American Planning Association Library Classification Scheme (APALCS)

The classification scheme is described, in Lois Mai Chan’s *Cataloging and Classification: An Introduction*, as serving, “a dual function: 1) as a shelving device, which is considered to be the primary purpose of classification ... and 2) as a means of organizing bibliographic entries in printed catalogs, bibliographies, and indexes in a systematic order.”

The Library of the American Planning Association (APA) developed the American Planning Association Library Classification Scheme. It was created to meet the needs of APA’s researchers and members; the scheme focuses specifically on planning and provides a level of practical detail not found in other published systems.

In the APA Library, the scheme is used in conjunction with the Library of Congress Classification Scheme. A planning agency or library may choose to use the scheme independently or in conjunction with more broadly based schemes such as Library of Congress or Dewey Decimal. In the APA Library, books are shelved by class number while vertical file materials (plans, documents) are filed by subject heading.

If another classification scheme is used in the library (i.e. Library of Congress or Dewey Decimal) you may wish to precede the numbers with the letters APA.

A few general notes about the scheme:

- **Legislation** and **Law** refers to both case law and general information on the impact of specific legislation.

- Most sections have a sub-section entitled **General** this is where policy and research information is found.

- Since the classification scheme serves to group like information together in a broad manner not all topics are named. An example is APA46.8 (Zoning ordinances). Under the broad section Planning Law and Legislation is found Municipal Law; under Municipal Law is found Zoning ordinances. This arrangement allows the grouping of local zoning materials together; these materials might include planned unit development ordinances, information on performance zoning, or documents on land acquisition. To locate an individual item, the library user would search the card catalog by subject heading or title. To locate all items on local zoning, the library user can browse the shelves that hold APA46.8 labeled items.
INFORMATION RESOURCES

1 General
3 Classification schedules. Subject headings
5 Manuals
7 On-line resources
10 Research Services
15 Bibliographies

20 ENCYCLOPEDIAS. DICTIONARIES. GLOSSARIES. DIRECTORIES

30 ORGANIZATIONS

GENERAL WORKS

40 Comprehensive treatises
42 Outlines. Syllabi. Charts
44 Partial works, treating two or more subdivisions of the general subject
46 Essays. Addresses. Lectures. Conference proceedings
48 General collections of material in special forms
50 General collections of books and pamphlets (unique collections)
52 Terms and phrases. Quotations
54 Competitions
60 Biographies
70 Humor
75 Planning in literature

100 THEORY

HISTORY

200 Comprehensive. General
205 Preclassic
207 Medieval and Renaissance
209 Baroque

HISTORY (cont.)

211 Modern
 .1 18th century
 .2 19th century
 .3 20th century
 .4 21st century
 Movements
  .1 Garden City
  .2 City Beautiful
  .3 Neo-traditional planning

PLANNING LAW

300 General
301 Federal
  .1 General
  .2 Constitutional law (*takings issue, property rights...*)
  .3 Statutes
305 State
  .1 General
  .2 Enabling legislation
  .3 Statutes
310 Model laws
315 Municipal
  .1 General
  .2 Building codes
  .3 Land acquisition
  .4 Nuisance control
  .5 Sign ordinances
  .6 Subdivision ordinances
  .7 Unified development ordinances
  .8 Zoning ordinances
  .9 Property maintenance codes

PLANNING OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

400 General

FEDERAL PLANNING

420 General

STATE PLANNING (*cutter by state, then author*)

440 General

REGIONAL PLANNING (*cutter by region, then author*)
RURAL PLANNING

478 General (small towns, etc.)

MUNICIPAL PLANNING (cutter by city, then author)

480 General
485 Area
  .1 Neighborhood
487 Comprehensive
489 Strategic

PLANNING EDUCATION

600 General
610 Methods
611 Schools
  .1 Graduate
  .2 Undergraduate
612 Subject Matter
  .1 Theory
  .2 Practice
613 Continuing education
614 Planning and children

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

700 General
705 Advocacy planning
706 Public sector planning
707 Private sector planning
710 Ethics
  .1 Codes
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**PLANNING AGENCY AND FIRM MANAGEMENT**

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**PLANNING ADMINISTRATION**

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<td>Planning commissions</td>
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<td>Public hearings</td>
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<td>Zoning administration and enforcement</td>
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**PLANNING METHODOLOGY**

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<td>Impact assessments</td>
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<td>Land cover classification</td>
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<td>Projections and forecasts</td>
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<td>Statistical methods</td>
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<td>Surveys of conditions</td>
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<td>Models and modeling</td>
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**URBAN SOCIOLOGY**

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<td>1105</td>
<td>Quality of life (amenities, art in public places, livable cities, indicators...)</td>
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**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT

CONTROVERSIAL LAND USES (LULUs & NIMBYs)

POPULATION

GOVERNMENT FINANCE
.1 CDBG/Community Development Block Grants
.2 UDAG/Urban Development Action Grants
.3 Private
.4 State grants
.5 Federal grants

1625 Loans
1627 Municipally owned property
1628 Non-taxing authorities
1630 Public utilities (income)
1635 Special assessment districts
1637 Tax base sharing
1639 Taxation
1640 Taxing authorities
1642 User fees

ECONOMIC AND PUBLIC POLICY

1700 General
1705 Urban policy
1707 Employment
  .1 Forecasting
  .2 Restructuring
1710 Privatization

REDEVELOPMENT

1740 General
1745 Commercial
1747 Gentrification
1749 Industrial
  .1 Brownfields
1755 Residential

REDEVELOPMENT (cont.)

