**Thema version 1.4 Worked Examples**

This document contains some worked examples of ways of using Thema. The principles apply to all versions of Thema but some of the examples use codes that were added to or modified for the latest version 1.4. These examples are meant to illustrate how to use Thema, and they complement the other documents available via the EDItEUR website [https://www.editeur.org/151/thema/](https://www.editeur.org/151/thema/).

If you’re new to Thema, read the **Basic Instructions** first. The **Using Thema and Onix together** document also has a series of questions and answers that cover integrating Thema within a broader metadata context.

The multilingual online browser for Thema can be found at [https://ns.editeur.org/thema/](https://ns.editeur.org/thema/). You can look up all the codes shown in these examples and review the headings in multiple languages. It’s one of the best ways to search for different subjects – the search is flexible as it looks at the codes, headings, notes and other text in the scheme.

When categorising titles using Thema, it’s helpful to remember the six golden rules:

1. Ensure the first category is the primary subject
2. Classify as precisely as appropriate – not necessarily as precisely as possible
3. Assign as many categories as required
4. Observe the usage notes for each category
5. Add qualifiers wherever appropriate
6. Consider context

If you have further questions about Thema, you want to ask about the right categories for a particular title, or you want to share a worked example with others for their comments or feedback, then we recommend that you join the Thema implementors mailing list via [https://www.editeur.org/153/maintenance-and-support/#mailingList](https://www.editeur.org/153/maintenance-and-support/#mailingList).

In the examples shown throughout this document, the first Thema code is the primary or main subject code. The codes shown are suggestions to illustrate how to use Thema, but the examples are intended to spark discussion rather than being authoritative statements of the correct way to categorise the particular books listed. Any ONIX sample shown is ONIX 3.0, but the principles are the same for ONIX 2.1 or if you are sending your book metadata via spreadsheet or inputting directly into a web-based interface. At the foot of each page is an indication of which of the areas of Thema are covered by that example and an index of these on the final page.

Chris Saynor

EDItEUR

14th July 2018

Revised 26th June 2020
Example 1: *Europe: A History* by Norman Davies

If a title fits exactly into a single core subject, then that single code is enough, and no other need be added. There is no ideal number of codes. This title, for example, covers a broad range of historical topics within its narrative, and the use of the NHD code on its own implies that the book covers the whole sweep of European history. There is no need to add any extra Thema subject codes here as this single code covers the topic. More details of the topics would be sent in the table of contents, the description and keywords.

The only other code that should be added is a place qualifier for Europe, 1D, which would confirm the topic covered is the whole of Europe and not just part of Europe. This would also allow those receiving the Thema codes to create links and possibly show lists of titles about Europe across many subjects (travel, politics, fiction, travel literature, etc) as well as history. There’s no need to add a time period qualifier, as the title covers the broad sweep of history – but if you did, you would need to add 3B – Prehistory, 3C – BCE period – Protohistory, 3K – CE period up to c 1500 and 3M – c 1500 onwards to present day.

*Thema* example codes used from:
N – History and Archaeology  1 – Place qualifiers  3 – Time period qualifiers
Example 2: *Prague in Black and Gold: The History of a City*
by Peter Demetz

This title is also a broad, general history of one city that covers the whole of its existence, so this title needs just one subject code, **NHD – European History**. However, in this example it must have the place qualifier for Prague as well – **1DTJ-CZ-A**. The two together give all the detail needed as it is from the *combination* of the two codes that the meaning arises in *Thema*.

Someone who received this title, with these *Thema* codes, would know it would go in a European history section but also that it specifically concerns Prague. If the receiver did not want detail to the level of the city, and was only concerned with the country, they could truncate the Prague code to its root by removing the national extension (the part after the first hyphen in 1DTJ-CZ-A) and know that it is a title about **Czechia – 1DTJ** and could class it in a History of Europe – Czechia section.

It could be valuable to add time period qualifiers to this title, but they would have to be broad **3K – CE period up to c 1500** and **3M – c 1500 onwards to present day**, as the title covers a period from about the 7th century to the present day.

*Thema* example codes used from:
N – History and Archaeology 1 – Place qualifiers 3 – Time period qualifiers
Example 3: 1822 by Laurentino Gomes

This is a history of the events of a particular year that led to Brazil’s independence. In Thema you build up this meaning with the code NHK – History of the Americas as the main subject plus 1KLSB – Brazil as the place qualifier. The two codes give us the ‘History of Brazil’ concept. To this we can add more detail by adding a second history code to specify the main subject, in this case NHTR – National liberation and independence. The other important code to add here is a time period qualifier 3MNBH – c 1820 to c 1829, as this title covers a narrowly defined period of history.

Thema example codes used from:
N – History and Archaeology 1 – Place qualifiers 3 – Time period qualifiers
Example 4: The Sami Peoples of the North: A Social and Cultural History by Neil Kent

In this example, the qualifiers and other subject codes are very important to give precision to what kind of NHTB – Social and Cultural History this title is. Social and cultural history is a broad topic that usually will need a second code to refine it. The addition of the code JBSL11 – Indigenous peoples indicates that the major theme of the book concerns an indigenous people. This title could also have the NHD – European History code as well.

1QFL is the place qualifier code for the area known as Sapmi but this could be complemented by the place qualifier codes for Scandinavia & North western Russia, the areas covered by Sapmi. The second qualifier is 5PBS – Relating to Sami people, this qualifier indicates that the book is about or of interest to this particular group.

