The Library of Congress Subject Headings used in the library catalog was designed to address the choices between variant spellings of the same idea (colour vs color), scientific and popular terms (Perplaneta American vs color), and synonyms (cars vs automobiles). The best way to find specific Subject Terms is by starting with a keyword search and use the results to fine what controlled vocabulary the database uses for your topic.

For Example: A keyword search for "moonshine" in the library catalog finds a book called Moonshine: a life in pursuit of white liquor. The LC subject associated with this book are Distilling, Illicit terms that deal with the making of moonshine or illegal liquor.