

Thema version 1.4

Basic User Instructions

April 2020

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There is an accompanying document, *Thema* version 1.4 Worked Examples, updated independently of these User Instructions, which illustrates how selected titles could be classified.

1. Introduction

Thema is intended as a multilingual subject classification scheme for book content, for use with digital and physical products, for all sectors of the global book, audiobook and e-book trade, and for both online and physical ‘bricks and mortar’ retail sectors. It consists of several thousand hierarchically-arranged subject categories and qualifiers, each with a descriptive heading (in many languages) and a language-independent code. The scheme is free to use and is maintained and managed by EDITEUR in association with the *Thema* International Steering Committee.

The first full release of the scheme, *Thema* version 1.0, was launched in October 2013; *Thema* version 1.1, incorporating additions and modifications to headings only, was released a year later in November 2014. *Thema* 1.2 was released in June 2016. *Thema* 1.3 was released in April 2018. *Thema* 1.4 was released in April 2020. In some documentation, interim releases (of national extensions only) are labelled with a minor revision number like 1.3.2. The various additions and refinements introduced in each revision were based on proposals from national *Thema* user groups, arising from real-world use of the scheme, translation work and comparisons with older national schemes. Each proposal was considered and ratified by the *Thema* international steering committee prior to updating the scheme. The nature and scope of the changes mean that all code values in v1.0, v1.1, v1.2 and v1.3 are still valid in v1.4.

An executive briefing, detailed Excel files of the complete scheme in various languages, as well as versions in xml, html and json, mappings from other schemes to *Thema* and further supporting documentation can be found at <http://www.editeur.org/151/Thema/>.

An interactive multilingual search tool can be found at

<https://ns.editeur.org/thema/>

The browser is a useful tool for any *Thema* user as it displays the codes, the headings and the notes and enables browsing of the full hierarchy in an easy-to-understand fashion. It also has a search option that helps find the right code for a particular subject, and the notes and cross-references are easy to view. You can also examine how headings have been translated or what an original English language heading is.

These Basic User Instructions are not intended to provide comprehensive guidelines, but simply to outline the fundamental principles of *Thema* subject classification. Detailed usage notes are included in the scheme itself for a number of values.

2. Composition of the *Thema* scheme

The *Thema* subject classification scheme comprises the following elements:

- Subject Categories, arranged over 20 sections as listed in Part 4b below, and
- Qualifiers, in six lists covering various facets, as listed in Part 4c below.

Of these elements, only a Subject Category is mandatory for the classification of a book, e-book, audiobook or book related product; optional Qualifiers may be used in conjunction with Subject Categories to supplement and qualify or refine the meaning of the applied Subject Categories as required. A book can be classified using a single Subject Category, or multiple Subject Categories, and may have none, one or many Qualifiers added. However, a Qualifier can never be used on its own.

Each Subject Category or Qualifier consists of a code and a heading (which is always available in English, and may additionally be available in several other languages as translations are completed and approved); many entries also have associated usage notes, and 'see also' references to other *Thema* categories, to encourage consistent application of the categories.

Codes and headings are arranged in a hierarchical pattern to simplify classification and manual browsing and searching for topics.

Subject Category codes are of variable length (depth in the hierarchy), and always begin with a letter, e.g.

A	The Arts
FF	Crime and mystery fiction
NH	History
UGB	Web graphics and design
YBC	Children's picture books
QRRF	Zoroastrianism
LWKF	Shariah law: family relations
DNBB1	Autobiography: business and industry
MFKC3	Embryology

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Qualifier codes are of variable length and always begin with an integer number, *e.g.*

1HFGU	Uganda
2ACSC	Icelandic
3MD	16th century, c 1500 to c 1599
4GH	For International GCSE (IGCSE)
5AG	Interest age: from c 6 years
6BA	Baroque

In product metadata records and message formats such as ONIX, only the code is required to be communicated, which can then be translated by recipients as appropriate. This is important: typically, a publisher or bibliographic classifier is working with a particular translation of the *Thema* scheme specific to a language or country, but since the codes are universal, the heading can be presented in any other translation, for example the consumer's or librarian's preferred language.

