What are Major Subject Headings and Minor Subject Headings?

Subject Headings are terms assigned to articles to describe the content found within the article. In some databases, Subject Headings may also be referred to as Subject Terms.

A Subject Term can be identified as a Major Subject Heading or a Minor Subject Heading. The designation is a reflection of the content of the article. If the subject is identified as Major Subject Heading it means that it is the main focus and main subject matter of the article. If the subject is identified as a Minor Subject Heading, it is mentioned or discussed in the article but it is not the main focus of the article.