LIBRARY OF CONGRESS SUBJECT HEADINGS: Assignment

For this part of the assignment, you will search any online library catalog for Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) (http://id.loc.gov/authorities/subjects.html). Preferably use our SJSU OneSearch library catalog or you can use another online library catalog. But try to use one that you are already familiar with as it will make this assignment go more quickly and smoothly.

Tutorial:

I am using the SJSU OneSearch catalog at http://library.sjsu.edu

You can see below that I entered my search topic or KEYWORDS, Coco Chanel, into the search box. Then I clicked the Search icon (magnifying glass)...

The first results page will list all of the books and other library items that are relevant to your KEYWORD search. Note the number results the KEYWORD search has provided. My search results are 18,118 citations. This is a long list of materials. Since I am looking for Library of Congress Subject Headings for my topic, I will first focus on books only. On the left hand side of the screen you can narrow the results by selecting the RESOURCE TYPE. Check Books. You will note that of the over 18,000 citations there are only 76 books.
When you find a title that looks like it is a good match, click on the link to get an expanded view.

Look at all of the elements in the bibliographic record for this book. Near the bottom you will find "Subject" listed. These are the LCSH terms for this book:

Chanel, Coco, 1883-1971
Fashion designers -- France -- Biography
Women fashion designers -- France -- Biography

Here is an expanded view, or detail view, of one book.
For this assignment, you will need to find five (5) relevant and different LCSH terms. You may need to look at the detail records of several books to find these. Once you located the 5 different LCSH terms, 1) list the 5 terms, 2) do another KEYWORD search using each LCSH term or phase and note and observe your results, and 3) From the detailed record click on the link of the subject term and note/observe your results. Good luck!

For this assignment I had to look at six (6) books to find ones related to my topic. This process required that I actually look at 12 different books, not all that I initially found were useful to me.

Here I have decided to add the following five (5) terms/phrases (see below).

**For your Assignment, please use the following format:**

Your Name

**Source:** King Library OneSearch catalog

1. Fashion designers -- France -- Biography
2. Women fashion designers -- France -- Biography
5. Chanel (Firm) -- History.

For your observations some possible questions to ponder: Does using the LCSH as a keyword help? Did you get helpful results? By clicking on the LCSH link, did that search help or not? Explain how using these terms can be helpful, or not, you when you are trying to develop your topic.