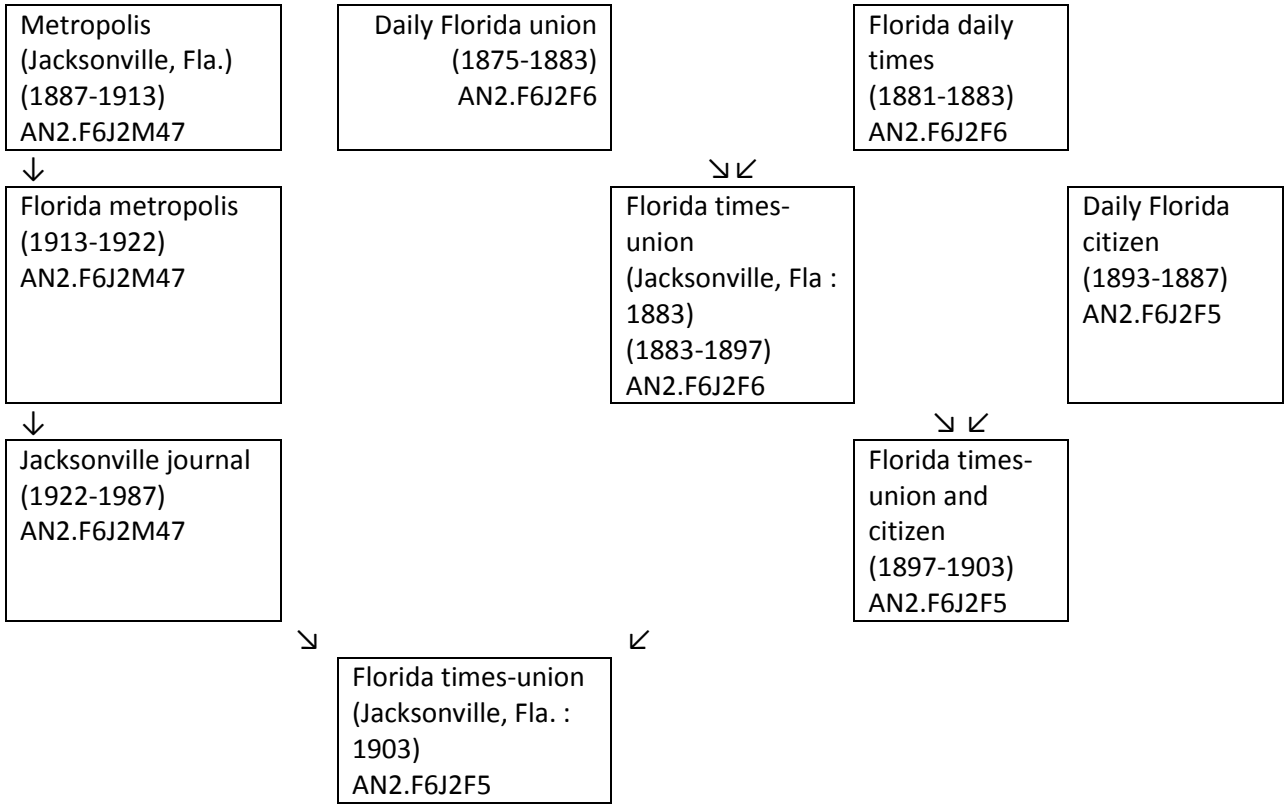
The final Cutter is based on the first title cataloged (not necessarily the earliest title in the title history!), and retained for subsequent major changes in title as long as no mergers or splits were involved, in conformance with our general practice regarding serials.

Chart One: Simple Merger with Major Changes



A unique call number is assigned to the merged title, but retained for the subsequent titles, because there are no further mergers and splits

Chart Two: Multiple Mergers with Major Changes



When the “family tree” of a newspaper is complex, call numbers may need to be changed. Numbering of the newspaper (if any exists apart from chronology) can be useful in determining possible titles to group together.

The problem of reels with scattered issues of various titles was particularly difficult to solve. We classified these according to the state, with a final cutter of Z99, and added an additional holding record to the records for the relevant titles where possible.