1756 Special districts
  .1 Central business districts
  .2 Military installations
  .3 Main Street
  .4 Neighborhoods
  .5 Waterfronts
  .6 Shopping Centers
1757 Suburbs
1758 Vacant land
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1775 General
1780 Community Development Corporations
1782 Enterprise and empowerment zones
1784 Plans
1786 Trends in economic development (*gambling, prisons, landfills, business incubators*)
1788 Techniques
   .1 Public/private partnerships
   .2 Tax incentives
1790 Rural
1795 Tourism planning

GROWTH MANAGEMENT
(Under this subject are found monographs and articles on the concept of growth management and on planning techniques used only in growth management.)

1800 General
1805 Adequate public facilities
1807 Urban growth boundaries
1809 Urban services districts
1810 Transfer of development rights

INSTITUTIONAL DISTRICTS

1900 Cultural
1902 Educational
1904 Medical
1910 Non-locally controlled land
1912 Municipal
1914 Special government functions

INSTITUTIONAL USES
(The following are examples of uses or divisions that may be found in this category; in the APA Library they are subject headings used for Vertical File material)

1950 Colleges and universities
1952 Community centers
1954 Convention centers
1956 Correctional facilities
1958 Fire stations
1960 Hospitals and clinics
1962 Military installations
1964 Government buildings
1966  Museums
1968  Police stations
1970  Religious
1972  Schools

COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS

2000  Central business districts
2002  Commercial strip development
2004  Entertainment districts
2006  Financial districts
2008  Neighborhood commercial districts
2010  Office districts
2012  Office parks
2014  Retail districts
2016  Tourist districts
2018  Wholesale districts

COMMERCIAL USES
(The following are examples of uses or divisions that may be used in this category; in the APA Library they are subject headings used for Vertical File material)

2130  General
2132  Adult entertainment
2134  ATM machines
2136  Auditoria and stadia
2138  Auto-related businesses
2140  Bed and breakfast inns
2142  Convenience stores
2144  Day care
2146  Diaper services
2148  Dry cleaning businesses
2150  Fortune tellers

COMMERCIAL USES (cont.)

2152  Gun shops
2154  Hotels and motels
2156  Indoor amusements
2158  Storage yards
2160  Liquor outlets
2162  Micro-breweries
2164  Mini-warehouses
2166  Newspaper vending machines
2168  Outdoor amusements
2170  Pawn shops
2172  Private clubs
2174 Restaurants
2176 Service stations
2178 Shopping centers
2180 Supermarkets
2182 Tattoo parlors
2184 Temporary sales

INDUSTRIAL DISTRICTS

2300 General
2304 Heavy industry
2305 Light industry
2310 Performance standards

INDUSTRIAL USES

(The following are examples of uses or divisions that may be used in this category; in the APA Library they are subject headings used for Vertical File material)

2330 Extractive industry
2332 Hazardous materials
2334 High tech
2336 Junk yards
2338 Manufacturing
2340 Research parks
2342 Slaughterhouses. Other noxious uses
2344 Warehouses

RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS

2400 General
2405 Gated communities
2407 Community associations
2409 Multi-family
2411 Single-family
2413 Mobile home parks
2415 Retirement communities

RESIDENTIAL USES

(The following are types of uses or divisions that may be used in this category)
2440 Alternative housing
2442 Group homes
2444 Home occupations *(telecommuting...)*
2446 Accessory housing
2448 Housing for the elderly and handicapped
2450 Manufactured housing
2452 Public housing
2454 SROs
2456 Temporary housing
2460 Vacation housing

HOUSING
(This subject focuses on policy and research issues; design and structural issues are covered in Library of Congress NA7000)

2500 General
2505 Societies. Exhibitions. Congresses
2510 Affordability
  .1 Employee housing
  .2 Private initiatives
  .3 Land acquisition
  .4 Low-income housing
  .5 Middle-income housing
  .6 Mortgages
  .7 Programs
  .8 Self-help
  .9 Subsidies
  .10 Taxation. Tax exemption
2520 History
2522 Housing supply

HOUSING (cont.)
2526 Legislation
  .1 Federal
  .2 State
  .3 Municipal
  .4 Court decisions
2530 Administration *(housing authorities)*
  .1 Federal
  .2 State
  .3 Regional
  .4 Municipal
  .5 Rural
Management of individual projects

P 2535 Plans
   .1 Comprehensive
   .2 Strategic
   .3 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy/CHAS
   .4 Consolidated plans

Research

AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS

P 2600 General
P 2610 Preservation

AGRICULTURAL USES

(The following are examples of uses or divisions that may be used in this category; in the APA Library they are subject headings used for Vertical File material)

P 2650 Crop
P 2652 Dairy
P 2654 Feedlots
P 2656 Livestock
P 2660 Nurseries
P 2662 Orchards and vineyards
P 2664 Produce
P 2666 Roadside stands
P 2668 Wineries
P 2675 Tree farms

OPEN SPACE

P 3000 General
P 3001 Cemeteries
P 3002 Historical open space
P 3004 Land trusts
P 3006 Preservation
P 3008 Regional open space systems
P 3010 Urban (public spaces...)

