

books. While the 1783 catalog employed a forty-six-subject schema, the 1812 fair copy employed a forty-four-subject alternative. Both schemata, however, classed their subjects under Jefferson's tripartite division of knowledge based on Francis Bacon's three parts of learning: "History/Memory," "Philosophy/Reason," and "Fine Arts/Imagination."

Although the 1812 fair copy is presumed lost, evidence for this schematic change survives in the printed catalog that then-Librarian of Congress George Watterston produced in 1815 following the sale of Jefferson's books to Congress.¹⁰ According to his correspondence with Jefferson, Watterston based the new catalog's arrangement of subject chapters on the 1812 fair copy, informing Jefferson in a letter dated October 13, 1815, that "I have preserved your arrangement, as one that I think excellent."¹¹ Watterston's printed **1815 catalog** thus shares its subject categories with its lost manuscript predecessor. This later catalog makes clear that the reduction of subject headings from 46 to 44 chapters was the result of shifting, compressing, and subdividing the original 1783 classifications. In all, the 1812 and 1815 catalogs removed five chapters that appear in the 1783 catalog and added three more. Figure 1 maps the additions, deletions, expansions, and combinations of subject chapters that occur between the 1783 and 1812/15 schemata. As shown, most of the alterations occur in the final section of Jefferson's tripartite scheme, "Fine Arts/Imagination." While the motives behind these changes are undocumented and obscure, the alterations appear to subsume the most idiosyncratic chapters into more general categories, rendering the new schema more applicable and useful to an institutional collection of books; they might also have merely combined sparsely populated chapters to form more general categories containing more volumes, or divided overpopulated or thematically cluttered chapters into more manageable subchapters. Regardless, in adopting these alterations, Watterston deferred to Jefferson and emulated the 1812 fair copy in making the 1815 printed catalog.

There was one glaring difference between the 1812 and 1815 catalogs, however. As Watterston informed Jefferson, "I have introduced but one alteration & that is in arrangeing [sic] each chap: alphabetically ... it gives them a uniformity of appearance quite agreeable [sic] to the eye."¹² At Monticello, where three newly printed copies of the catalog had arrived early in 1816, Watterston's choice to retain Jefferson's subject headings no doubt met with approval. Jefferson demurred, however, on the alphabetical sequence of books in each of the catalog's forty-four chapters—a change that expunged a system of arrangement that,

10. The 1815 printed catalog was prepared sometime between the manuscript's arrival at the Library of Congress in July and a letter of 13 October from Watterston informing Jefferson that "the catalogue is now in press ... in a few weeks it will be published" ("George Watterston to Thomas Jefferson, 13 October 1815," *Founders Online*, National Archives, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Jefferson/03-09-02-0064-0001>). Jefferson's letter alerting Watterston that the library and the 1812 fair copy of the catalog had been sent is dated 7 May 1815: "You will recieve my library arranged very perfectly in the order observed in the Catalogue, which I have sent with it" ("Thomas Jefferson to George Watterston, 7 May 1815," *Founders Online*, National Archives, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Jefferson/03-08-02-0376>).

11. George Watterston to Thomas Jefferson, 13 October 1815.

12. George Watterston to Thomas Jefferson, 13 October 1815.