The set of Subject Categories is universally applicable and common to all language translations of the *Thema* scheme. The Qualifiers contain 'shared values' which are similarly common to all translations and may also contain 'National Extensions' which typically relate to very specific topics identified as important in certain countries but are presumed not to be of universal interest or applicability. The National Extension concept is designed to enable a global scheme to be relevant at a local or national level. The rules for applying National Extension Qualifiers are exactly the same as for shared value Qualifiers.

National Extension Qualifier codes are of variable length, but always have a stem which is a shared value. The stem is followed by the ISO Country Code (or an equivalent), hyphen-delimited, and then possibly by further letters: *e.g.*

1DNS-SE-BH	Västergötland
3MPBGJ-ES-B	1936 – 1939 (Spanish Civil War period)
4Z-US-	For US educational curricula (note the trailing hyphen)
4Z-GB-SD	For Scottish Curriculum National 5
5HC-US-A	US Independence Day

However, not every user of *Thema* needs to recognise, understand or use every National Extension: they may decide that some or all National Extensions are too detailed and may choose to ignore them. The procedures for handling the receipt of 'unknown' National Extensions are explained below.

N.B. the use of an ISO Country Code in the structure of the national qualifiers does not mean that the code can only be used by or in that country or 'belongs' in some way to that country alone. A national extension can be used by anyone for whom it is relevant. So, as an example, the French group proposed a code for the Mont Blanc Massif (1DZTA-FR-B) but this does not mean that this is only the part of the Mont Blanc Massif that's in France. 1DZTA-FR-B indicates the whole massif, including the section in Italy. The stem core code is 1DZTA – The Alps. Similarly, the code proposed by the US group, (5PB-US-F) Relating to Creole people, does not apply only to Creole people in the US but could be used for any Creole people, in Latin America, the Caribbean and so on. This code could be used in conjunction with a Place qualifier to give it a more geographically precise meaning if necessary.

3. Resolution of National Extensions

As shown above, all National Extension codes are suffixes, beginning at the first hyphen, that are added to ordinary shared value Qualifier codes. If a user encounters or receives a National Extension code that is not known or recognised, it can be resolved to a meaningful value by truncating the code string back to the shared value stem before the first hyphen.

Thus, if a user does not recognise Canadian National Extensions,

1KBC-CA-SGA Central Saskatchewan: Saskatoon

is resolved and understood as

1KBC Canada

which is meaningful and correct (although less precise).

In the case of some national extensions, for example particular educational purpose qualifiers, there are two options:

4Z-DE-FCB For German integrated vocational training preparation

A user could truncate this code to just the 4Z-DE-, which indicates it is for educational curricula of Germany. Or it could be 4Z – which just indicates that it is a title for a specific educational curriculum (without being specific as to *which* curriculum).

This resolution process can be done manually, or automatically by the application of simple rules to manipulate incoming data.

4. Allocation of *Thema* Subject Categories and Qualifiers

4a. General rules of *Thema* classification

The basic rules for assigning *Thema* Subject Categories and Qualifiers, put most simply, are as follows:

Rule 1: Ensure the first Category entered is the primary or main subject

Taking advantage of all available information about the subject and scope of the work, ensure the first Category indicates the single most pertinent and important subject of the work (i.e. if the data recipient only uses one category, this would be your main subject).

Rule 2: Classify titles as precisely as applicable or as broadly as required

If a book is solely concerned with a specific topic defined by a single Category, use that precise code only; if it is broad-ranging in its scope within a single subject area, use a single broad Category rather than listing all the more specific Categories listed beneath it (see Note A below). Not every title has to be assigned the most detailed *possible* Category, only the most detailed category that is *applicable*.

Rule 3: Assign as many Categories as are required

If the book covers several subject areas, assign relevant Categories from across the *Thema* scheme to indicate this, as many as are required (see Note B below). Only assign Categories for subjects that the book is substantially about as a whole, not for subjects that are peripheral or are pertinent in only a small part of the work.

Rule 4: Observe any scope notes and instructions.