Thema example codes used from:

J – Society and Social Sciences  N – History and Archaeology  1 – Place qualifiers
5 – Interest qualifiers
Example 5: *Mathematics: A Complete Introduction* by Hugh Neill & Trevor Johnson (*Teach Yourself Series*)

If a title is broad-ranging in its scope within a single subject area, use a single broad category, rather than listing all the more specific categories listed beneath it. So, this title only needs the code for *Mathematics* – PB and does not, for example, need the code for *Differential calculus and equations* – PBKJ, even though this may be one of the topics covered in the book. Data recipients need to know this is a general and comprehensive introduction, not a collection of in-depth studies that don’t cover the whole subject, so what’s needed is the general code for mathematics. Other information such as the content details could be given by sending the table of contents and some well-chosen keywords.

*Thema* example codes used from:
P – [Mathematics and Science](#)
Example 6: *Differential Equations for Dummies* by Steven Holzner

In contrast to example 5, this title is solely concerned with a specific topic defined by a single category, at a more detailed level of the hierarchy. It doesn’t cover ‘maths’ – it covers ‘a small part of maths’, so you would use the more precise subject code only. In this example there is no need for the code for Mathematics – PB, as this is implicit in the specific code for Differential calculus and equations – PBKJ. You should not send both a detailed code and its ‘parent’ or ‘grandparent’, as the more general subject is always implicit in the more specific code. A data recipient for this title knows, from the structure of the code, that it is a mathematics book.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notation</th>
<th>Category heading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>Mathematics &amp; Science...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PB</td>
<td>Mathematics...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PBK</td>
<td>Calculus &amp; mathematical analysis...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PBKJ</td>
<td>Differential calculus &amp; equations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Thema* example codes used from:

P – [Mathematics and Science](#)
Example 7: *The Story of Spanish* by Jean-Benoit Nadeau and Julie Barlow

For this title, there’s a code for history of language, **CBX**, so you would not need a code from the **NH* – History** section here. The important thing here is to use a language qualifier. The **2* language** qualifiers are to indicate that the subject of the book is Spanish. The fact that title is published in English is conveyed elsewhere, for example in your ONIX **<Language>** data. You use the ONIX language composite to indicate what language the book is in, while **Thema** indicates what it is about. The two together are important, especially as the English book cover features a Spanish version of the title which may confuse a potential buyer.

**Thema** example codes used from:

C – [Language and Linguistics](#)  2 – [Language qualifiers](#)
Example 8: Gramática de uso del español by Luis Aragones and Ramón Palencia

For methods for learning a second language aimed at adults, there are a whole set of codes starting with CJ*. Again, the use of the language qualifier in Thema is vital. In this example, a book aimed at anyone learning Spanish as a second language that is entirely written in Spanish, would have the Thema code for Spanish (the subject of the book) and an ONIX code for Spanish (the language of the content). The information is given further definition in Thema using an educational purpose qualifier 4LZ in this case to say it is for non-native language learning, plus the qualifier 4TYL that indicates it is a title suitable for self-study for a more advanced level.

Detailed information about that level should be sent in ONIX indicating the CEFR levels of language competency (code 23 from list 29 sent in the Audience composite).

*Thema* example codes used from:

C – Language and Linguistics  2 – Language qualifiers  4 – Educational purpose qualifiers
Example 9: ¡Ponte al día! by Shelley Martinez

This is another Spanish language learning title, but it is a school textbook for secondary level pupils taking the CSEC exam in the Caribbean. For all primary and secondary level education books, you would use a YP* code. Again, the language qualifier is vital and this time there are three educational purpose qualifiers that can be added. 4CL, to indicate it is for secondary education, 4TC to indicate it’s a textbook and finally a national extension qualifier that specifically states it is for educational curricula in the Caribbean 4Z-CB-CD. This final qualifier can be complemented in ONIX with information about the official exam body (CXC) and the exam (CSEC).

Thema example codes used from:
Y – Children’s, Teenage & Educational
2 – Language qualifiers
4 – Educational purpose qualifiers
Example 10: *Latin American Spanish Phrasebook*

This title fits into a single subject category: **WTK – Language Phrasebooks** would be more appropriate than **CJ – Language teaching & learning** – but again it needs to be sent with a Thema language qualifier to indicate the subject language (in this case, Latin-American Spanish). To indicate what language the book is in, you would use ONIX (see the sample) or another method of sending book metadata. In this example, there is also a place qualifier to indicate that the title concerns a region as well as the language, and if the book were a phrasebook for specifically Mexican Spanish rather than the more general Latin-American Spanish, a more detailed place qualifier might be added (*1KLCM – Mexico*). In effect, the place qualifier is applied to both the subject code and the language qualifier. The use of the place qualifier would allow a data recipient to display the title with (for example) holiday guides about the same region, or to allow cross-referencing or filtered searches for books about the same area.

*Thema* example codes used from:

- **W** – *Lifestyle, Hobbies & Leisure*  
- **1** – *Place qualifiers*  
- **2** – *Language qualifiers*
Example 11: *Mexican Spanish Phrasebook and Dictionary*

As with the previous example, this title fits into the single subject category **WTK – Language Phrasebooks** and again needs the language qualifier to indicate what language the title is about. Again, this is **2ADSL – Latin-American Spanish**. But this title concerns a regional variation of Latin American Spanish, so the place qualifier **1KLCM – Mexico** is vital here.

Again, the language the book is *in* is sent via ONIX, so in this case English and Spanish as there is a bilingual dictionary included in this title.

*Thema* example codes used from:
- **W** – Lifestyle, Hobbies & Leisure
- **1** – Place qualifiers
- **2** – Language qualifiers
Example 12: Aconcagua and the Southern Andes by Jim Ryan

The primary code WTHE indicates this is a travel guide and the two other codes SZG & SZC indicate what type of active holiday the guide refers to.

