

BACKGROUND: Associative references link two terms that are neither broader nor narrower than each other. Even though terms linked in this way are not hierarchically related, they are mentally associated to such an extent that the link is made explicit in order to reveal alternative terms that might be of interest. In order to avoid making subjective judgments, one of the terms should be strongly implied whenever the other is considered.

In LCDGT associative references are indicated by the notation related term (RT). RTs are reciprocal and are explicitly coded in each of the records. Example:

African Americans

RT Blacks
[explicitly coded]

Blacks

RT African Americans
[explicitly coded]

1. General rule. Related term references may be made if the terms have meanings that overlap to some extent, or if the terms are used somewhat interchangeably.

2. Limitations on making RTs. Do not make RT references if either of the following prohibitions applies.

- The terms begin with the same word or word stem.
- The terms have a common broader term at any level of hierarchy.

3. Scope notes. If two terms are so closely related that they may be confused, but the above rules do not permit RT references between them, provide scope notes contrasting the terms (see L 476).