

**SUBJECT HEADINGS FOR
USE IN
DICTIONARY CATALOGS
OF JUVENILE BOOKS**

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Subject Headings for Use in Dictionary Catalogs of Juvenile Books by Margaret Mann

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MARGARET MANN

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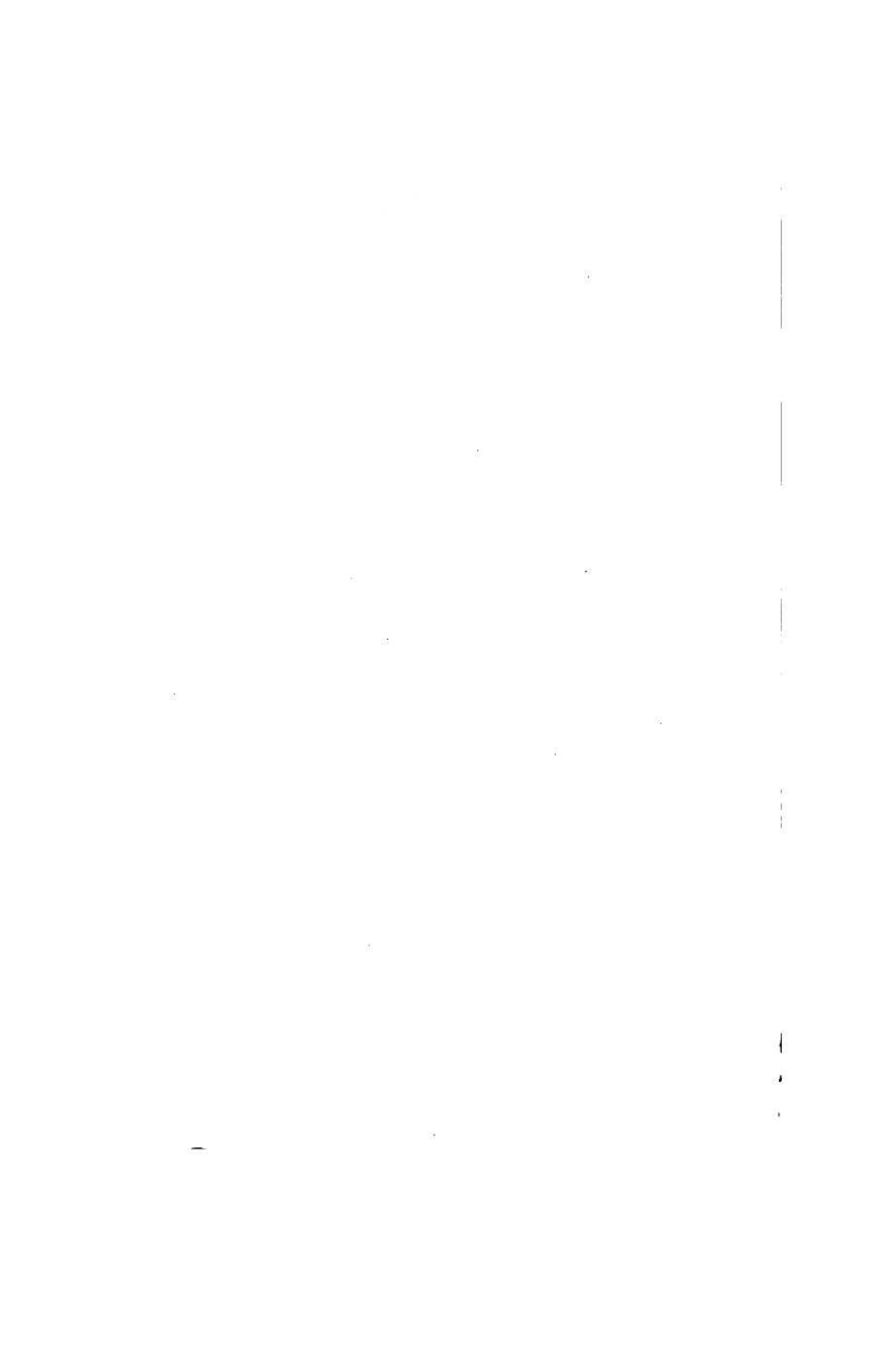
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PREFACE

THIS list of subject headings has been compiled primarily for use in cataloging juvenile books. It is offered as a less exhaustive and less expensive guide than that so admirably prepared for the A. L. A. by Miss Briggs. The subjects and references are those used in the dictionary catalog of juvenile books in the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, but the style and form have been made consistent with the A. L. A. list, thus allowing additions to be taken from that volume without loss of uniformity.

While there has been no attempt made to supply an exhaustive list of subjects for use in any other than the juvenile catalog, it is hoped that the headings here included may be found helpful for cataloging most school libraries and that they will furnish many suggestions in the selection of minute headings for the small public library, where it is often found necessary to do extensive analytical work.

A first attempt has been made to formulate some principles which shall assist in the choice of subject headings. This is possible when considering subjects for a catalog of juvenile books, because a small collection is being handled, which is limited to one class of readers.

I wish to make acknowledgment to Miss Elva S. Smith, who has developed this list of headings and who has given me valuable assistance in my attempt to correlate the work of the cataloger and the children's librarian. Her knowledge of children's literature and the results of her experience in cataloging juvenile books have been generously shared with me.

December, 1915.

Margaret Mann.

✓ THE CATALOG OF JUVENILE BOOKS

IN MAKING a catalog of juvenile books it is necessary to put into it a combination of the technique of cataloging and a knowledge of literature as it is written for children.

The books have been written in a special style to make them interesting and instructive to young people; they are made up of chapters which interest and hold by their brevity and simplicity; there is often no attempt made to give a continuous narrative, and subjects are never treated in an exhaustive way as they are in the books for older readers. The classics are retold, and mythology and folklore are not presented as subjects of religion and customs, but rather as stories which are used to introduce the child to literature. It is not the subject matter which differs, but rather the way it is treated, both as to content and style, which brings a different phase of work into the making of a catalog for children.

Stories must be studied both for their literary and their subject value so that the catalog may show what the child is unable to find for himself because of his limited knowledge. We must bear in mind the fact that children have no background of experience, that they are unfamiliar with even the terms and expressions commonly known and used by adult readers and that they are unable to classify material for themselves. Their catalog must therefore be much more an instrument of instruction than is the catalog for adult readers, by showing them how subjects are related. It must index chapters in their books which they have no way of finding, and lead them to stories which will tell them about Napoleon, Roland, Iceland, Indians and any other subjects which are not brought out by the classification of books on the shelves. We must study their needs as well as their books so that the catalog will come within the range of their understanding and answer their demands.

Our problem is therefore to make a catalog which shall be so simple that we can explain it to children and have them understand it; so full that it will answer not only the demands of children, but those of teachers and assistants as well, and so uniform with other library guides that the child can pass from the use of one to the other without confusion.

Those who select the books in a library do so with some definite aim in mind—that of supplying a definite want or of pro-