With travel guides, place qualifiers are vital. This one has a code for the Aconcagua mountain 1KLSA-AR-CAM. With this code, you don’t need to send a code for Argentina, as it’s part of the makeup of the Aconcagua code itself (see the image of the hierarchy from the online browser). This is the difference between using the Thema code for Aconcagua and ‘Aconcagua’ as a keyword: the former carries additional meaning, because it forms part of a hierarchy.

If a data receiver did not want this level of detail they could truncate the code back to its root, for example 1KLSA – Argentina. The Andes mountains as a whole have a separate code as this is a geographical feature that is a subset of Latin America (the mountains are bigger than any one country).

Thema example codes used from:
S – Sports & Active outdoor recreation  W – Lifestyle, Hobbies & Leisure  1 – Place qualifiers
Example 13: *The Way of Saint James: France* by Alison Raju

This is a travel guide to a long-distance footpath. There’s a *Thema* code for this type of guide *WTHW*, but it needs to be accompanied by another code to say what kind of long distance route it is (cycling, walking, boating etc). The Way of Saint James is also a pilgrim route for some who use it, so the addition of *QRVP1* allows for the title to be categorised in this section as well. The guide covers the route through three French regions, so the three place qualifiers provide this detail.

*Thema* example codes used from:

- **Q** – Philosophy and Religion
- **W** – Lifestyle, Hobbies & Leisure
- **S** – Sports & Active outdoor recreation
- **1** – Place qualifiers
Example 14: Top 10 Cancún and the Yucatán

For this book, the travel guide code needs place qualifier. However, you don’t need to add Thema codes for all the places covered by the guidebook, even though there are individual codes for most of them. You can use the regional code for the whole of the Yucatán peninsula, and perhaps the code for the main destination Cancun. Adding all the place qualifier codes for every place that has a chapter might be too much. You could send the place names as key words (there is a specific code for place names as keywords) and / or in the table of contents

Thema example codes used from:
W – Lifestyle, Hobbies & Leisure
1 – Place qualifiers
Example 15: *Elizabeth I* by Anne Somerset

This is a biography and not just an examination of the history of the period so **DNBH** should be used as a main subject code. You could also add **DNBR** as this is a biography of a monarch, but the historical should be the main code. As with all the biography /autobiography codes in *Thema*, you need to find the most appropriate **DNB** code and then add a secondary subject code to give clarification where necessary. So, the addition of a history code (**NHD**) informs that this is an historical biography concerning European History. The place (**1DDU-GB-E**) and time period (**3MD-GB-GE**) qualifiers give further detail. The time period qualifier is a national extension (though it doesn’t mean it can only be applied in the UK). These national extension time period qualifiers are often very specific periods with particular historical importance.

The information in *Thema* should be complemented using the `<NameAsSubject>` composite in ONIX. This allows you to send the name(s) of the main subject of a book plus an identifier such as the ISNI, which increases the possibilities of linking this title with other books, articles, websites and so on about Elizabeth I.

*Thema* example codes used from:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>D</th>
<th>Biography, Literature &amp; Literary studies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Place qualifiers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>History and Archaeology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Time period qualifiers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Example 16: Wolf Hall by Hilary Mantel

Thema codes can be used with any format. This historical novel in audiobook format is classified as modern fiction, as you would expect to find it in a general fiction section as well as the historical fiction section. As an historical novel, the addition of the place and time qualifiers gives a notion of where and when the action of the story happens. Instead of the broad Tudor period, you could also use 3MDBH – c 1520 to c 1529 and 3MDBJ – c 1530 to c 1539 as the novel is specifically set in the middle Tudor period between 1521 and 1535. Time period qualifiers give extra detail and allow for cross referencing with other historical novels that take place in the same period or history books.

Using the qualifier gives the retailer or data receiver the opportunity to create multi-criteria or faceted searches, more flexible voice searches, interest lists etc without having the basic ‘History: England: Tudors’ section displaying non-history books.

Thema example codes used from:
F – Fiction and Related items  1 – Place qualifiers  3 – Time period qualifiers
Example 17: *Promised Land* by Anthony Clavane

**FG – Sports Fiction**

**SFBC – Association football (Soccer)**

**1DDU-GB-EYKL – Leeds, Bradford**

*Thema* has various categories in Fiction that give a good level of detail about particular genres. For some, it’s also useful to add a non-fiction code to give the extra information. This particular title is a novel with the main plot centred around football (soccer), and it’s set in the city of Leeds in the north of England. The main subject will be the **FG – Sports Fiction** code. Along with this, there should be a code to indicate which sport is the theme of the story, in this case **SFBC – Association Football**. Since the setting is very important to the tale, you would also add the place identifier **1DDU-GB-EYKL** for Leeds. The place qualifier also allows for the creation of things such as local interest lists which can be useful for marketing and discoverability purposes.

In the example above, using a non-fiction code with a fiction title, the **F** code must always be the main or primary subject code.

*Thema* example codes used from:

**F – Fiction and Related items**  **S – Sports & Active outdoor recreation**  **1 – Place qualifiers**
Example 18: *The Drowned World* by J.G. Ballard

*Thema* has a series of codes within the Fiction section labelled Narrative themes. These are to allow for highlighting and possible grouping of major conceptual themes that dominate a novel. They’re not meant to be used as the main subject, but act as a sort of qualifier to the fiction codes. In this example of a classic science fiction novel - **FLC**, a dominating theme is an environmental one (alongside societal and psychological breakdown in a post-apocalyptic world - **FLQ**), so it should be assigned the narrative theme code **FXE**. This can be further refined by adding a non-fiction code to indicate what the particular environmental issue is, in this case climate change - **RNPG**. The story is set in a future London, so the place qualifier can indicate this.