AN2 ← US newspaper
.F6 ← Florida
Z99 ← Miscellaneous titles

Refinements and options

Title selection

Libraries may choose to Cutter for title according to the first major word in the title *after* the name of the city, when the name of the city is the first major word. This would avoid creating long Cutters when there are several newspapers cataloged for a given area beginning with the name of the city or locale.

National newspapers

For national newspapers, rather than interfiling them with local newspapers published in the same city, classify with the AN number for the country of publication, then the Cutter .A1, then the title cutter This puts all national newspapers at the head of the sequence for their country of publication, but requires cataloger (or bibliographer) judgment about which titles should be considered "national."

Christian Science Monitor (published in Boston, distributed nationwide)
AN2 ← US newspaper
.M4 ←Massachusetts
B67 ← Boston
C47 ← Title
Alternatively
AN2 ← US newspaper
.A1← Cutter to force filing first
C47 ← Title

National Post (published in Toronto, distributed nationwide)
AN10 ← Canadian newspaper
.O6 ← Ontario
T67 ←Toronto
N38 ← Title
Alternatively
AN10 ← Canadian newspaper
.A1← Cutter to force filing first
N38 ← Title

Expanding the scheme

Collections that have a focus on a specific regions or countries may wish to create additional tables for the states, provinces, or subdivisions of that country, or they may wish to exploit the gaps in the existing schedule to integrate greater specificity at the top-level classification number.

Works Cited

Brown, Heather, and Andy Fenton. (2006) "Time's pivotal point-- preserving the past for the future--now," p.63-72 in Walravens, Hartmut, ed. *International Newspaper Librarianship for the 21st Century.* (IFLA Publications 118) München : K.G. Saur

Freeland, Marija, and Marcia Bailey. (2008) "Print Newspapers: Are They Still Being Used in Academic and Research Libraries?" *Serials Librarian 55* (1/2) 210-226.

Library of Congress Classification Schedules, (A and H)

Loubser, Johan. (2006) "Preserving newspapers in Namibia" in Walravens, Hartmut, ed. *International Newspaper Librarianship for the 21st Century.* (IFLA Publications 118) München : K.G. Saur

Table 1: Regions and Countries

Append the number below to AN to create the base classification number.

2	United States*
10	Canada *
10.25	Saint Pierre and Miquelon Islands
11	Latin America -- General
15	Mexico
21	Central America -- General
26	Belize. British Honduras
31	Costa Rica
41	Guatemala
51	Honduras
61	Nicaragua
71	Panama
76	Panama Canal Zone
81	El Salvador
96	Bahamas
101	Cuba
111	Haiti
116	Dominican Republic. Santo Domingo
121	Jamaica
131	Puerto Rico
141	Virgin Islands of the United States
142	British West Indies. English-Speaking Caribbean
142.5	Barbados
144	Leeward Islands -- General
144.2	Anguilla
144.4	Antigua and Barbuda
144.6	Monserrat
144.8	Saint Kitts-Nevis
145	Windward Islands – General
145.3	Dominica

145.5	Grenada
145.7	Saint Lucia
145.9	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
146	Trinidad and Tobago
147	Netherlands Antilles. Dutch West Indies--General
147.5	Aruba
147.6	Bonaire
147.7	Curaçao
147.8	Saba
147.85	Saint Eustatius
147.9	Saint Martin
148	French West Indies -- General
149	Guadeloupe
150	Martinique
151	South America-- General
161	Argentina
171	Bolivia
181	Brazil
191	Chile
201	Colombia
211	Ecuador
230	Guianas -- General
230.3	Guyana. British Guiana
230.5	Suriname. Dutch Guiana
230.7	French Guiana
231	Paraguay
241	Peru
251	Uruguay
261	Venezuela
280	Europe and European Union - General
280.5	European Economic Community countries
280.7	Eastern Europe. Central Europe

