Working with Subject Headings

(Recommendations from Jean Pajerek and Joanne Leary)

The first subject heading in the record is generally meant to correlate with the dominant subject matter of the book or whatever, but this is not always possible because there are some subject headings that have to be assigned in pairs, like United States--Foreign relations--China and China--Foreign relations--United States.

It is possible that a given record will not have any LC subject headings. In the screenshot below we see a typical example of subject headings in a record. The first 2 lines in the screenshot show two parts of a single subject heading: 650 0 $a Cultural property $x Protection (International law). The number 1 in the **ord** column tells us that these two subfields are the elements that make up the first subject heading in the record. The second subject heading has 3 separate elements, divided into three subfields: 650 0 ‡a Cultural property ‡x Protection ‡z Europe and so on. There are 4 LC subject headings in this record, and numerous other subject terms as well. To find the first subject term in a record, I recommend using that number 1 in the **ord** field.

instance_hrid	field	ind2	ord	sf	content
15309598	650	0	1	a	Cultural property
15309598	650	0	1	x	Protection (International law)
15309598	650	0	2	a	Cultural property
15309598	650	0	2	x	Protection
15309598	650	0	2	z	Europe.
15309598	650	0	3	a	Cultural property
15309598	650	0	3	x	Repatriation.
15309598	650	0	4	a	Cultural property
15309598	650	0	4	x	Repatriation
15309598	650	0	4	z	Europe.
15309598	650	7	5	a	Cultural property
15309598	650	7	5	x	Protection.
15309598	650	7	5	2	fast
15309598	650	7	5	0	(OCoLC)fst00885019
15309598	650	7	6	a	Cultural property
15309598	650	7	6	x	Protection (International law)

For example, to pull the first LOC subject heading from a bibliographic record using its instance hrid, you would use:

```
SELECT DISTINCT
    SM.instance_hrid,
    SM.field,
    SM.ind2,
    SM.ord,
    SM.sf,
    SM."content"
FROM
    public.srs_marctab SM
 WHERE SM.instance_hrid = '15309598'
 AND SM.field LIKE '6%%'
 AND SM.ord='1'
 AND SM.ind2='0'

;
```

Which results in:

srs_marctab 1 ✕

⟨T SELECT DISTINCT SM.instance_hrid, SM.fiel | Enter a SQL expression to filter results (use Ctrl+Space)

	instance_hrid	field	ind2	ord	sf	content
1	15309598	650	0	1	a	Cultural property
2	15309598	650	0	1	x	Protection (International law)

Further, if you want to display the subject heading as it appears in the bibliographic record, you may use a STRING_AGG FUNCTION to format the content rows as a subject heading string. Here is an example using instance HRIDs between 6403921 and 6404000:

```
WITH lc as

(SELECT DISTINCT
        sm.instance_hrid,
        sm.field,
        sm.content

FROM srs_marctab sm

WHERE sm.instance_hrid between '6403921' and '6404000'
        AND sm.field like '6%%'
        AND sm.sf in ('a','x','y','z')
        AND sm.ind2 = '0'
        AND sm.ord = '1'
)

SELECT
        lc.instance_hrid,
        lc.field,
        string_agg (lc.content, ' -- ') as lc_subject

FROM lc

GROUP BY
        lc.instance_hrid,
        lc.field
;
```

And the results would be:

	instance_hrid	field	lc_subject
1	6403921	650	Law and legislation -- Pension trusts -- Taxation -- United States.
2	6403922	650	Law and legislation -- Pension trusts -- Taxation -- United States.
3	6403923	650	Law and legislation -- Pension trusts -- United States.
4	6403924	650	Employee fringe benefits -- Taxation -- United States.
5	6403925	650	Law and legislation -- Pension trusts -- Taxation -- United States.
6	6403926	650	Law and legislation -- Pension trusts -- United States.
7	6403927	650	Employee fringe benefits -- States. -- Taxation -- United States
8	6403928	650	Individual retirement accounts -- Law and legislation -- Taxation -- United States.
9	6403929	650	Pension trusts -- United States.
10	640393	650	African fiction (English)
11	6403930	650	Pension trusts -- Taxation -- United States.
12	6403931	650	Income tax deductions for retirement contributions -- United States.
13	6403932	650	Church employees.
14	6403933	650	Employee fringe benefits -- Law and legislation -- United States.
15	6403934	650	Law and legislation -- Pension trusts -- Taxation -- United States.
16	6403935	650	Individual retirement accounts -- United States.
17	6403936	650	Law and legislation -- Pension trusts -- United States.