

## File 6 (NTIS: National Technical Information Service) Section Headings (/SH, SH=) and Section Heading Codes (SC=)

All records in the NTIS database are classified according to broad subject areas identified by section headings and section heading codes. Two classification schemes have been used in this database. From 1964 through 1986, the COSATI subject classification scheme, consisting of categories used to organize the contents of the printed *Government Reports Announcements & Index* was used. In 1987 use of the COSATI scheme was discontinued. In 1970 the NTIS subject classification scheme was introduced and since 1987 has been the only scheme used to classify all records in the database. Records added to the database from 1970 through 1986 may contain both NTIS and COSATI section headings.

NTIS classifies citations into 39 subject categories. Each of these subject categories is divided into subcategories. This method provides sorting categories for both hard and soft sciences. All subject categories consist of three character codes: two numeric and one alpha character. The numeric codes represent entire categories such as chemistry, environmental pollution and control, civil engineering, etc. The alpha codes are used to designate subcategories within these broad categories. The number of NTIS subcategories averages from one to five.

Currently, the main section headings (searchable with /SH, SH=) and corresponding codes (searchable with SC= and SH=) are:

- Administration and Management (70)
- Aeronautics and Aerodynamics (51)
- Agriculture and Food (98)
- Astronomy and Astrophysics (54)
- Atmospheric Sciences (55)
- Behavior and Society (92)
- Biomedical Technology and Human Factors Engineering (95)
- Building Industry Technology (89)
- Business and Economics (96)
- Chemistry (99)
- Civil Engineering (50)
- Combustion, Engines, and Propellants (81)
- Communication (45)
- Computers, Control, and Information Theory (62)
- Detection and Countermeasures (63)
- Electrotechnology (49)
- Energy (97)
- Environmental Pollution and Control (68)
- Government Inventions for Licensing (90)
- Health Care (44)
- Industrial and Mechanical Engineering (94)
- Library and Information Sciences (88)
- Manufacturing Technology (41)
- Materials Sciences (71)
- Mathematical Sciences (72)

Medicine and Biology (57)  
 Military Sciences (74)  
 Missile Technology (75)  
 Natural Resources and Earth Sciences (48)  
 Navigation, Guidance, and Control (76)  
 Nuclear Science and Technology (77)  
 Ocean Sciences and Technology (47)  
 Ordnance (79)  
 Photography and Recording Devices (82)  
 Physics (46)  
 Problem Solving Information for State and Local Governments (43)  
 Space Technology (84)  
 Transportation (85)  
 Urban and Regional Technology and Development (91)

A particular section heading is assigned when at least 20% of the document's content pertains to the specified subject area. Records often have multiple section headings. If a title covers more subcategories of a major subject category, it is assigned to the general section of the major category code. The following sample record, showing Title and Section Heading field, has been assigned four section headings:

DIALOG(R)File 6:NTIS

**Demographic Impact of AIDS in Africa**

Section Headings: 57U (Medicine and Biology--Public Health and Industrial Medicine); 44C (Health Care--Community and Population Characteristics); 92C(Behavior and Society--Social Concerns); 96G (Business and Economics--Foreign Industry Development and Economics)

**Section Heading Terms.** Section heading terms can be searched using the /SH suffix or SH= prefix. To select terms in any order within a single section heading, use the (S) operator, e.g., SELECT ENVIRONMENTAL(S)RADIATION/SH. In general, it is more efficient to use section heading codes instead of searching the section headings themselves.

**Section Heading Codes.** Section headings codes can be searched using SC= prefix or SH= prefix. They are arranged by main categories, within which are more specific subcategories. Section heading codes consist of a two-digit number identifying the main category and a letter identifying the subcategory. Section Heading Codes are numbered 41 through 99.

For an online display of section headings within a specific main category, use the EXPAND command with the desired two-digit main category section heading code.

