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The Problem of Refugees (classifying works on them, that is)

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CLASSIFICATION

This past Summer I was able to attend the Advanced Cataloging Institute before the AALL Annual Meeting in Seattle. One of the sessions, presented by Jolande Goldberg of the Library of Congress and author of many of the K schedules, was on LC Classification.

Ms. Goldberg addressed classification questions she had been given before the session. These questions were on various parts of the K schedule which even advanced catalogers have difficulty with. One question posed was “the Refugee question.” In a project re-classing JX4292.R4, Refugees, the question is – where do these books go?

OPTION ONE IS K3230.R45

Law in general. Comparative and uniform law. Jurisprudence
Comparative law. International uniform law
Constitutional law
Individual and state
Nationality and citizenship
Special groups A-Z – Refugees.

This number should be used for works dealing with comparisons of the law relating to refugees in two or more countries in different regions, or for works dealing with refugees in general in terms of transnational law.

Example 1A: *International Refugee law: a primer*

Main subject heading: Refugees—Legal status, laws, etc.

Example 1B: *Asylum law and practice in Europe and North America : a comparative analysis*

Subject headings:

Refugees—Legal status, laws, etc.—Europe;
Refugees—Legal status, laws, etc.—North America;
Refugees—Legal status, laws, etc.—United States.

OPTION TWO IS KZ6530

Law of nations

Enforced settlement of international disputes. Law enforcement regimes. Law of armed conflict
Law of war and neutrality. Jus belli
Humanitarian law. Usus in bello
Refugees. Population displacement. Forced migration

This would be used for population displacement, civil strife, refugee populations in rogue states and the international humanitarian law pertaining to refugees. All refugees from war or war time conflicts class here – keeping in mind that war includes civil conflict and warlords. The key point to remember here is that KZ6530 is for refugees under the topic of Humanitarian law. These books have to deal with the topic of refugees in the area of humanitarian law

Example 2A: *The international protection of internally displaced persons*

Main subject heading: Refugees—Legal status, laws, etc.
Additional subject headings: Refugees—International cooperation; Civil war; Humanitarian law

Example 2B: *Mass refugee influx and the limits of public international law*

Main subject heading: Refugees—Legal status, laws, etc.
Additional subject headings: Refugees—Protection—International cooperation; Humanitarian law

Example 2C: *Refugee protection in international law : UNHCR's global consultations on international protection*

Main subject heading: Refugees—Legal status, laws, etc.
Additional subject heading: Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951)

[Do a search in the Library of Congress' catalog for this title and follow the link to Full Text at the bottom of the full record display for more information on the subject of this work]

OPTION THREE IS: K7128.S7

Law in general. Comparative and uniform law. Jurisprudence
Private international law. Conflict of laws

Persons

Natural persons

Civil status

Nationality and domicile

Nationality

Special topics, A-Z

Stateless persons. Refugees

This seems to be used mainly for works on Dual nationality, Conflict of Laws on Citizenship, statelessness and the legal status of stateless persons. This number would be used when classing a work dealing with the conflict of laws relating to refugees in different regions. I think it is safe

to say from my perusal of many online catalogs, that this number will not be the one to use for most works we encounter.

Remember that when looking at other online catalogs including the Library of Congress that many works classed in **K** should now be in **KZ** because they were classed before the creation of the *JZ/KZ* schedule. Also some works are not classed correctly as there has been

some confusion between human rights and humanitarian law.

Also keep in mind that Class **K** is for comparative and uniform law, private international law (universal, i.e. inter-regional or supra-regional in scope or application), and global intergovernmental organizations as far as they do not belong to Class **KZ**. Class **KZ** on the other hand is for public international law, also universal

in scope and application, including the global intergovernmental organizations belonging to the realm of public international law.

In the end as Jolande Goldberg said at the Advanced Cataloging Institute you just have to “make your own choices,” – or as we are so used to hearing, use cataloger’s judgment. This area deserves watching and possibly more clarification.