

BCC2009/GFTF/3

MLA-BCC Genre/Form Task Force Quarterly Report September 2009

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Update on Activities

In June, the task force presented LC with lists of LCSH music terminology (initially compiled by LC) which the task force reviewed and recommended as suitable or unsuitable for LC's genre/form thesaurus. This completed the first phase of the music genre project. The task force also strongly stated our opinion that LC establish a separate medium of performance thesaurus as soon as possible.

The task force is now working on compiling new terminology from various reference sources. This terminology includes terms which are not currently in LCSH. The task force intends to focus especially on identifying new terms in the areas of world and popular music, which are currently underrepresented in LCSH.

Action Item

Now that the first phase of the music genre project is completed, the extent of the project is clearer, particularly in terms of time frame and amount of work. The task force therefore feels that the task force charge should be amended to more accurately reflect the timeline for the project and to include mention of training procedures. The task force requests that the Board review and approve or amend the revised charge.

Revised charge:

The MLA-BCC Genre/Form Task Force will review the genre/form and medium of performance lists posted by the LC Policy and Standards Division (PSD) on their genre/form website. The group will suggest additional terms from LCSH, from other established lists (e.g., the MLA Types of Composition list, the Ethnographic Thesaurus), and from reference sources. Suggestions for genre/form and medium of performance terms will also be solicited from the MLA membership at large. The Task Force will vet the terms suggested by its members and by the MLA membership and will forward these terms on to PSD for possible inclusion in the genre/form and medium of performance lists. The second phase of the project will include working with PSD to establish syndetic structures for each list and to collaborate on coding and other issues, including making MARBI proposals if necessary. The final phase of the project will involve establishing training procedures, both for creation of genre/form/medium authority records and for practical application of the new terminology.

Original charge:

The MLA-BCC Genre/Form Task Force will review the genre/form and medium of performance lists posted by the LC Policy and Standards Division (PSD) on their genre/form website. The group will suggest additional terms from LCSH, from other established lists (e.g., the MLA Types of Composition list, the Ethnographic Thesaurus), and from reference sources. Suggestions for genre/form and medium of performance terms will also be solicited from the MLA membership at large. The Task Force will vet the terms suggested by its members and by the MLA membership and will forward these terms on to PSD for possible inclusion in the genre/form and medium of performance lists. The initial phase of the project, the vetting and submission of terms, should be completed by July 2009.

The second phase of the project will include working with PSD to establish syndetic structures for each list and to collaborate on coding and other issues, including making MARBI proposals if necessary. This phase of the project should occur between July 2009 and February 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Flood, Chair

MLA-BCC Genre/Form Task Force

Last updated January 21, 2010