

What It Is! Music Genre/Form and Medium of Performance Terms in the Future of Music

Subject Access: Summary

MLA, Dallas, Feb. 2012

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This session was held on Thursday, February 16, 2012 from 12:30-2:00 PM. It provided an overview and update on the status of the genre/form task force and medium of performance project. Beth Iseminger led the meeting by providing definitions of genre, form, and medium and an outline of the session.

Mark McKnight provided a history of music genre projects going back to the 1930s and continuing up to present day, including the development of a music thesaurus and the difference between genre and subject headings. Beth Iseminger and Hermine Vermeij gave information on the current status of the genre/form and medium of performance projects, respectively. Completed genre heading projects by the Library of Congress (LC) include moving image, cartographic, and law. The next projects in progress are music, religion, and literature. The music genre/form task force is currently creating hierarchies to have narrower and broader terms. An example of the popular music hierarchy was provided. Hermine Vermeij explained the medium of performance project and the establishment of the 382 field for bibliographic and authority records. Examples of how the 382 field would be used were given. There are more than 900 terms in the list currently. The Subject Access Subcommittee is still working on terms for vocal music as well as other areas.

Beth continued with the implementation process. There will need to be creation of genre and medium of performance authority records, as well as conversion of existing headings in bibliographic records. Local systems will need to have indexing capabilities for the 655 genre field and the new 382 medium of performance field. The expectation is that these fields will provide direct access to faceted searches in local catalogs. Two examples of how the search might appear to users were shown, using examples provided from the Ball State Media Finders.