OPEN SPACE DISTRICTS
3100 General
3110 Preserves

**PARKS AND RECREATION**

3200 General
3203 Planning
3205 Management
3210 Memorial

**PARK AND RECREATIONAL USES**
*(The following are types of uses or divisions that may be used in this category)*

3300 Campgrounds
3302 Facilities
3304 Golf courses
3306 Gardens
3308 Playgrounds
3310 RV parks
3312 Trails *(greenways...)*

**MIXED USE**

3500 General
3505 Districts
3510 Transit-oriented development

**TRANSPORTATION**

4000 General
4003 Access management
4005 Capacity expansion
4007 Demand management
4008 Environmental aspects
4010 Historic
4012 Legislation
4014 Commuting
4020 Multi-modal issues *(ISTEA...)*
4022 Traffic impact analysis
4026 Trip generation
4028 Corridors
STREETS

4100 General
4105 Bridges and tunnels
4106 Finance
4107 Special streets and uses
4109 Street naming and numbering
4115 Street design
   .1 Standards
   .2 Hierarchy
   .3 Traffic calming

HIGHWAYS

4200 General
4205 Bridges and tunnels
4207 Design
4210 Finance
4212 Freight

NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION

4300 Sidewalks and pedestrian systems
4305 Bike paths
4310 Alternative modes of commuting
4315 Finance

TRANSIT

4400 General
4403 Bus
4405 Finance
4410 Heavy rail
4415 Light rail
4420 Other
4425 Stations
   .1 Joint development

RAILROADS

4500 General
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<td>4505</td>
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<tr>
<td>4510</td>
<td>Finance</td>
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<tr>
<td>4515</td>
<td>Freight</td>
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<tr>
<td>4520</td>
<td>Passenger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4525</td>
<td>Rights-of-way</td>
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<tr>
<td>4530</td>
<td>Stations</td>
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**WATERWAYS**

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<td>General</td>
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<td>4605</td>
<td>Bays. Harbors. Basins</td>
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<td>4610</td>
<td>Finance</td>
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<tr>
<td>4615</td>
<td>Ports</td>
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<tr>
<td>.1</td>
<td>Freight</td>
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<td>.2</td>
<td>Passenger</td>
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<tr>
<td>4620</td>
<td>Rivers and canals</td>
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<td>4625</td>
<td>Lakes and ponds</td>
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**AIRPORTS**

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<td>Noise</td>
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**PARKING**

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<td>4805</td>
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<td>Off-street</td>
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**UTILITIES**

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Natural gas
Nuclear
Steam
Alternative

Solid waste management
General
Hazardous waste disposal
Landfills
Recycling

Waste water management
Sewage treatment
Stormwater management

Water supply and distribution

Telecommunications
Airwaves
Cable
Satellite

Rights-of-way

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

General
Archaeology
Buildings
Districts
Cultural landscapes (battlefields...)
Commissions and boards
Finance

Law
Planning

STRUCTURES

Abandoned buildings
Adaptive re-use

SITE PLANNING
(The following are types of uses or subdivisions that may be used in this category; in the APA Library they are subject headings in the Vertical File)

General
Buffering and screening
BUILT ENVIRONMENT/URBAN DESIGN

5300 General
5305 Urban form
  .1 Sprawl
5307 Climate influenced form
5310 Edge cities
5312 Megalopolis
5313 Utopias
5314 Gateways
5320 View sheds
5330 Crime prevention
5335 Suburbs
5340 New towns/planned communities

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

6000 General (*critical area plans, policy...*)
6001 Relation to built environment
  .1 Scenic resources
6004 Environmental impact assessment
  .1 Indicators
6005 Air quality
6010 Carrying capacity
6015 Floodplains
6020 Hazard mitigation
  .1 Man-made hazards
  .2 Natural hazards
6030 Hillsides
6035 Legislation
  .1 Federal
  .2 State
.3 Municipal
6040 Shoreland protection
6045 Species protection (*biodiversity*)
   .1 Habitat protection
6050 Sustainability
   .1 Environmental
   .2 Development/Sustainable communities
6052 Environmental ethics (*environmental justice...*)
6055 Urban forestry
6060 Water Resources
   .1 Groundwater
   .2 Surface water
   .3 Wetlands
6065 Watersheds

PUBLIC HEALTH AND PLANNING

7000 General
7010 Universal design
7100 Food systems planning