

ALA Annual Meeting 2014, Las Vegas
Report from the Subject Analysis Committee (SAC) and the SAC Subcommittee on
Genre/Form Implementation (SGFI)
Submitted by Casey Mullin, Chair, Subject Access Subcommittee, MLA-BCC

Subject Analysis Committee

Informal Presentation on Library of Congress Medium of Performance Terms for Music (LCMPT)

Hermine Vermeij (UCLA, former MLA-BCC SAS chair), Casey Mullin (Stanford, current MLA-BCC SAS chair), Nancy Lorimer (Stanford, chair of MLA-BCC Genre/Form Task Force) and Janis Young (Library of Congress) gave an informal presentation on LCMPT to the Subject Access Committee. The speakers covered: the basic idea of LCMPT, its genesis, how terms are used and encoded, general and specific use cases, and unresolved issues. A brief question-and-answer period ensued. Most interestingly, it was asked whether LCMPT terms could be used for resources outside of music (e.g., spoken word, non-musical sounds). The speakers responded that LCMPT was designed first and foremost to enable access to musical resources, but that other use cases might inform future development.

Report of the liaison from the Library of Congress Policy and Standards Division (Janis Young)

Full report: <http://connect.ala.org/node/225719>

LCMPT update: on June 25, 2014, LCMPT terms were added to LC's Linked Data Service (<http://id.loc.gov>).

Library of Congress staff are currently working with the *Cataloger's Desktop* contractor to overhaul and simplify Desktop's user interface. The interface will be migrating to a "search first" approach that should align much more closely with how catalogers and metadata librarians do their work. All current functionality will be retained, but the user interface should be easier and more intuitive to use. It is anticipated that the new user interface will be implemented in mid-September.

Effective July 1, 2014, LC ceased production and sale of print cataloging documentation; all new editions and updates will be freely available on LC's Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access website (<http://www.loc.gov/aba>). The final printed edition of LCSH was the 35th, published in 2013. The 36th edition was issued in June 2014 as PDF files that may be freely downloaded. The most current edition of each of the LC classification schedules is available as a PDF file that may be freely downloaded. The most current version of each of the instruction sheets comprising the Subject Headings Manual (SHM) and Classification and Shelving Manual (CSM) is available as a PDF

file that may be freely downloaded; the files will be updated on an as-needed basis, as policies and guidelines are updated.

Fictitious, legendary, and mythological characters, named animals, and deities are gradually being cancelled in the subject authority file and reestablished in the name authority file. The form of access point may be changed slightly to adhere to RDA instructions. For instance, dates be added or a qualifier that was used in LCSH may not be necessary or may be different in the name heading. Derivative phrase headings and subdivided headings such as **Don Quixote (Fictitious character) in art** and **Dionysus (Greek deity)—Cult** will be either cancelled or adjusted, as appropriate, when the subject heading for the character or deity is cancelled. Preference is given to cancelling the records when practical, in order to reduce the ongoing maintenance required if/when the name headings are revised. Neither names of fictitious, legendary, and mythological characters nor names of deities are covered by H 1110, Names of Persons (see the Background statement). Instead, subdivisions that free-float under those categories of headings are listed in H 1095.

Other subject heading projects:

- *Malaysia*. LC is currently working on a project to update the name and subject authority records associated with place names in Malaysia to reflect changes to RDA 16.2.2.9, which removed Malaysia from the list of federations that includes the United States, Canada, and others. The University of California, San Diego is helping with the name authority updates. After consultation with the National Library of Malaysia, LC and PCC decided to apply 16.2.2.12, Alternative to all local place names within Malaysia even in cases of non-conflict. Both the state and country name will therefore be used for the larger place as part of the preferred names of local places.
- *Cabo Verde*. In December 2013, the U.S. Board on Geographic Names voted to change the approved form of name of Cape Verde to Cabo Verde, in response to a request from that country's government. Records in the name authority file were updated in May 2014. Proposals to adjust approximately 40 LC subject headings appear on July's Tentative Subject list (List 7). Bibliographic records are being revised as time permits.
- *South Australia*. In April, approximately 60 proposals to change the abbreviation "S. Aust." to "S.A." in qualifiers appeared on the Tentative List and were approved. The revisions bring LCSH into alignment with the RDA abbreviation for South Australia.

Status of *Library of Congress Demographic Group Terms* (LCDGT): PSD is currently compiling LCSH classes of persons and ethnic group headings and categorizing them as ethnic, national, disease/disability, social, gender, sexual orientation, religious, and occupational groups. The next step will be to determine which of those headings are most likely to be self-identified creators of, or contributors to, works, and which are likely to be intended audiences. Work on the hierarchies will then begin. Additional vetting of terms may be done by SAC or a task force thereof. LCDGT is hoped to be ready for public release around the end of 2014 or beginning of 2015.

Report of the RDA Subcommittee (Robert Maxwell)

The SAC-RDA Subcommittee submitted a revised RDA revision document (for Section 7, Chapter 23) on the subject relationship to SAC for discussion and approval to send on to the Joint Steering Committee. SAC voted in June 2014 to forward the proposal, amended with comments and suggestions received by SAC members. An additional amendment (Appendix L. Relationship Designators: Relationships Between Concepts, Objects, Events, And Places) was distributed at the ALA SAC meeting and approved. The full proposal will be presented to JSC by Kathy Glennan, ALA representative.

