

June 27, 2010

TO: SACO-at-Large

FROM: Janis L. Young

Policy and Standards Division, Library of Congress

SUBJECT: Genre/form update

Moving Image and Sound Recordings Projects. The moving image and sound recording headings have moved out of the development stage and are now being maintained.

Cartography Project. On May 19th approximately 65 cartographic genre/form headings were approved. The records can be found by exploring drilling down through the hierarchies under the heading **Cartographic materials**, the broadest term for the project. Proposals to simplify the subdivisions that include the word “maps” will appear Tentative Weekly List 33 (August 18, 2010), and LC will implement the new genre/form headings and revised subdivisions on September 1, 2010. The date on which PSD will begin to accept SACO proposals for new and revised cartographic genre/form headings is not yet determined; PSD announce the date when it is available.

Law Project. The American Association of Law Libraries continues to work with PSD to revise and finalize its report, “Genre/Form Terms for Law Materials.” Online proposals for the headings will be created in mid-2010, with formal approval to follow. In addition, LC’s Hebraica Cataloging Section is conferring with the Jewish Theological Seminary and other interested groups to develop a list of headings for Jewish law. LC plans to implement law genre/form headings in the beginning of 2011.

Music Project. PSD is collaborating closely with the Music Library Association to deconstruct existing topical headings into their constituent genres/forms, carriers, and mediums of performance, so that those elements can be separately coded and searched.

Religion Project. The American Theological Libraries Association (ATLA) is partnering with PSD to develop genre/form headings for religion. Janis Young, LC’s genre/form coordinator, moderated a roundtable presentation on genre/form headings at the ATLA conference in June 2010.

Genre/Form Thesaurus to be Separated from LCSH. The genre/form thesaurus is now entitled, *Library of Congress Genre/Form Terms for Library and Archival Materials (LCGFT)*. This title will appear in print for the first time in the *Supplemental Vocabularies* volume of the 32nd edition of *LCSH*. A separate MARC source code “lcgft” has been assigned to distinguish headings in *LCGFT* from *LCSH* headings. The authority records will be revised as follows.

- Byte 11 of the fixed field (008/11) will be coded “z” (“other”)
- The 040\$f will be coded lcgft

In bibliographic records, terms from *LCGFT* will be coded: 655 -7 \$a [Term.] \$2 lcgft

Additionally, LCCNs with the distinctive prefix “gf” will be used as record control numbers. The authority records will be revised to reflect these changes within the next few months, and PSD will provide at least 90 days’ notice before making these changes.

PSD is also beginning work on a separate, self-contained, manual for genre/form terms and is investigating the possibility of extracting *LCGFT* from *Supplementary Vocabularies* and publishing it separately.

Rationale for revising the coding in this manner

One of the main purposes for undertaking the genre/form projects is to create genre/form authority records that can support machine validation. In order to accurately machine-validate genre/form headings, the computer will have to be able to match headings assigned in the 655 field to the appropriate thesaurus, including the rules for assignment of terms in that thesaurus. The rules for application of genre/form headings are different from those for applying *LCSH*, and continuing to code *LCGFT* as *LCSH* will cause validation features to match *LCGFT* terms against rules for applying *LCSH*, resulting in incorrect results.

PSD decided on the new coding after consulting with NDMSO. Initially, PSD had hoped to request MARBI to define an *LCGFT*-specific value in authority 008/11, but NDMSO advised that MARBI has been very conservative in approving new values for 008/11. Instead, NDMSO recommended that the 008/11 and 040 fields be coded as above.

The new coding for the 655 field of the bibliographic record was determined after coming to several conclusions.

1. Libraries throughout the country have used topical *LCSH* headings (MARC 21 authority tag 150) as genre/form terms (MARC 21 bibliographic tag 655) for years, and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. Changing the meaning of value “0” for the 655 field would invalidate the coding on tens of thousands of bibliographic records.
2. No other source indicator has two different meanings within the 6xx block and using the same indicator value for two different thesauri could be confusing to catalogers.
3. In order to machine-validate headings assigned to bibliographic records, computers must be able to unequivocally match a heading assigned in a bibliographic record to the correct authority record and rules for a particular thesaurus. There was some question about whether second indicator “0” could be mapped to two different thesauri.
4. Second indicator “8” is available in the 655 field, but it has been defined locally by OCLC for use with the *Sears List of Subject Headings* in all of the other 6xx fields. Using the same value for *Sears* and *LCGFT* would cause the same issues as in the second and third points, above.

Further Information. For more information on the genre/form projects at the Library of Congress, contact Janis L. Young, LC’s genre/form coordinator, at jayo@loc.gov or refer to LC’s genre/form web page, <http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpsoc/genreformgeneral.html>.