

Annotated Subject Headings Index to the Wessex Classification Scheme Introduction

This annotated index to the Wessex Classification Scheme was produced primarily for cataloguers within the SWIMS Network (formerly SWRLIN) Cataloguing Co-operative. The Classification Scheme has been adopted by other library networks in the UK and is widely used.

Each indexing term in the annotated index refers to a suggested classification number or numbers within the Wessex Scheme. The index, however, should never be used as a classification tool on its own. It is essential that the actual schedules are checked to ensure that the context of the given classification number is appropriate for the document in hand. For example, TRANSACTIONAL ANALYSIS, originally a psychotherapeutic technique used for mental disorder, is now used in a number of other settings and it would be inappropriate to classify these in the Psychiatry Schedules.

The terminology used in the annotated index is based on the NLM Medical Subject Headings (MeSH), and the tree structure in which it sits is indicated below the heading (e.g. L1). Although only the most relevant headings are included in the index here, cataloguers are free to use any terms* available on the the MeSH Browser at www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/MBrowser.html This also gives additional detailed guidelines on the use of headings which it is not possible to reproduce in this index -

- Scope notes
- Annotations giving guidance on alternative headings
- Tree structures
- Subheadings which can be used with each term

This index generally includes only those MeSH headings which have already been used on the SWIMS catalogue or which relate to items in the Wessex Classification Scheme, along with many cross references. As a last resort, additional local headings are created where there is literary warrant, and no possible NLM MeSH heading or combination of headings can be used. Locally created subject headings are always underlined in the index, and known as 'Wessex MeSH'.

It is necessary to remember when using MeSH terms, that SWIMS uses an anglicised form of MeSH words in order to assist British users. For example

- Haem- instead of hem-
- Gynae- instead of gyne-
- Counselling instead of counseling
- Organisation instead of organization

The SWIMS Cataloguing Group considers the new, deleted and changed terms issued annually by NLM, and updates the Subject Index appropriately with the alterations to MeSH.

Users of the Index and Wessex Classification are encouraged to suggest MeSH Headings or cross references which they find useful but have not yet been selected for the Index to the SWIMS Cataloguing Group via anne.lancey@iow.nhs.uk ..

*if using the SWIMS library management system you will need to ask a member of the Cataloguing Group to add the new term to the SWIMS authority file (and the index).