Report of FAST Liaison (Ed O'Neill)

Full presentation: <http://connect.ala.org/node/225522>

In September 2013, OCLC began systematically adding FAST subject headings to WorldCat bibliographic records that already had LCSH headings. We have added FAST headings to all the WorldCat bibliographic records held by two or more libraries and expect to add FAST headings to approximately 100 million records when the initial addition of FAST heading is finished in 2015.

- WorldCat records containing member-assigned FAST headings will not be modified by the FAST enrichment process.
- You can limit a search to just FAST headings in Connexion, FirstSearch and WorldCat.org by using the “other subject” index. The index label is “ho:” for the keyword index, “ho=” for the phrase index and “how=” for the whole phrase index. As an example, the following search will retrieve records with the FAST heading “Panthers”: ho: panthers and ho: fast.

SAC Subcommittee on Genre/Form Implementation

Report from Working Group on General Terms (Yael Mandelstam)

Full report: <http://connect.ala.org/node/217483>

The working group submitted a revised list of 163 proposed terms to PSD in April 2014. PSD accepted all terms, suggesting only minor tweaks of scope notes and removal of some cross-references. Additionally, existing LCGFT terms will have to be evaluated to determine whether they fit under any of the general terms hierarchies, in addition to their current hierarchies. Some literature terms were determined by the literature working group as falling under the scope of the general terms hierarchy; for example, some humorous genres were actually deemed to fall under the scope of Recreational works.

The approved general terms hierarchy has nine top terms: Commemorative works, Derivative works, Discursive works, Ephemera, Illustrated works, Informational works, Instructional and educational works, Recreational works, and Tactile works. The terms are scheduled to appear on List 10 (October 2014) and to be approved shortly.

Report from Working Group on LCGFT Literature Terms (Alex Thurman)

(including notes from the separate meeting of the working group)

The working group submitted a response to PSD's feedback on the original list of over 500 literature genre terms in April 2014 (full report here: <http://connect.ala.org/node/225456>). In accordance with PSD's wishes, many see references have been removed and scope notes have been removed or reworded. An area of some controversy is with poetry genres. The working group's original list contained many subgenres, a level of granularity LC in general did not support.

With respect to overlap with the general terms project, terms for humorous genres have been moved under the general terms hierarchy (see above), whereas terms for "creative nonfiction" (e.g., autobiography) remain in the literature hierarchy.

A particularly vexing issue to resolve is with comics. Is a qualifier needed, to break conflict with the term for comedians? Is the universe of conflict (all LC vocabularies vs. just LCGFT) such that a qualifier is even needed?

Further modifications to the proposed terms are ongoing, and it is expected that around 400 terms will be approved for the initial release of the literature form/genre terms, which is slated to occur shortly after the general terms are released.

MARC proposal 2014-06: Defining New Field 388 for Time Period of Creation Terms in the MARC 21 Authority and Bibliographic Formats

Results and details of the proposal covered in more depth in the MAC liaison's report (submitted by Sandy Rodriguez, chair of MARC Formats Subcommittee).

The SGFI asked Janis Young if a vocabulary for chronological terms, which would be a source for terms used in the 388 field, might be forthcoming. Young responded that this project is on the horizon, but will not be taken up until the current projects (LCGFT general, literature, music and religion terms, and LCDGT) are squared away.

Report from AALL (Yael Mandelstam)

Full report: <http://connect.ala.org/node/225930>

AALL has compiled a brief set of best practices for assigning genre/form terms. These will likely be integrated into the forthcoming genre/form headings manual (see below). A project to assign terms retrospectively is desired, though it may only be viable at the local level.

Update on Genre/Form Headings Manual (Janis Young)

Preliminary planning is underway for a Genre/Form Headings Manual (analogous to the Subject Headings Manual). It will likely be renamed to account for other LC vocabularies that lie outside the scope of LCSH (LCMPT, LCDGT, etc.). SGFI has done some brainstorming on the structure and scope of the manual (see here: <http://connect.ala.org/node/225464>).

An overarching question to address is how comprehensive the manual should be. For instance, should best practices for music genre/form term assignment be incorporated here, or should it be maintained by MLA, with a link from LC's manual to MLA's document? And what about PCC practice, which may not exactly mirror LC's own practice?

In the coming year, LC will begin drafting some sections of the manual dealing with LCGFT terms.

Proposal for Relator Terms for use with 751 Fields (Adam Schiff)

Prior to the meeting, Schiff drafted a list of possible relator terms to use with terms in 751 fields in bibliographic records (full list here: <http://connect.ala.org/node/225465>), and subcommittee members offered comments. At the meeting, the terms were discussed in more detail:

Assumed place: will not be pursued further for now

Jurisdictional place: the law community, primary would-be users of this term, does not think it would be useful for their purposes. Jurisdictions are sufficiently provided for using subject headings.

Place of origin of expression: the scope of this as worded is problematic, it overlaps with event place (another relator term) and Place of capture (an RDA element). Overall, it is not clear under which circumstances this term would be used.