

ANSS Subject and Bibliographic Access Committee Cataloging Question –  
November, 2007

**What subject headings are used for works on ethnobotany or traditional knowledge concerning plants?**

Ethnobotany: “Definition: The plant lore and agricultural customs of a people. In the field of medicine, the emphasis is on traditional medicine and the existence and medicinal uses of plants and their constituents, both historically and in modern times.” (*National Agricultural Library Glossary*, 2007)

**For general works on ethnobotany (GN476.73):**

- 650 *Ethnobotany* \$v Abstracts.
- 650 *Ethnobotany* \$v Dictionaries.
- 650 *Ethnobotany* \$v Early works to 1800.
- 650 *Ethnobotany* \$v Congresses.
- 650 *Ethnobotany* \$v Bibliography.
- 650 *Ethnobotany* \$v Nomenclature.
- 650 *Ethnobotany* \$v Philosophy.
- 650 *Ethnobotany* \$v Periodicals.
- 650 *Ethnobotany* \$v Research.

**For works about ethnobotany in a specific location:**

- 650 *Ethnobotany* \$z [Place]  
Example: *Ethnobotany* \$z Guadeloupe \$z Marie-Galante.

**For works about ethnobotany in a specific culture or ethnic group:**

Use the following free-floating subdivision under ethnic groups  
(Source: *Subject Cataloging Manual, Subject Headings*, Section H1103)

- \$x *Ethnobotany* (may subdivide geographically)
- Examples: Maori (New Zealand people) \$x *Ethnobotany*.  
Indians of North America \$x *Ethnobotany* \$z Northeastern States.

**Other subject headings related to ethnobotany from the *Library of Congress Authority File*:**

*Applied ethnobotany* (May geographically subdivide)

“Here are entered works on the application of ethnobotany to plant conservation.”

*Botany, Medical* (May geographically subdivide)

“Here are entered works on the discipline of medical botany.”

***Ethnopharmacology*** (May geographically subdivide)

“Here are entered works on the study of the use made of substances for medical purposes by particular societies or ethnic groups.”

***Human-plant relationships*** (May geographically subdivide)

***Materia medica, Vegetable*** (May geographically subdivide)

Use for the therapeutic use of medicinal plants

***Medicinal plants*** (May geographically subdivide)

“Here are entered works on the description and/or the cultivation of medicinal plants.”

***Paleoethnobotany*** (May geographically subdivide)

***Plants \$v Folklore*** (GR780 |b GR790)

***Plant remains (Archaeology)*** (May geographically subdivide)

***Traditional ecological knowledge*** (May geographically subdivide)

“Here are entered works on the knowledge acquired by indigenous and local peoples through direct contact with their environment over a long period of time.”

***Traditional Medicine*** (May geographically subdivide)

Or if about the traditional medicine of a particular ethnic group use:

\$x ***Medicine*** under ethnic groups