The following EXPAND list from the SC= index illustrates the arrangement of section headings. Scope notes identify the section heading terms. (Note that online scope notes following section headings for subcategories identify only the subcategory).

**?EXPAND SC=68**

```

E1 2291 SC=63I (--SEISMIC DETECTION)
E2 1 SC=63I* (--SEISMIC DETECTION)
E3 207806 *SC=68 (ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION AND CONTROL)
E4 15629 SC=68* (ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION AND CONTROL)
E5 54614 SC=68A (--AIR POLLUTION AND CONTROL)
E6 3287 SC=68A* (--AIR POLLUTION AND CONTROL)
E7 5209 SC=68B (--NOISE POLLUTION AND CONTROL)
E8 339 SC=68B* (--NOISE POLLUTION AND CONTROL)
E9 29813 SC=68C (--SOLID WASTES POLLUTION AND CONTROL)
E10 3124 SC=68C* (--SOLID WASTES POLLUTION AND CONTROL)
E11 59792 SC=68D (--WATER POLLUTION AND CONTROL)
E12 4088 SC=68D* (--WATER POLLUTION AND CONTROL)
E13 5353 SC=68E (--PESTICIDES POLLUTION AND CONTROL)
E14 525 SC=68E* (--PESTICIDES POLLUTION AND CONTROL)
E15 38735 SC=68F (--RADIATION POLLUTION AND CONTROL)
E16 548 SC=68F* (--RADIATION POLLUTION AND CONTROL)
E17 25268 SC=68G (--ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY)
E18 2168 SC=68G* (--ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY)
E19 25467 SC=68GE (--GENERAL)
E20 1555 SC=68GE* (--GENERAL)
E21 4747 SC=68H (--ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS)
E22 131 SC=68H* (--ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS)
E23 82430 SC=70 (ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT)
E24 4738 SC=70* (ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT)
...

```

Specific subcategory section heading codes can be selected, e.g., SELECT SC=68G. Selecting the main category section heading code retrieves the code for the main category as well as all subcategory codes. For example, SELECT SC=68 retrieves all codes shown in the display above from E3 through E22.

Using Section Heading Codes or Terms is important in order to get more precise retrieval. For example, combining "Lead" with the NTIS Section Heading Code 57Y (SH=Toxicology), retrieves report citations about the toxicity of lead, rather than lead use as an additive in iron alloys:

```
? SELECT LEAD
      S1  50210  LEAD
? SELECT SC=57Y
      S2  33456  SC=57Y  (--TOXICOLOGY)
? SELECT S1 AND S2
      50210  S1
      33456  S2
      S3    1596  S1 AND S2
? SELECT SH=TOXICOLOGY
      S4    33456  SH=TOXICOLOGY
? SELECT S1 AND S4
      50210  S1
      33456  S4
      S5    1596  S1 AND S4
```

**Major or Weighted Section Heading Codes.** Records indexed by NTIS may include particular section heading codes followed by an asterisk (as illustrated by some of the entries in the above EXPAND display). The asterisk identifies main section headings that have been considered by indexers to be of particular interest. Records for citations submitted by DOE, DOD, and NASA do not include weighted section headings. Weighted section headings can be selected from the EXPAND display. To select a weighted section heading code directly, the entire entry must be enclosed in quotation marks to mask the asterisk (a special character on Dialog), e.g., SELECT SC="68H\*". Selecting the subcategory code without an asterisk includes the weighted codes.

**Government Inventions Available for Licensing (SC=90).** Use SC=90 to search for records that identify government inventions available for licensing. Specific types of inventions can be searched by selecting the section heading code for the desired subcategory, e.g., SELECT SC=90G. Government inventions available for licensing can also be searched using DT=PATENT.

**Contact the Dialog Knowledge Center**  
 Within North America 1 800 3 DIALOG (334 2564)  
 Outside North America 00 800 33 DIALOG (33 34 2564)  
 Email: [Customer@dialog.com](mailto:Customer@dialog.com)

NTSH091509