In the hierarchical listing, many Categories (and some Qualifiers) carry specific usage notes and 'see also' references. Sometimes these are listed under a broad Category (*e.g.* at level 1 or 2 in the hierarchy) but they apply to all Categories listed hierarchically under the broad Category. The usage notes give important and useful information about what is covered by a heading, and how it should be used in conjunction with other *Thema* values to make full use of the scheme and maintain consistency

From version 1.3 onwards the usage notes were standardised to make clearer distinction of the type of note. They are:

- 1) Class here: these notes indicate some, but not all, the topics that could be included in this section. These may be commonly used subject categories that would fit into this area or terms commonly used in the book chain. They are guidelines only and do not exclude other subjects that may not be mentioned in the notes but would fit in this category.
- 2) Use for: these notes are similar to the 'class here' but give more guidance for the type of work that could be categorised using that code or usage notes or to give more detailed explanation of the category itself.
- 3) Use all XX* codes for: this formula is used to indicate that the *use for* guidance note applies to all the categories that start with the code (represented by XX here). The star always indicates all codes starting with these letters or numbers.
- 4) Use with: these notes give specific guidance for other subject categories or qualifiers that are the most appropriate to use with this category. The lack of this type of note does not mean a code cannot be used with other categories, it is a way of pointing out some of the most common or important use cases.
- 5) Use all XX* codes with: as with 3 this means the *use with* note applies to the category and all of its the sub-categories.
- 6) Prefer: this is to indicate when an alternative category may be better for certain types of work or use cases.
- 7) See also: points the user to other related *Thema* values that may be appropriate instead of, or as well as, the value under consideration.
- 8) DO NOT USE: there are not many of these notes, but occasionally there is advice of when not to use certain codes.

Rule 5: Add Qualifiers whenever appropriate.

The Qualifiers are a key feature of the *Thema* scheme structure and provide great flexibility, enabling the expression of a vast range of subjects with a comparatively small number of values. Note that the Qualifiers are associated with the book as a whole and not linked directly with a specific Category, although the link between Category and Qualifier is often

implicit (*e.g.* Language learning material and Language Qualifiers, travel guides and Place Qualifiers *etc.*). As with Categories, assign the most specific Qualifier values that are applicable (including National Extensions where available), and use as many as are required (see Notes A and B below).

Rule 6: Consider Context

Always view and consider specific headings in the context of the scheme as a whole. Sometimes a heading may seem appropriate when viewed alone, but its location in the scheme may indicate connotations that are not appropriate – always look at the ‘parent’ and ‘ancestor’ headings of a specific code in the hierarchy. This principle is particularly pertinent to selecting between similar headings that indicate different treatments of related subject matter (*e.g.* works for specialist or general readers, science or industry, adults or children, *etc.*). See the Section Summary below.

Notes

Note A: Because of the hierarchical nature of the codes, it is an error to use ‘high-level’ codes in conjunction with lower level codes denoting specific subjects. With the specific Category QDHR3 ‘Pragmatism’ for example, it is not usually appropriate to add all or any of the preceding codes QDHR, QDH, QD or indeed Q. The fact that the subject is an aspect of QD ‘Philosophy’ is implicit in the QDHR3 code. Similarly, if assigning Geographical Qualifier 1HFGA ‘Ethiopia’, it is not appropriate to assign also 1H to indicate that country is in Africa, and so on.

On the other hand, if the book is about modern philosophy as a whole, with a chapter on Pragmatism, another on Phenomenology and a third on Positivism, *etc.*, the correct code to apply would be the broader QDHR, not QDHR3 *and* QDHR5 *and* QDHR7.

Note B: There is no defined upper limit of the number of Subject Category values or Qualifier values that may be assigned to an individual book product record, and multiple values must be allowed for the scheme to function effectively. It is suggested that a maximum of *five* of each type would more than sufficiently cover most circumstances – but this does not mean that users should aim to assign five Categories to every book. Most books need significantly fewer categories, and if a single Category captures the subject of the book perfectly, there is no need for anything further.

Note C: When searching for the most appropriate category code(s) to use it is important to remember certain language conventions. For example, the word ‘and’ in a heading is not meant to imply that the work being classified has to be about everything in that header, it means the heading encapsulates several concepts, it is in fact shorthand for ‘and/or’.

A heading that has sub-categories may include words from those categories to indicate the subjects in that part of the hierarchy. This heading is meant to be used for more general works that cover some or all of these subjects.