*Thema* example codes used from:

F – [Fiction and Related items](#)
R – [Earth Sciences, Geography, Environment, Planning](#)
1 – [Place qualifiers](#)
Example 19: *The Dispossessed* by Ursula Le Guin

Like the previous example, this is another classic science fiction novel that would also sit well in a section on utopian fiction, hence the second code FDB. But it has a quite different narrative theme around different political systems - FXP. Here, it is probably better to complement the FXP code by adding a list of keywords rather than adding all the relevant political codes from Thema, as the story refers to various political systems in the narrative. While there are Thema codes for the different political systems none of the mentioned ones dominate the narrative so adding all of them as codes would possibly add too many codes to this title. The detail of the narrative would be included in a good description as well as the keywords.

*Thema* example codes used from:
F – [Fiction and Related items](#)
Example 20: *The Atlas of Tolkien’s Middle-Earth*

Along with its range of fiction codes, *Thema* has a one code **FZ** to indicate titles that are ‘companions’ to fiction series. These tend to be books that are non-critical and that would usually be shelved with the books from the particular series. In this particular example, it is an atlas of the different places in Tolkien’s books. The main subject code is **FZ** to indicate that it is a companion work and not an actual story. This is accompanied by the **FMB** code to indicate what kind of fiction genre this work is a companion to, in this case epic fantasy.

The addition of **NHTP1 – Historical maps & atlases** is optional but could be added as this is a title with maps of the imagined geography and history of the setting. The primary code indicates clearly that it’s fiction, so it should not be confused with atlases and maps of real places where the primary code would be **NHTP1**.

The added keywords (in ONIX) can aid discoverability.

*Thema* example codes used from:

F – Fiction and Related items  N – History and Archaeology
Example 21: The Time Machine by H.G. Wells

A classic science fiction novel that features time travel as its main theme. The main category code marks its status as ‘classic’, and adding the second code FLG – Time travel allows this title to be categorised in either section or for someone who receives this data to use this as a second way of discovering the title.

Thema example codes used from:
F – Fiction and Related items
Example 22: *The Mammoth Book of Time Travel SF*

![The Mammoth Book of Time Travel SF](image)

**FLG – Science Fiction: Time Travel**

**FYB – Short Stories**

This title can fit clearly into one single code **FLG – Science Fiction: Time Travel** but *Thema* also has a set of ‘special features’ codes for Fiction. In the case of this title, a collection of short stories, you can add the **FYB – Short Stories** special features code. Like narrative themes, special features codes act like qualifiers. They’re are not meant to be used as main subject codes, but they do give extra detail that can increase discoverability.

*Thema* example codes used from:

F – [Fiction and Related items](#)
Example 23: *The Time Traveler’s Wife* by Audrey Niffenegger

Another time travel novel, but one wherein time travel is used simply as a plot device rather than as the central theme. It is primarily a contemporary novel rather than genre science fiction, so FBA should be the main subject. The primary theme of the novel is about a relationship, so FXD is a good one to add as this narrative theme is used to highlight novels, outside the romance genre, that have relationships or love as their principle theme.

The FLG – *Time Travel* code should be included, but it shouldn’t be the main or primary subject code.

*Thema* example codes used from:

F – *Fiction and Related items*
Example 24: *Outlander* by Diana Gabaldon

This series of books is primarily in the romance genre, but a main theme is time slip / time travel. The main subject code should be FRU – Romance: time travel. You would not use the FLG – Time travel code as this title is recognisably in the romance genre and not a science fiction novel. It is also an historical romance, so FRH – Historical Romance should be the second code. In addition, you can add the place qualifier to indicate the setting 1DDU-GB-SH – Northern Scotland, Highlands & Islands. since there is an established demand for ‘Caledonian’ romances. The other useful codes are the time period qualifiers for the two periods in history in which the action of the story is set.

*Thema* example codes used from:
F – Fiction and Related items 1 – Place qualifiers 3 – Time period qualifiers
Example 25: *King of Shadows* by Susan Cooper

This is a children’s title that also features the theme of time slip, although the main genre of this story is historical, so the main code should be **YFT – Children’s / Teenage fiction: Historical fiction**. There is a children’s code for Time travel – **YNTT**. With this story we can also add a place qualifier, as the story takes place in London, and we can add the two time periods featured. As with all Y* codes, it needs an indication of interest age, so in this case **5AJ – Interest age: from c 8 years**. Finally, on this example we can add a national extension qualifier for ‘Shakespeare’. This is Shakespeare as a subject, a very common topic, in the UK and this title could be added to a general ‘Shakespeare’ section in a bookshop.

If a data receiver wanted to create a comprehensive list of titles featuring time travel, the different adult and children’s codes would allow this while maintaining options to refilter the titles.

*Thema* example codes used from:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Y – Children’s, Teenage &amp; Educational</th>
<th>1 – Place qualifiers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 – Time period qualifiers</td>
<td>5 – Interest qualifiers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Example 26: *I heart Christmas* by Lindsey Kelk

This title fits into the **FRD – Contemporary lifestyle fiction** category. This is a code where you may want to check the note that goes with it: “Class here: ‘chick lit’, ‘lad lit’, ‘romantic comedy’, ‘feel good’ fiction. Use for: stories set in the present day or contemporary settings, dealing with everyday themes or lifestyles, usually in a light-hearted manner”. The note gives the extra detail to help you decide if this is the right category. This novel takes place in New York City, so add the location with a place qualifier **1KBB-US-NAKC**. A major theme of this story is Christmas, so the qualifier **5HPD – Christmas** should also be added. This, like other qualifiers in 5H*, allows you to indicate when a specific theme of a book or its subject is a particular holiday, festival or season. You would not use it simply for books intended to feature in a Christmas gift promotion, for example (ask yourself, ‘would this also be suitable for a Birthday gift promotion?’ If so, it’s not specific to Christmas).

