

Creating Subjects FASTer

Using Faceted Application of Subject Terminology in ArchivesSpace

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4th Annual Member Forum
August 14, 2018
Washington, DC

WHAT IS FAST?

- Faceted Application of Subject Terminology
- Created by OCLC in 1998 to be:
 - Easier for non-catalogers to apply
 - Designed for the web
- Uses LCSH *vocabulary* with a simplified *syntax*¹

BENEFITS OF FAST

- Designed for the web and linked data
 - LCSH was designed for left-aligned catalog cards
 - Many OPACs don't offer subject browsing anymore²
- Long strings are broken up
 - *United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Prisoners and prisons -- Juvenile literature*
- Each heading only contains one facet type
 - Topical
 - Geographic
 - Period
 - Event
 - Person
 - Corporation
 - Form
 - Uniform Title

LCSH vs. FAST

<http://experimental.worldcat.org/fast/fastconverter/>

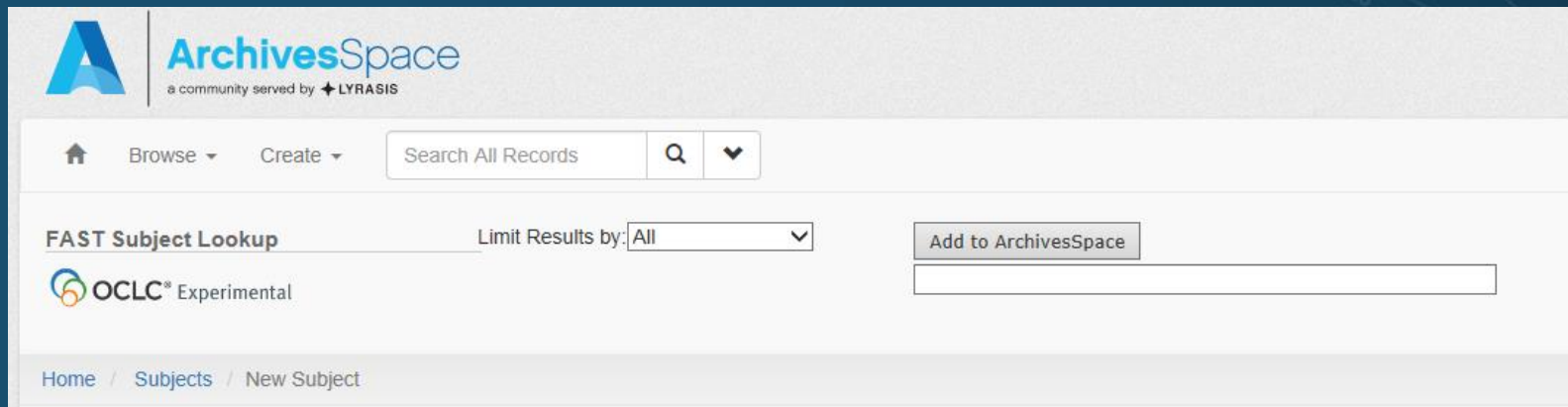
- LCSH
 - United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Prisoners and prisons -- Juvenile literature
- FAST
 - American Civil War (1861-1865)
 - 1861-1865
 - Prisoners of war
 - United States
 - History
 - Juvenile works

PROBLEMS WITH FAST

- Loss of context³
 - Headings for *Civil War Leadership and Mexican War Experience*:
 - LCSH
 - Mexican War, 1846-1848 -- Influence
 - United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Campaigns
 - FAST
 - Mexican War (1846-1848)
 - American Civil War (1861-1865)
 - Influence (Literary, artistic, etc.)
 - Military campaigns
- Loss of ability to browse similar headings
 - LCSH: "Japan -- History -- Allied occupation, 1945-1952"
 - FAST: "Allied Occupation of Japan (1945-1952)"

USING FAST IN ARCHIVESSPACE

- FAST tools are available at <http://fast.oclc.org/>
- Locally developed plugin using the assignFAST service
 - Autocomplete functionality
 - Subject lookup and creation on-the-fly





Sandbox



Browse ▾

Create ▾

Search All Records



FAST Subject Lookup

Limit Results by: **Geographic** ▾

Add to ArchivesSpace



rockbridge x

Virginia--Rockbridge County

Virginia--Rockbridge Co. *USE* **Virginia--Rockbridge County**

Virginia--Little North Mountain (Augusta County and Rockbridge County)

Virginia--Brown Hill (Augusta County and Rockbridge County) *USE* **Virginia--Little North Mountain (Augusta County and Rockbridge County)**

Virginia--North Mountain (Augusta County and Rockbridge County) *USE* **Virginia--Little North Mountain (Augusta County and Rockbridge County)**

[Home](#) / [Subjects](#) / [New Subject](#)

Basic Information >

Terms and Subdivisions **1** >

External Documents >

Save Subject

+1

Save

New Subject Subject

Basic Information

Authority ID

(OCoLC)fst00535156

Source *

FAST (Faceted Application of Subject Terminology)

Scope Note



Sandbox



Browse ▾

Create ▾

Search All Records



FAST Subject Lookup

Limit Results by: All



Add to ArchivesSpace



=651 7\$aVirginia\$zRockbridge County\$2fast\$0(OCOLC)fst012

Home / Subjects / New Subject

Basic Information >

Terms and Subdivisions 1 >

External Documents >

Save Subject

+1

Save

New Subject Subject

Basic Information

Authority ID

Source *

FAST (Faceted Application of Subject Terminology)

Save

New Subject Subject

Basic Information

Authority ID

(OCoLC)fst01216597

Source *

FAST (Faceted Application of Subject Terminology)



Scope Note

* Terms and Subdivisions

Add Term/Subdivision



Term *

Virginia

Type *

Geographic



Term *

Rockbridge County

Type *

Geographic



BENEFITS EXPERIENCED

- Good for small archives without a dedicated cataloger
- Ease of use allows for richer descriptions
 - Great for military units!
- Results are friendlier for patrons
 - *LCSH*: "Japan -- History -- Allied occupation, 1945-1952"
 - *FAST*: "Allied Occupation of Japan (1945-1952)"



Browse ▾

Create ▾

Search All Records



FAST Subject Lookup

Limit Results by:



Add to ArchivesSpace

86 division ×

United States. Army. Infantry Division, 86th

United States. Army. Mountain Division, 10th. Infantry Regiment, 86th *USE* **United States. Army. Infantry Regiment, 86th**

United States. Army. Infantry Division, 86th. Infantry Regiment, 341st *USE* **United States. Army. Infantry Regiment, 341st**

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Basic Information >

Terms and Subdivisions 1 >

External Documents >

Save Subject

+1

Save

New Subject Subject

Basic Information

Authority ID

Source *

Scope Note

SOURCES CITED

1. Edward T. O'Neill and Lois Mai Chan, "FAST (Faceted Application of Subject Terminology): a simplified vocabulary based on the *Library of Congress Subject Headings*," *IFLA Journal* 29, no. 4 (2003):336-342.
2. Janet Ashton and Caroline Kent, "New approaches to subject indexing at the British Library," *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly* 55, no. 7-8 (2017):549-559.
3. Qiang Jin, "Is FAST the right direction for a new system of subject cataloging and metadata?" *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly* 45, no. 3 (2008):91-110.