Another convention is the use of the word ‘other’ at the start of some headings. This is not a reflection on the importance of the subject but a convention of creating a general category and allowing for a new hierarchy to be created underneath it. Again,

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these can be used for general works and often should be used with other subject categories or qualifiers.

4b. Section summary – Subject Categories

Codes beginning A	THE ARTS
Treatment	Specialist and general adult titles, including both highly illustrated and more text based works; prefer WF* codes for more amateur, hobby or recreational approaches
Qualifiers	Particularly STYLE 6*, plus PLACE 1* and TIME PERIOD 3* as appropriate
Special Features	

Codes beginning C	LANGUAGE & LINGUISTICS
Treatment	Specialist and General Adult
Qualifiers	Particularly LANGUAGE 2* plus PLACE 1*, TIME 3* and EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE 4* as appropriate
Special Features	

Codes beginning D	BIOGRAPHY, LITERATURE & LITERARY STUDIES
Treatment	Specialist and General Adult
Qualifiers	Particularly STYLE 6*, LANGUAGE 2*, PLACE 1* or TIME PERIOD 3* (see instructions for LANGUAGE Qualifiers below)
Special Features	For Literary Studies, use LANGUAGE 2* Qualifiers to indicate the language of the literature in question and PLACE 1* Qualifiers to indicate the location of a literary tradition for a work of literary criticism or national or regional context where significant, e.g. work about the Literature in English of Australia or the Literature in Spanish of Mexico, but DO NOT USE for an actual work (e.g. a novel) from that tradition, or where it was published. Use TIME PERIOD 3* Qualifiers to give greater precision to studies of a period

Codes beginning F	FICTION & RELATED ITEMS
Treatment	General Adult; see also X* codes for graphic novels
Qualifiers	PLACE 1* and/or TIME PERIOD 3* Qualifiers where these aspects are particularly significant to the plot or setting; INTEREST 5* (particularly 5H*, 5J*, 5L* or 5P*) Qualifiers as appropriate
Special Features	F* codes maybe used with appropriate non-fiction categories to indicate key settings or topics of the narrative, but for all adult fiction the primary category must be an F* code. FX* codes may be used to indicate a strong underlying theme. FY* codes may be used to indicate special features of a fiction title.

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Codes beginning G	REFERENCE, INFORMATION & INTERDISCIPLINARY SUBJECTS
Treatment	Specialist and General Adult
Qualifiers	As appropriate
Special Features	GBC must only be used with (after) other codes denoting area or scope of the work.

Codes beginning J	SOCIETY & SOCIAL SCIENCES
Treatment	Specialist and some General Adult; see also V* codes for practical approaches to many topics
Qualifiers	As appropriate, particularly INTEREST 5*
Special Features	In J* use the most appropriate code(s) available, as many social sciences are broad topics that can have many alternative terms or names. J* codes also should be used in combination with each other to broaden the range of subjects. JN* codes may be used with YP* codes without the need for educational-level audience codes for titles applicable to education as a practice.

Codes beginning K	ECONOMICS, FINANCE, BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT
Treatment	Specialist (professional and academic) and some General Adult; see also VS* codes for practical approaches to many topics
Qualifiers	As appropriate
Special Features	Certain K* codes (KFCX, KFFC, KJBX) indicate subject-specific treatment, <i>i.e.</i> study and revision guides

Codes beginning L	LAW
Treatment	Academic, professional or specialist titles only; see VS* codes for General Adult items
Qualifiers	PLACE 1* Qualifiers to indicate jurisdiction (especially with LN* codes), plus other qualifiers as appropriate
Special Features	The L* section is not meant to reflect any particular legal system and many titles will need at least two codes to create the appropriate category. LX indicates subject-specific treatment, <i>i.e.</i> study and revision guides.

Codes beginning M	MEDICINE & NURSING
Treatment	Academic, technical and specialist healthcare and medical material only; see V* codes for health topics aimed at a broad general adult audience
Qualifiers	Not generally required
Special Features	M* codes NOT usually mixed with other non-M* Subject codes. MR* codes indicate subject-specific treatment, <i>i.e.</i> study and revision guides and reference material

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Codes beginning N	HISTORY
Treatment	Specialist and General Adult
Qualifiers	Particularly PLACE 1* and TIME PERIOD 3*, and others as appropriate
Special Features	A History work will usually need more than one subject category, from either History or non-History subjects to give greater detail, for example categories from Social Sciences (J*) with NHTB.