This title also illustrates that subject codes are independent of format, so the same codes should be applied across the different formats of the same title.

*Thema* example codes used from:
F – *Fiction and Related items*   1 – *Place qualifiers*   5 – *Interest qualifiers*
Example 27: *Mary Cassatt, Painter of Modern Women*  
by Griselda Pollock

The main category here should be **AGB – Individual artists, art monographs** as this title is an exploration of the work of one painter. She’s an artist from the past, so you could add **AGA – History of Art**. Mary Cassatt was a painter rather than any other type of artist, so also use **AFC – Painting & paintings**. To define what period in the history of art, use a time period qualifier, in this case the fairly broad **3MNQ – Later 19th century, c 1850 to c 1899**. You should also add a *Thema* style qualifier to indicate what movement is covered by this particular title. In this case **6JA – Impressionism**.

A good way to complement the *Thema* codes for monographs about individual artists is to send the `<NameAsSubject>` composite in ONIX. This allows you to clearly state the name of the subject of this title. This information can be enhanced by adding an identifier like the ISNI to increase the discoverability and cross referencing of the title.

*Thema* example codes used from:

A – the Arts  
3 – Time period qualifiers  
6 – Style qualifiers
Example 28: The Cambridge Companion to Black Theology

In the religion section, meaning is built up by combining codes about the main subject with codes about the religion concerned. This title is an academic study of one branch of Christian Theology, so the main code would be an QRM – Christianity to indicate the religion covered, and QRVG – Theology as a second code to indicate the topic covered. As a supplement to these two codes, QDHP – African Philosophy as Black theology is linked closely to this school of philosophy. The addition of the interest qualifier SPBD – Relating to Peoples of African descent highlights the fact that this title relates to a specific group and makes the title more discoverable for those looking for titles that may be of interest to or relating to these groups.

Thema example codes used from:
J – Society and Social Sciences          Q – Philosophy and Religion
Example 29: The Sagas of Icelanders

This is a collected volume of different Icelandic sagas. There’s a code specifically for these stories, **DBSN – Icelandic & Old Norse sagas**. But they are also mostly about historical events, so adding a history code would not be inappropriate, in this case to indicate that the events depicted in the sagas took place in the Viking period. **NHDE – European history: the Vikings**. The main narratives take place in Iceland and Norway, so these can be added as place qualifiers. The time period qualifiers identify the period when the events described in the Sagas took place, and not when they were written down (13th and 14th centuries). The ONIX <Language> composite indicates these were translated from the Old Norse.

**Thema example codes used from:**

D – **Biography, Literature & Literary studies**  
1 – **Place qualifiers**  
N – **History and Archaeology**  
3 – **Time period qualifiers**
Example 30: *Italian Literature, a Very Short Introduction*
by Peter Hansworth & David Roby

This book is an introduction to the literature of Italy and literature originally written in Italian. The subject code is **DS – Literature: history & criticism**. To qualify this code, we can add the place qualifier for Italy **1DST**, as the subject of the book is the literature of Italy. We also can add the language qualifier for Italian **2ADT**, as the subject of the book is also literature written in Italian. This language qualifier is what the book is about, it is complemented in the ONIX file with a qualifier to show what language the title is in (eng = English).

*Thema* example codes used from:

D – [Biography, Literature & Literary studies](#)  1 – [Place qualifiers](#)  2 – [Language qualifiers](#)
Example 31: *A Woman Alone & Other Plays* by Franca Rame and Dario Fo

This title is an anthology of plays by two important Italian playwrights. They have been translated into English. The only *Thema* code you need here is **DDC – Modern & contemporary plays (c 1900 onwards)**, as the information that the plays are in English and translated from Italian are sent in the ONIX, alongside the other details that would be used to sort or find the book (title, authors, names of the plays and so on).

It is always important to look at how other metadata complements the codes you send in *Thema*. Here, for example, the contributor information sent in ONIX is very important, as would be a table of contents which should list all the plays in the anthology.

*Thema* example codes used from:
D – **Biography, Literature & Literary studies**
Example 32: *The Leopard* by Tomasi di Lampedusa

This classic Italian novel should be categorised using **FBC – Classic fiction** and **FV – Historical fiction**. The fact that it is a novel originally written in Italian is sent in ONIX. In this example of the English translation, it is sent as the original language from which it was translated (language role code 02).

The action of the novel does take place in part of Italy, so the **1DST-IT-UL – Sicily** place qualifier should be added. We can also add a time period qualifier to indicate what time period is covered in this historical novel, and here is a national extension for the period of Italian unification covered by the action of this novel **3MNQ-IT-N**.

*Thema* example codes used from:

F – [Fiction and Related items](#)  1 – [Place qualifiers](#)  3 – [Time period qualifiers](#)
Example 33: *The Dictionary of Human Geography*

The main subject code of this title is **RGC – Human geography**. This can be refined by adding the code **GBCD – Subject dictionaries**, a code that indicates this title is a specialised subject dictionary. This particular code – **GBCD** – is usually only sent alongside another subject code as there is always a need to define the subject covered by the dictionary.

