

# Library of Congress to Cancel *LCGFT* Character- and Franchise-Based Terms for Moving Images

November 23, 2011

On August 1, 2011 the Policy and Standards Division (PSD) of the Library of Congress issued a discussion paper entitled, "[Cancellation of LCGFT Character- and Franchise-Based Terms for Moving Images](#)," which explained why character- and franchise-based terms are currently included in *Library of Congress Genre/Form Terms for Library and Archival Materials (LCGFT)*, and the rationale for PSD's proposal to cancel them. PSD would like to thank all those who provided comments on this issue.

Specialists in PSD and staff in LC's Moving Image, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division (MBRS) reviewed all of the comments and found them to be generally in favor of the proposal. PSD will therefore move forward with cancelling the approximately 90 character- and franchise-based terms from *LCGFT*. Correspondents did raise some valid concerns that are addressed below.

## *Lack of appropriate fictitious character headings in LCSH*

When the terms are cancelled, many films and television programs will be assigned genre/form terms to represent the genre or form, post-coordinated with one or more fictitious character or imaginary place subject headings, as appropriate. *LCSH* does not currently include fictitious character subject headings corresponding to all of the character-based genre/form terms (e.g., a subject heading for the Cisco Kid does not exist, but the genre/form term **Cisco Kid Films** will be cancelled). Each of the thirteen needed headings will be proposed and approved when the genre/form terms are cancelled. See the action plan, below, for the timeline and details.

## *Lack of a subject heading to substitute for franchise-based terms*

Some concern was expressed that access to franchises (e.g., Planet of the Apes) will be compromised. Unlike the character-based terms, there is not a correlated subject heading to substitute for the genre/form term. One of the characteristics of franchises, however, is that the franchise name is almost always repeated in the title of each film or television program. In the case of Planet of the Apes series, for example, the titles of the individual films are: *Planet of the Apes*; *Beneath the Planet of the Apes*; *Escape from the Planet of the Apes*; *Conquest of the Planet of the Apes*; and, *Battle for the Planet of the Apes*. The titles themselves therefore provide collocation, making a franchise-based genre/form term unnecessary.

It should also be remembered that *LCGFT* terms are not intended to repeat information found elsewhere in the record, including in the title. In this way, PSD is moving toward a "faceted" bibliographic record, wherein each portion of the record (descriptive, subject, genre/form) fulfills its own role and does not overlap with the others. More information on faceting may be found in the [FAQ on LCGFT](#), questions 6 and 38.

### *Lack of character- and franchise-based headings in LCSH*

Character- and franchise-based headings are still necessary in *LCSH*; they are applied to works about the form or genre (e.g., *The Empire Triumphant: Race, Religion, and Rebellion in the Star Wars films* by Kevin J. Wetmore, Jr., should be applied the subject heading **Star Wars films—History and criticism**). Because of this need, form subject headings for television programs and films have not been removed from *LCSH*. Catalogers encountering works about film or television franchises for which a subject heading does not exist should propose a new heading as usual. As stated in the discussion paper, the cancellation of the character- and franchise-based terms from *LCGFT* does not affect *LCSH* policy.

### **Action plan**

Over the next three months, the following steps will be taken to cancel the character- and franchise-based genre/form terms for moving images.

1. A proposal to delete each of the terms will be made, and the cancelled terms will be added as “former heading” UF references to the replacement *LCGFT* terms as listed in the attached appendix. All proposals will appear on the Tentative Monthly List dated February 20, 2012.
2. A scope note will be added to each of the corresponding *LCSH* headings. It will follow the standard terminology used in such situations: *This heading is not used for individual [films or television programs], which are entered under headings appropriate to the content, genre, and/or form of the film.* One scope note of this type will be added with a proposal and appear on the February 20<sup>th</sup> list; the others will be added offlist.
3. Each of the thirteen fictitious character subject headings that need to be established will appear on the Tentative Monthly List for February 20, 2012. PSD would like to request assistance from the SACO community in proposing the headings. Libraries who are interested in assisting with this portion of the project should contact Janis L. Young, LC’s genre/form coordinator, at [jayo@loc.gov](mailto:jayo@loc.gov) by December 12, 2011; she will organize respondents to avoid duplication of effort. All proposals must be received by LC prior to January 3, 2012.

The attached appendix comprises a chart of the character- and franchise-based terms that will be cancelled, along with the replacement term(s) from *LCGFT* and the *LCSH* headings to be used for post-coordination, if any.

## Appendix

### Character- and franchise-based *LCGFT* terms to be cancelled, with replacement terms

*Note 1:* The chart is not intended to be comprehensive. The *LCGFT* terms and *LCSH* headings listed in the second and third columns may not be applicable in all cases, and other subject headings and genre/form terms may also be assigned to an individual work.

*Note 2:* The cancelled *LCGFT* term in the first column will become a “former heading” reference to the term(s) listed in the second column.