280.8 Commonwealth countries

281 Great Britain -- General

285 England

290 Scotland

295 Wales

300.3 Ireland. Irish Republic

320 Austria

320.3 Czechoslovakia. Czech Republic

320.4 Slovakia

320.5 Hungary

320.9 Liechtenstein

340 France

340.5 Monaco

360 Germany Including West Germany

360.5 East Germany

390 Italy

390.3 San Marino

390.5 Malta

400 Benelux countries. Low countries -General

401 Belgium

411 Netherlands

415 Luxembourg

430 Russia. Soviet Union. Former Soviet republics

430.2 Russia (Federation)

430.7 Belarus

430.8 Moldova

430.9 Ukraine

435 Finland

439.6 Baltic States -- General

439.7 Estonia

439.8 Latvia

439.9 Lithuania

440	Scandinavia -General
441	Denmark
451	Iceland
461	Norway
471	Sweden
490	Spain
490.3	Andorra
490.5	Gibraltar
491-500	Portugal
501-510	Switzerland
520	Balkan States -- General
520.5	Albania
521	Bulgaria
531	Yugoslavia. Serbia and Montenegro

Class here works on Yugoslavia as a whole during the period 1918-1992 as well as on the country of Serbia and Montenegro during the period 2003-2006. Class works about an individual republic or locality with the republic, regardless of time period covered.

536	Serbia
536.5	Montenegro
537	Slovenia
538	Croatia
539	Bosnia and Hercegovina
540	Macedonia (Republic)
550	Romania
550.5	Greece
550.7	Mediterranean Region. Southern Europe
550.8	Black Sea Region
551	Asia -- General
556	Middle East. Near East -- General
556.15	Caucasus -- General
556.2	Armenia
556.3	Azerbaijan

556.4 Georgia (Republic)

556.5 Turkey

557 Cyprus

558 Syria

559 Lebanon

560 Israel. Palestine

560.5 West Bank

560.7 Gaza Strip

561 Jordan

562 Arabian Peninsula. Arabia. Persian Gulf States --General

563 Saudi Arabia

564 Yemen Including the Yemen Arab Republic prior to 1990

564.5 Yemen (People's Democratic Republic). Southern Yemen. Aden (Colony and Protectorate)

565 Oman. Muscat and Oman

566 United Arab Emirates. Trucial States

567 Qatar

568 Bahrain

569 Kuwait

570 Iraq

570.2 Iran

570.22 Central Asia --General

570.23 Kazakhstan

570.24 Kyrgyzstan

570.25 Tajikistan

570.26 Turkmenistan

570.27 Uzbekistan

570.3 South Asia -- General

570.6 Afghanistan

570.7 Burma. Myanmar

570.8 Sri Lanka. Ceylon

570.9 Nepal

590	India
590.3	Bhutan
590.5	Pakistan
590.6	Bangladesh
590.8	Southeast Asia. Indochina Including French Indochina -- General
600.3	Kampuchea. Cambodia
600.4	Laos
600.5	Vietnam
600.55	Thailand
600.6	Malaysia. Malaya
600.67	Singapore
600.68	Brunei
610	Indonesia
610.3	Timor-Leste. East Timor
615	Philippines
621	East Asia. Far East -- General
625	Japan
630.5	Korea Including South Korea
630.6	North Korea (Democratic People's Republic)
630.8	Outer Mongolia. Mongolian People's Republic
635	China
641	Macau
646	Taiwan. Formosa
655	Hong Kong
666	Arab countries (Collective)
668	Islamic countries (Collective)
680	Africa Including Sub-Saharan Africa -- General
681	North Africa --General
682	Morocco
683	Algeria
684	Tunisia
685	Libya