*Thema* example codes used from:
- **G** – Reference, Information & Interdisciplinary subjects
- **R** – Earth Sciences, Geography, Environment, Planning
Example 34: The Geography of Transport Systems
by Jean-Paul Rodrigue

The main subject code of this title is also **RGC – Human geography**, but this can be refined by adding the code **RPT – Transport Planning & policy**. Again, it is from the *combination* of the two codes that the meaning arises in *Thema*. With academic titles further details can be sent in the table of contents and the descriptive text. With this type of academic title, each chapter could have an individual description (using the Block 3 `<ContentItem>` composite in ONIX 3). The *Thema* codes, table of contents and descriptions can also be supplemented by a good use of keywords.

This text is also primarily aimed at a university undergraduate level, so an educational purpose qualifier should be added to flag this up. In this case the qualifier is **4CTB**.

Thema example codes used from:
**R** – Earth Sciences, Geography, Environment, Planning  **4** – Educational purpose qualifiers
Example 35: AQA GCSE Chemistry, Teacher Handbook

This is the teacher’s book for a course for teaching chemistry. The main subject code here must be JNUM – Teachers’ classroom resources and material, so that it is clear it is primarily for teachers rather than pupils. This is complemented with the Thema code for the subject from the YP* section to indicate this is a school title, YPMP3 – Educational: Chemistry. If this were the pupils’ book, then this latter code would be the primary subject code.

With school books and educational material, it’s also important to send information about educational levels, using the Thema educational purpose qualifiers. This title is meant for secondary education, so add the qualifier code 4CL to make this clear.

There are also two national extension codes specifically for the UK that indicate the educational level 4Z-GB-ACT and the exam board 4Z-GB-EA. Anyone who does not need this level of information can simply store the code as 4Z-GB- For UK educational curricula.

Thema example codes used from:
J – Society and Social Sciences
Y – Children’s, Teenage & Educational
4 – Educational purpose qualifiers
Example 36: *Oxford AQA History: France in Revolution 1774–1815*

A school textbook for the UK education system. The main subject code here has to be **YPJH – Educational: History**. The use of a **Y** code as the main subject clearly indicate this is a school book aimed at pupils, not teachers, and its primary purpose is as a school textbook and not as a book for the general reader. As this is for an advanced secondary level, as indicated by the code **4CN**, the textbook covers a very specific topic so extra detail should be given: the place qualifier **1DDF** identifies it as dealing with the history of France, and the time period qualifiers give the detail of the period covered. (Note that the book covers a wider period than the national extension **3MLQZ-FR-A – The French Revolution (c 1789 to c 1799)**, which might otherwise seem ideal.)

**4TC** identifies that this is a classroom text book for pupils and not, for example, a book of model exam papers. There are detailed UK national extensions for educational purpose indicate the level **4Z-GB-AL** and the exam board **4Z-GB-EA**. Anyone who does not need this level of information can simply store the code as **4Z-GB- For UK educational curricula**.

*Thema* example codes used from:

- **Y** – Children’s, Teenage & Educational
- **3** – Time period qualifiers
- **1** – Place qualifiers
- **4** – Educational purpose qualifiers
Example 37: BTEC Level 3 National Travel & Tourism Student Book 1

An educational title for a vocational course but aimed at secondary level education. The main subject code has to be **YPWC4 – Educational: Hospitality** to indicate this is a school book. The other *Thema* codes needed here are about educational purpose: **4Z-GB-VTA** indicates it is for a specific UK vocational exam and **Z-GB-VC** that it is for the vocational qualifications in England. **4CN** shows it is a secondary level book; **4CPC** specifies it is for a vocational rather than academic qualification; **4TC** to indicate it is a textbook or coursebook.

*Thema* example codes used from:

Y – **Children’s, Teenage & Educational**

4 – **Educational purpose qualifiers**
Example 38: Easy Learning French Ages 7–9

An educational title for language learning. As this title is meant for native English-speaking children learning French as a second language, the main subject code would be **YPCK2 – Educational: modern (non-native or second) languages: language learning**. The language information is sent using a language qualifier, in this case **2ADF – French**. The educational purpose qualifiers give the detail for the specific UK educational level the title is aimed at, **4Z-GB-ACJ**. The fact that it is aimed (mostly) at learning outside the classroom, at home as a complement to the educational curricula, is indicated using the code **4TY – For Home Learning**. The starting age band for the title is indicated with the interest age qualifier **5AH**.

*Thema* example codes used from:

- **Y** – Children’s, Teenage & Educational
- **4** – Educational purpose qualifiers
- **2** – Language qualifiers
- **5** – Interest qualifiers
Example 39: LEGO Women of Nasa – Space Heroes

This title is part of a reading scheme aimed at children and linked to a branded range of toys. The different reading levels, the name of the brand, the series, the reading age and interest age would all be sent in your ONIX metadata. In *Thema*, the main code would indicate this was part of a native language reading scheme **YPCA21**.

With a reading scheme, you need to add other codes to indicate the subject of the particular reader. In this example **YNB** as these are stories of people and **YNMF** to indicate that the book is particularly about Girls and women. **YNNZ** allows you to indicate the other main theme of the title (space). As it’s part of a reading scheme, you should send the language qualifier **2ACB** to indicate that the language concerned is English. Finally, the education purpose qualifier **4TY** indicates it is mainly for home learning and not specifically for a school curriculum.