Codes beginning P	MATHEMATICS & SCIENCE
Treatment	Mostly academic, technical and specialist titles and some general adult works (except see PDZ* for popular treatments); see WN* codes for General Adult items
Qualifiers	Not generally required
Special Features	

Codes beginning Q	PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION
Treatment	Academic, specialist and general adult titles; prefer VX* codes for 'Mind, Body, Spirit' approaches
Qualifiers	As appropriate
Special Features	QRA* and QRV* codes should be used with other QR* codes to denote which particular religion

Codes beginning R	EARTH SCIENCES, GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING
Treatment	Academic, technical, specialist and general adult titles; prefer VS* and WN* codes for General Adult items
Qualifiers	Particularly PLACE 1* and others as appropriate
Special Features	

Codes beginning S	SPORTS & ACTIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION
Treatment	General Adult and specialist titles
Qualifiers	As appropriate
Special Features	

Codes beginning T	TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AGRICULTURE
Treatment	Academic, technical, specialist, vocational and general adult titles; see WG* codes for General Adult items
Qualifiers	Particularly EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE 4* qualifiers for vocational, professional or apprenticeship style education titles and others as appropriate
Special Features	

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Codes beginning U	COMPUTING & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Treatment	Academic, technical, specialist and some general adult titles.
Qualifiers	Particularly EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE 4* qualifiers for vocational educational titles and others as appropriate
Special Features	

Codes beginning V	HEALTH, RELATIONSHIPS & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT
Treatment	General Adult; see C*, J*, K*, L*, M*, Q*, R* codes, as appropriate, for Specialist works
Qualifiers	Particularly INTEREST 5* and others as appropriate
Special Features	

Codes beginning W	LIFESTYLE, HOBBIES & LEISURE
Treatment	Popular accounts for general adult readership; see A*, K*, N*, P*, R*, T* codes, as appropriate, for specialist, technical and academic works
Qualifiers	Particularly INTEREST 5* and others as appropriate; particularly PLACE 1* for WT* (Travel) and WB* (Cookery / food and drink)
Special Features	

Codes beginning X	GRAPHIC NOVELS, COMIC BOOKS, CARTOONS
Treatment	General adult, teenage or children's titles
Qualifiers	PLACE 1* and/or TIME PERIOD 3* Qualifiers where these aspects are particularly significant; INTEREST AGE 5A* and other INTEREST 5* Qualifiers as appropriate
Special Features	Items will typically need a 'type' from XA* plus a 'genre' from XQ* for full classification; note inclusion of Teenage & Children's material

Codes beginning Y	CHILDREN'S, TEENAGE & EDUCATIONAL
Treatment	All material aimed at, or purposefully written or created for a juvenile or adolescent audience (except for graphic novels, comic books, manga in X*). For YP* material for pre-primary, primary and secondary education. (Do not use: Y* codes for material intended primarily for adults that may also appeal to older teens.)
Qualifiers	Only one INTEREST AGE 5A* Qualifier to indicate a guideline starting interest age (detailed age ranges should be included in other metadata) – or for YP* use EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE 4* qualifiers. All other qualifiers can be used as appropriate with Y* codes
Special Features	YN* (General interest) codes may be used with (after) YF* (Fiction) codes to indicate key topics (or further detail of key topics) of fiction works where particularly significant; YX* (Personal & social issues) may be used with (after) YF* (Fiction) codes to indicate

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	issues addressed in fiction. NOTE for ALL children’s and teenage fiction the primary category MUST be an YF* code
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4c. Section summary – Qualifiers

Codes beginning 1	PLACE
Use	To indicate the geographical scope and applicability of the content, such as the location of a travel guide, the setting of a novel, the jurisdiction to which laws apply, the history of a particular place, etc. Where options exist, e.g. terms representing actual, historical, cultural, administrative, or geophysical entities, use the expression that best suits the content. Where no code exists for a specific location, use the nearest most appropriate broader code that includes it. DO NOT USE: to indicate any geographical aspect that is not to do with the content or subject of a book (e.g. place of publication, market availability, nationality of author – this is described in other metadata, etc).
Nat Extensions	National extensions (i.e. 1*-xx- format codes, where 'xx' indicates a country code) can be assigned by any user and are not exclusive to users in the indicated country. This section is not intended as an exhaustive gazetteer of all places but a list of commonly used locations in the global book supply chain.