686 Egypt. United Arab Republic

687 Sudan

688 Northeast Africa -- General

688.9 Eritrea

689 Ethiopia

690 Somalia Including British and Italian Somaliland

691 Djibouti. French Territory of the Afars and Isas

692 Southeast Africa Including East Africa -- General

693 Kenya

694 Uganda

695 Rwanda

696 Burundi

697 Tanzania. Tanganyika. Zanzibar

698 Mozambique

699 Madagascar. Malagasy Republic

700 Southern Africa -- General

701 South Africa

702 Rhodesia Including Zimbabwe (Southern Rhodesia)

703 Zambia. Northern Rhodesia

704 Lesotho. Basutoland

705 Swaziland

706 Botswana. Bechuanaland

707 Malawi. Nyasaland

708 Namibia. Southwest Africa

709 Central Africa. Equatorial Africa -- General

710 Angola

711 Zaire. Congo (Democratic Republic)

712 Equatorial Guinea

713 Sao Tome and Principe

714 French-speaking Equatorial Africa. French Congo

715 Gabon

716 Congo (Brazzaville). Middle Congo

717	Central African Republic. Ubangi-Shari
718	Chad
719	Cameroon
720	West Africa. West Coast -- General
720.5	Sahel
721	French-speaking West Africa
722	Benin. Dahomey
723	Togo
724	Niger
725	Côte d'Ivoire. Ivory Coast
726	Guinea
727	Mali
728	Burkina Faso. Upper Volta
729	Senegal
730	Mauritania
731	Nigeria
732	Ghana
733	Sierra Leone
734	Gambia
735	Liberia
736	Guinea-Bissau. Portuguese Guinea
737	Western Sahara. Spanish Sahara
737.85	Atlantic Area. Atlantic Ocean islands General
738	Azores
738.3	Bermuda
738.5	Madeira Islands
738.7	Canary Islands
738.9	Cape Verde Islands
739	Saint Helena
739.3	Tristan da Cunha
739.5	Falkland Islands
739.6	Indian Ocean islands -- General

739.7	Maldive Islands
739.9	Seychelles
740	Comoros
740.3	Mauritius
740.5	Réunion
740.7	Kerguelen Islands
740.8	Mayotte
750	Australia
830.5	New Zealand
830.7	Pacific Area. Pacific Ocean islands General
830.9	Melanesia
831	Trust Territory of the Pacific. Micronesia
831.2	Marshall Islands
831.3	Mariana Islands Including Northern Mariana Islands
831.4	Palau
831.5	Guam
832	Papua New Guinea
832.3	Kiribati. Gilbert Islands
832.33	Nauru
832.35	Tuvalu. Ellice Islands
833	Solomon Islands
834	New Caledonia
835	Vanuatu. New Hebrides
836	Fiji Islands
837	Tonga
837.5	Cook Islands
838	Samoan Islands -- General
838	American Samoa
839	Samoa. Western Samoa
839.5	French Polynesia
840	Arctic regions -- General
842.5	Greenland

842.7 Antarctic regions

*For the first cutter for these countries, see Table 2.

Table 2: Cutters for States and Provinces (from the Classification and Shelving Manual: Shelflisting)

Alabama	.A2
Alaska	.A4
Arizona	.A6
Arkansas	.A8
California	.C2
Colorado	.C6
Connecticut	.C8
Delaware	.D3
Florida	.F6
Georgia	.G4
Hawaii	.H3
Idaho	.I2
Illinois	.I3
Indiana	.I6
Iowa	.I8
Kansas	.K2
Kentucky	.K4
Louisiana	.L8
Maine	.M2
Maryland	.M3
Massachusetts	.M4
Michigan	.M5
Minnesota	.M6
Mississippi	.M7
Missouri	.M8
Montana	.M9
Nebraska	.N2
Nevada	.N3
New Hampshire	.N4

New Jersey	.N5
New Mexico	.N6
New York	.N7
North Carolina	.N8
North Dakota	.N9
Ohio	.O3
Oklahoma	.O5
Oregon	.O7
Pennsylvania	.P4
Rhode Island	.R4
South Carolina	.S6
South Dakota	.S8
Tennessee	.T2
Texas	.T4
Utah	.U8
Vermont	.V5
Virginia	.V8
Washington (D.C.)	.W18
Washington (State)	.W2
West Virginia	.W4
Wisconsin	.W6
Wyoming	.W8

Canada (Provinces)

Alberta	.A3
British Columbia	.B8
Manitoba	.M3
New Brunswick	.N5
Newfoundland	N6
Northwest Territories	.N7
Nova Scotia	.N8
Nunavut	.N9

Ontario	.O6
Prince Edward Island	.P8
Quebec (Province)	.Q3
Saskatchewan	.S2
Yukon Territory	.Y8