*Thema* example codes used from:

- **Y** – Children’s, Teenage & Educational
- **2** – Language qualifiers
- **4** – Educational purpose qualifiers

YBCS – Picture Storybooks
YNB – Children’s / Teenage general interest: Biography & autobiography
YXZG – Children’s / Teenage social issues: Environment & green issues
YNMF – Children’s / Teenage general interest: Girls & women
1HFDG – Gambia
5AG – Interest age: from c 6 years

A picture book story for children about a true-life event would take as its main code YBC as a biographical book. Then add YXZG to indicate the main theme is environmental. This story can also take the code YNMF as the other main theme of the book is that it is a girl who finds a solution to the problem. Add the place qualifier 1HFDG as the setting is Gambia.

The interest age qualifier 5AG is very important with all titles aimed at young audiences, as this gives the indication of the starting age, so where it would be shelved. More detailed age range, reading age, interest age information should be included in your ONIX file.
Example 41: *Edward the Emu* by Sheena Knowles

This title is primarily a children’s fiction book that features animals, so the primary subject code is **YFP** for animal stories. It is also funny, so **YFQ** indicates it could be shelved in a humour section. Add the **YNNK** code, even if it’s a non-fiction code – in *Thema* secondary non-fiction codes can be used with fiction primary codes to indicate the topic, subject or milieu of a story – as this is primarily a story about a type of bird.

The most important Qualifiers to use with the **Y** – Children’s, Teenage & Educational codes are the **5A* – Interest age / level** codes which give an idea of the age level, at least to basic level. This book is aimed at **5AC – Interest age: from c 3 years**, and more detailed audience information can be sent in ONIX.

*Thema* example codes used from:

**Y** – Children’s, Teenage & Educational  
**1** – Place qualifiers  
**5** – Interest qualifiers
Example 42: *Anne of Green Gables* by L.M. Montgomery

This title is widely considered a classic story for children. The main subject code should be **YFA** to indicate it is classic fiction for children. One of the main narrative themes of the story is about family and finding a home, so **YFN** would be a suitable second subject code. Even though the story takes place in the early 20th century, this was contemporary to the authors lifetime, so it would not be classified as an historical novel.

The setting of the story is the Canadian Province of Prince Edward Island, so **1KBC-CA-P** indicates this. And as with all the children’s / teenage titles, it needs an interest age qualifier, in this case **5AK**.

*Thema* example codes used from:

- **Y** – *Children’s, Teenage & Educational*
- **1** – *Place qualifiers*
- **5** – *Interest qualifiers*
Example 43: *When the Moon Was Ours* by Anna-Marie McLemore

This is a novel aimed at older teenagers or young adults. It is essentially Magical Realism, so the main subject code to add is **YFHD**. It is also a story about a relationship so **YFM** is the other subject code to add. The story’s main characters are from notably diverse and mixed heritages so **YXP** flags this title as of interest to readers who are looking for books that have themes around diversity / inclusivity.

As this title is aimed at a teenage audience, the interest age qualifier to add is **5AP**. As always this is a guideline age and it gives an idea of where the title should be shelved. The title features a main character who is Latin – **5PB-US-H** – and another main character who is mixed Italian-Pakistani American – **5PB-US-D**. One of the main characters is transgender, so we can add the interest qualifier **5PT**.

*Thema* example codes used from:

**Y** – Children’s, Teenage & Educational  
**1** – Place qualifiers  
**5** – Interest qualifiers
Example 44: *All Out: The No-Longer-Secret Stories of Queer Teens Throughout the Ages* edited by Sandra Mitchell

An anthology of short stories for teenagers. The genre of these stories is \textit{YFT – Historical fiction} and the theme is \textit{YXB – social issues: LGBTQ+}. There is also a code \textit{YFU} to indicate these are short stories.

The interest qualifiers are very important here. First of all, the interest age gives the indication that it is aimed at about 14 years and older \textit{5AQ}. The two qualifiers \textit{5PS} and \textit{5PT} will allow data receivers and retailers to construct and curate lists, search opportunities and so on around these qualifiers.

\textit{Thema} example codes used from:

\begin{itemize}
\item Y – \textit{Children’s, Teenage & Educational}
\item 5 – \textit{Interest qualifiers}
\end{itemize}
Example 45: Rama and Sita, the Story of Diwali by Malachy Doyle

This is a book aimed at younger children that retells the traditional Hindu story of Rama and Sita. The purpose of the book is to introduce children to beliefs and traditions associated with Hinduism and the main subject code would be **YNRD** to indicate this. As this title is also about introducing children to one of the main stories associated with the Hindu festival of Diwali, the **YNMD** code is added to indicate that this title is also about a festival along with the qualifier **5PH** that indicates it is specifically about or suitable for Diwali.

Another code that might be considered is **YFJ** - Children’s / Teenage fiction: Traditional stories. The title appears to fit in with that code, but this title is primarily a book whose purpose is to present the story as means of understanding Hinduism as a religion, so in this case it is not the most apt code. You might also consider using **YBCS** – Picture Storybooks but the purpose and content of this title are different from a standard picture story book. **YBCS** is not just about format, it is for children’s stories that are told mostly through pictures, you could say it is for children’s fiction in pictures. It is a question of where would this title be shelved if there was only one code, with storybooks, with traditional stories or with Hinduism for Children? Both **YBCS** and **YFJ** could be considered as secondary codes but not the main subject as the primary subject of this title is Hinduism.

**Thema** example codes used from:

**Y** – Children’s, Teenage & Educational  
**5** – Interest qualifiers
Example 46: *Persepolis I & II* by Marjane Satrapi

The X* section of *Thema* is specifically for all Graphic novels, Comic books and Cartoons. The first aim with these codes is to indicate a type, tradition or style – American Comic book, Asian-style Manga, *Bandes dessinées* and so on. In this case it is XAB – European tradition graphic novels. Next, indicate what genre the novel fits into, so in this case it is a memoir, so XQA – Graphic novel / Comic book: memoirs, true stories & non-fiction is the most appropriate. DNC – Memoirs would also be appropriate for this title as it could easily be shelved in that section and this gives further definition to the subject matter. Two place qualifiers have been added as the main settings of this memoir are Tehran and Vienna.