Codes beginning 2	LANGUAGE
Use	To indicate the language(s) to which the book content applies – that is, the language the book is ABOUT, not the language the book is IN (the latter is described in other metadata) – such as a linguistics or literary studies work, a method for learning a language, a phrasebook or a dictionary.
Nat Extensions	Available for sub-divisions of languages or smaller regional languages and can be assigned by any user and are not exclusive to users in the indicated country.

Codes beginning 3	TIME PERIOD
Use	To indicate the time period range of a works content, such as the period covered by an art book (A*), a history book (N*), a memoir or biography (DN*), historical fiction (FV*), a history book for children (YNH*), etc. TIME PERIOD qualifiers are usually used in conjunction with PLACE 1* qualifiers. (Specific historical events or individual years would be conveyed in detail elsewhere in a products metadata, for example by the title, the table of contents, the descriptive text or keywords). DO NOT USE: for indicating the year of an annual or road atlas or travel guide or the year a work was originally published in, (this is described in other metadata).

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Nat Extensions	are for specific named periods of time that are important in particular markets but do not necessarily fit neatly into the structure of the general TIME PERIOD qualifiers. All national extensions are sub-categories of a core time period code, so can be mapped back to a standard period. National extensions can be assigned by any user and are not exclusive to users in the indicated country.
----------------	---

Codes beginning 4	EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE
Use	To indicate the curriculum, examination or level for which educational material is specifically designed, such as school textbooks, language learning coursework, study aids, revision material, vocational training material etc. Always use a 4* Qualifier when using a YP* codes. (Do not use: to indicate educational institutions that are the subject of a book, e.g. history of a school or university)
Nat Extensions	4Z- national extensions when available for material written or created for a specific countries education system. 4Z codes may be used for material that is used in multiple countries, for example, the GMAT exam

Codes beginning 5	INTEREST AGE & SPECIAL INTEREST
Use	To indicate indicating a variety of characteristics relating to the main content of the particular work. 5A* age codes to qualify Y* codes with a general guideline starting interest age of the content in any works aimed primarily at children or teenagers; 5H* to indicate content about a particular holiday or event; 5L* to indicate content about a particular age group / generation; 5P* to indicate content about a particular grouping of people, and 5X to indicate explicit content. Pay particular attention to the scope notes for usage for 5A*, 5J*, 5L*, 5P* and 5X codes. All 5* codes must be used to describe a main content or topic of the work. DO NOT USE: as a marketing target audience code, the 5* Qualifier must relate to the main content of a work.
Nat Extensions	Some present for holidays and groups & cultures. National extensions can be assigned by any user and are not exclusive to users in the indicated country.

Codes beginning 6	STYLE
Use	To indicate the particular style of artistic or creative expression covered by the works content, such as a book on art, architecture, fashion, dance, music, (all A* categories) or with literary studies, e.g. use 6RA with DC* to indicate Romantic Poetry or 6EH to indicate Epic poetry. Use with: A*, D* and YN* and other categories as appropriate and with PLACE 1* Qualifiers when the content is about the style in a particular country or region.
Nat Extensions	Not applicable (all codes are shared values)

