

BCC2009/SAS/2

MUSIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION SUBJECT ACCESS SUBCOMMITTEE Business Meeting Minutes Chicago, Ill. -- Feb. 19, 2009, 2 p.m.

Members present: Patty Falk, Beth Flood (chair), Ralph Hartsock, Lynne Jaffe, Marty Jenkins, Geraldine Ostrove (LC representative), Jenn Riley, Hermine Vermeij

Members not present: Stacey Allison-Cassin, Brooke Lippy, John Wagstaff

Visitors present: 37

Recognition of Service

A special thank-you goes to outgoing members Lynne Jaffe and Jenn Riley for their valuable contributions and time serving on this committee.

ALA report (Beth Flood)

In the LC report on the moving image project, the Policy office recommended that each of the five new projects (music, law, cartography, literature, and religion) contribute to a centralized genre/form thesaurus. The report also recommended that LC "explore new models for a community-based thesaurus of genre/form terms in collaboration with professional organizations and other institutions" (<http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpsa/movinggenre.pdf>).

In other news, LC will be continuing the project to make a subset of LCSH available in SKOS format. They are developing a site within the loc.gov domain for this project, after which SKOS should go live again.

The ALA/ALCTS/SAC Genre/Form Implementation Subcommittee discussed RDA carrier terms in relation to the developing genre/form thesaurus, and suggested that a list of carrier types/format terms could be made and those terms established as 155 genre/form headings. The group also made plans to create a list of form subdivisions (MARC authority tag 185). This list will be used by specific projects to identify subject-specific form subdivision terms, and it will also be used by the subcommittee in developing a list of terms used across disciplines.

A new Library of Congress report on the pros and cons of pre/post-coordination of subject headings has been made available at: http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpsa/pre_vs_post.html.

Library of Congress report (Gerry Ostrove)

LC has created about 35,000 validation records to date. However, the program being used in generating these records developed a problem, resulting in duplicate records. The project is on hold until this problem is resolved.

Discussion of the Genre/Form Project

The group, including visitors, discussed at length LC's proposal for beginning the music genre/form project. Issues that arose included the following.

- Can \$8 linking fields be used to support pre-coordination of strings in a post-coordinated environment?
- Determining how post-coordination will work with existing systems can come after the project is begun. The terms and structure in this project need to be portable beyond MARC. The vocabulary should support a post-coordinated indexing system, but development of such a system is not in the scope of this project. The project should perhaps encourage ILS groups and OCLC to develop the structure necessary to support a post-indexing system.
- Instrumentation is a single category which can then be subdivided into instrument terms and ensemble terms. Pattern headings will now be different. In the new system, will there be a way to address numbers of instruments versus number of players (doubling, alternate instruments, etc.)?

Named ensembles could pose a problem in terms of specificity, because instrument terms are implied but not stated in the ensemble names. For example, a (standard) string quartet includes a viola, but the term "viola" is not in the ensemble name.

- What about the 048 field? The coding can currently be more specific than subject headings, but is it easy to transform to linguistic terms? On the issue of codes versus terms, the important thing is consistency--either use consistent terms or consistent codes. In any case, the current 048 codes need to be replaced, probably by the IAML code list, to increase the vocabulary. This would be a good opportunity for MLA to work with IAML.
- A problem is caused by the inherent Boolean logic in many ILS systems. Such systems allow users to search for records which *include* specified terms but do not allow limiting to *only* those terms. Systems also are not usually capable of limiting searching to an individual MARC field (i.e., one 048 field in a record that includes several 048 fields.) However, this is an indexing problem, rather than a problem that the genre/form project can solve.
- Separating medium of performance from genre/form headings, without some providence for the medium portion of the headings, could result in an automated authority control problem. There is not a one-to-one correlation between current music heading strings and future form/genre terms. There is a threat that automated authority control vendors could flip music heading strings from 650 to the form/genre 655 terms and lose the medium of performance portion of the heading in the process. This threat needs to be communicated to vendors along with a recommendation that vendors do not process music genre/form headings until the project is close to completion.
- Genre/form terms and medium of performance terms need to be related in the public interface. A user might start with the form term "Sonatas", but they then need to be directed to instrumentation.

Minutes approved by email, April 2, 2009.

Last updated April 6, 2009