*Thema* example codes used from:

X – Graphic novels, Comic books, Cartoons  
1 – Place qualifiers

XAB – European tradition graphic novels  
XQA – Graphic novel / Comic book: memoirs, true stories and non-fiction  
DNC – Memoirs  
1FBN-IR-A – Tehran  
1DFA-AT-W – Vienna
Example 47: *Hilda and the Troll* by Luke Pearson

This comic book is aimed primarily at children, even if it can be enjoyed by adults as well. The X* codes can be used equally for adult and children’s comic books. The two X* codes to indicate what type – XAK – and what genre – XQM – of comic book this is.

To give more information about the subject matter there are two children’s categories:

- **YFJ – Children’s / Teenage fiction: Traditional stories**, as the stories are inspired by traditional Scandinavian folklore and
- **YFHD – Children’s / Teenage fiction: Magical realism** as the stories take place in Scandinavian world like our own but with fantastical creatures.

The interest age qualifier **5AG** gives an indication of the age from which this title is suitable. In this case, the publisher recommends from 6 and up.

*Thema* example codes used from:

X: [Graphic novels, Comic books, Cartoons](#)

Y: [Children’s, Teenage & Educational](#)

5: [Interest qualifiers](#)
Example 48: Calvin & Hobbes, Weirdos from Another planet
by Bill Watterson

This is a classic American-style comic strip, so its main subject code is XY to indicate the type of comic book and the genre here is humorous, so XQT. This is also a title that has a universal appeal: children can read it on their own or with parents, as can the original intended adult audience. While parents, educators and librarians say you could read this with a child of about 6 and up, if we added SAG – Interest age: from c 6 years, this might mean a data recipient would shelve the title only in the children’s section. It is in your ONIX (or other) metadata that you can describe the suitability of this title for a broad ranging ‘suitable for all’ audience, and make sure the descriptions clearly describe the content, that sample pages or spreads are available, and that reviews are quoted, all of which would help buyers know it is suitable for a wide age range.

Thema example codes used from:
X – Graphic novels, Comic books, Cartoons
Example 49: *Black Panther, A Nation Under Our Feet, Book One* by Ta-Nehisi Coates

*Thema* can also be used to categorize classic comics. In this case the genre is *XAK*, to indicate it is from the American tradition, and the genre is *XQK* to indicate it is a superhero story. These are all the *Thema* codes this title needs.

ONIX can be used to send all the other information, the brand name MARVEL, the series name, the story arc name, the volume and issue numbers, the different roles and names of the contributors and so on. You can use `<NameAsSubject>` to send the primary character names, and you can use keywords to list other recurring characters and a list of fictional places.

*Thema* example codes used from:

- X= Graphic novels, Comic books, Cartoons
Example 50: *Travelling in Pictures* by Helen Bate (Pictures to Share)

When someone has dementia, traditional books can become incomprehensible and meaningless. This title is designed to be accessible and entertaining for anyone with mid- to late-stage dementia who has an interest in travel. There are two *Thema* subject codes suggested here. The code **VFJB6** to indicate it could be categorized in a section on dementia, and the code **WTM** to indicate that this is a general travel title and mostly pictorial. Either of these codes could be the main subject code. The main subject of the title is represented by **WTM**, but the publisher of this book primarily creates titles for stimulating memory and conversations with people suffering with dementia. This title could easily be shelved in a section of a bookshop about dealing with dementia and would possibly sell more from there, so I chose to make **VFJB6** the main code.

The interest qualifier **5AZ** flags this title as suitable for people with communication difficulties. The note for **5AZ** says “Use for: books specifically intended for readers with special needs, e.g. dyslexia, dementia, autism or learning disabilities”. The notes that accompany *Thema* codes are there to give extra guidance, so it is important to look at these as well. The online browser makes the notes easily accessible (and they are searchable).

*Thema* example codes used from:

- **V** – *Health, Relationships & Personal development*
- **W** – *Lifestyle, Hobbies & Leisure*
- **5** – *Interest qualifiers*
Index of Thema topics

1 – Place qualifiers  2, 3, 4, 5, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 25, 26, 27, 30, 31, 33,
2 – Language qualifiers  8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 31, 39, 40
3 – Time period qualifiers  2, 3, 4, 16, 17, 25, 26, 28, 30, 33, 37
4 – Educational purpose qualifiers  9, 10, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40
5 – Interest qualifiers  5, 26, 27, 39, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 48, 51
6 – Style qualifiers  28
A – the Arts  28
C – Language and Linguistics  8, 9
D – Biography, Literature & Literary studies  16, 30, 31, 32
F – Fiction and Related items  17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 33
G – Reference, Information & Interdisciplinary subjects  34
J – Society and Social Sciences  5, 29, 36
N – History and Archaeology  2, 3, 4, 5, 16, 21, 30
ONIX sample  1, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 20, 21, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 49, 50
P – Mathematics and Science  6, 7
Q – Philosophy and Religion  14, 29
R – Earth Sciences, Geography, Environment, Planning  19, 34, 35
S – Sports & Active outdoor recreation  13, 14, 18
V – Health, Relationships & Personal development  51
W – Lifestyle, Hobbies & Leisure  11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 51
X – Graphic novels, Comic books, Cartoons  47, 48, 49, 50
Y – Children’s, Teenage & Educational  10, 26, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 48