5. Dissemination and communication of *Thema* Categories and Qualifiers

In ONIX 3.0, a book about a particular artistic school of late 19th Century French painting might be classified and communicated like this:

```
<!-- ***** ONIX 3.0 ***** -->
<Subject>
  <MainSubject/>
  <SubjectSchemeIdentifier>93</SubjectSchemeIdentifier>      <!-- 93 = Thema subject -->
  <SubjectSchemeVersion>1.4</SubjectSchemeVersion>          <!-- version 1.4 -->
  <SubjectCode>AGA</SubjectCode>                             <!-- AGA = History of art -->
</Subject>
<Subject>
  <SubjectSchemeIdentifier>93</SubjectSchemeIdentifier>
  <SubjectSchemeVersion>1.4</SubjectSchemeVersion>
  <SubjectCode>AFCL</SubjectCode>                           <!-- AFCL = Paintings and painting in oils -->
</Subject>
<Subject>
  <SubjectSchemeIdentifier>94</SubjectSchemeIdentifier>      <!-- 94 = Thema geographical qualifier -->
  <SubjectSchemeVersion>1.4</SubjectSchemeVersion>
  <SubjectCode>1DDF-FR-FB</SubjectCode>                     <!-- 1DDF-FR-FB= Finistère -->
                                                           <!-- note 1DDF = France if the national extension is unknown -->
</Subject>
<Subject>
  <SubjectSchemeIdentifier>96</SubjectSchemeIdentifier>      <!-- 96 = Thema time period qualifier -->
  <SubjectSchemeVersion>1.4</SubjectSchemeVersion>
  <SubjectCode>3MNQX</SubjectCode>                           <!-- 3MNQX = c 1880 to c 1889 -->
</Subject>
<Subject>
  <SubjectSchemeIdentifier>99</SubjectSchemeIdentifier>      <!-- 99 = Thema style qualifier -->
  <SubjectSchemeVersion>1.4</SubjectSchemeVersion>
  <SubjectCode>6SV</SubjectCode>                             <!-- 6SV = Synthetism -->
</Subject>
```

This subject classification might be accompanied by keywords such as ‘Pont Aven’ or ‘Post-impressionist’, ‘name as subject’ composites for Paul Gauguin and Émile Bernard, and in this case, it might also be useful for details of the target audience to distinguish between popular and more academic treatments of the subject. This example is taken from the *ONIX 3.0 Implementation and Best Practice Guide*.

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In ONIX 2.1, there are only minor differences: the first <Subject> composite would use <MainSubject> instead of <Subject> and <MainSubjectSchemeIdentifier> instead of <SubjectSchemeIdentifier>, and it would omit the <MainSubject/> flag:

```
<!-- ***** ONIX 2.1 ***** -->
<MainSubject>
  <MainSubjectSchemeIdentifier>93</MainSubjectSchemeIdentifier> <!-- 93 = Thema subject -->
  <SubjectSchemeVersion>1.4</SubjectSchemeVersion> <!-- version 1.2 -->
  <SubjectCode>AGA</SubjectCode> <!-- AGA = History of art -->
</MainSubject>
<Subject>
  <SubjectSchemeIdentifier>93</SubjectSchemeIdentifier>
  <SubjectSchemeVersion>1.4</SubjectSchemeVersion>
  <SubjectCode>AFCL</SubjectCode> <!-- AFCL = Paintings and painting in oils -->
</Subject>
<Subject>
  <SubjectSchemeIdentifier>94</SubjectSchemeIdentifier> <!-- 94 = Thema geographical qualifier -->
  <SubjectSchemeVersion>1.4</SubjectSchemeVersion>
  <SubjectCode>1DDF-FR-FB</SubjectCode> <!-- 1DDF-FR-FB= Finistère -->
  <!-- note 1DDF = France if the national extension is unknown -->
</Subject>
<Subject>
  <SubjectSchemeIdentifier>96</SubjectSchemeIdentifier> <!-- 96 = Thema time period qualifier -->
  <SubjectSchemeVersion>1.4</SubjectSchemeVersion>
  <SubjectCode>3MNQX</SubjectCode> <!-- 3MNQX = c 1880 to c 1889 -->
</Subject>
<Subject>
  <SubjectSchemeIdentifier>99</SubjectSchemeIdentifier> <!-- 99 = Thema style qualifier -->
  <SubjectSchemeVersion>1.4</SubjectSchemeVersion>
  <SubjectCode>6SV</SubjectCode> <!-- 6SV = Synthetism -->
</Subject>
```

As with ONIX 3.0, keywords, 'name as subject' and audience details should ideally also be included.

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Thema code values or headings may of course be transmitted between trading partners in other message formats, displayed on websites, and used in catalogues and in promotional material. Headings may be displayed in any language as appropriate, but to increase intelligibility and interoperability, it is always useful to display the code along with any *Thema* heading.

Howard Willows
Nielsen, and initial chair of the *Thema* ISC
Graham Bell, Alex Ingram, Chris Saynor
EDItEUR

April 7th 2020