<b><i>LCGFT</i> term to be cancelled</b>	<b>Replacement <i>LCGFT</i> term(s)</b>	<b>Suggested <i>LCSH</i> heading(s)</b>
Alien films	Science fiction films	Ripley (Fictitious character)–Drama
Amityville films	Horror films Haunted house films	n/a
Andy Hardy films	Comedy films Coming-of-age films	Hardy family (Fictitious characters)–Drama <sup>1</sup>
Angélique films	Action and adventure films Historical films	Angélique (Fictitious character)–Drama <sup>1</sup>
Austin Powers films	Parody films Spy films	Powers, Austin (Fictitious character)–Drama
Batman films	Superhero films	Batman (Fictitious character)–Drama
Big Brother television programs	Reality television programs	n/a
Bourne films	Action and adventure films Spy films	Bourne, Jason (Fictitious character)–Drama
Bowery Boys films	Comedy films	n/a <sup>2</sup>
Bulldog Drummond films	Detective and mystery films	Drummond, Bulldog (Fictitious character)–Drama
Carmen films	Motion pictures <sup>3</sup>	Carmen (Fictitious character)–Drama
Carry On films	Comedy films	n/a
Charlie Chan films	Detective and mystery films	Chan, Charlie (Fictitious character)–Drama
Cisco Kid films	Western films	Cisco Kid (Fictitious character)–Drama <sup>1</sup>
Commissario Montalbano television programs	Detective and mystery television programs	Montalbano, Salvo (Fictitious character)–Drama

<b><i>LCGFT</i> term to be cancelled</b>	<b>Replacement <i>LCGFT</i> term(s)</b>	<b>Suggested <i>LCSH</i> heading(s)</b>
DeGrassi television programs	Social problem television programs Teen television programs	n/a
Die Hard films	Action and adventure films	McClane, John (Fictitious character)–Drama
Doctor Mabuse films	Crime films	Mabuse, Doctor (Fictitious character)–Drama <sup>1</sup>
Don Camillo films	Comedy films	Camillo, Don (Fictitious character)–Drama <sup>1</sup>
Don Juan films	Motion pictures <sup>3</sup>	Don Juan (Legendary character)–Drama
Don Juan television programs	Television programs <sup>3</sup>	Don Juan (Legendary character)–Drama
Dracula films	Vampire films	Dracula, Count (Fictitious character)–Drama
Dracula television programs	Vampire television programs	Dracula, Count (Fictitious character)–Drama
Fantozzi films	Comedy films	Fantozzi, Ugo (Fictitious character)–Drama
Fantômas films	Detective and mystery films	Fantômas (Fictitious character)–Drama
Flash Gordon films	Action and adventure films Superhero films	Gordon, Flash (Fictitious character)–Drama
Frankenstein films	Monster films	Frankenstein, Victor (Fictitious character)–Drama Frankenstein's monster (Fictitious character)–Drama
Friday the 13 <sup>th</sup> films	Slasher films	Voorhees, Jason (Fictitious character)–Drama <sup>1</sup>
Godfather films	Gangster films	Corleone family (Fictitious characters)–Drama
Godzilla films	Monster films	Godzilla (Fictitious character)–Drama

<b><i>LCGFT</i> term to be cancelled</b>	<b>Replacement <i>LCGFT</i> term(s)</b>	<b>Suggested <i>LCSH</i> heading(s)</b>
Harry Potter films	Fantasy films	Potter, Harry (Fictitious character)–Drama Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry (Imaginary organization)--Drama
Hellraiser films	Horror films Thrillers (Motion pictures)	Pinhead (Fictitious character)–Drama <sup>1</sup>
Hopalong Cassidy films	Western films	Cassidy, Hopalong (Fictitious character)–Drama
Indiana Jones films	Action and adventure films	Jones, Indiana (Fictitious character)–Drama
Indiana Jones television programs	Historical television programs	Jones, Indiana (Fictitious character)–Drama
James Bond films	Action and adventure films Spy films	Bond, James (Fictitious character)–Drama
King Kong films	Monster films	King Kong (Fictitious character)–Drama
Lone Ranger films	Western films	Lone Ranger (Fictitious character)–Drama <sup>1</sup>
Lord of the Rings films	Fantasy films	Middle Earth (Imaginary place)–Drama
Mothra films	Monster films	Mothra (Fictitious character)–Drama <sup>1</sup>
Mummy films	Monster films	Mummies–Drama
Mummy television programs	Monster television programs	Mummies–Drama
Nanny television programs	Television programs <sup>3</sup>	Nannies [subdivided by –Drama if appropriate]
Nightmare on Elm Street films	Horror films	Krueger, Freddy (Fictitious character)–Drama
Niskavuori films	Historical films Melodramas (Motion pictures)	Niskavuori family (Fictitious characters)–Drama <sup>1</sup>
Our Gang films	Comedy films	n/a <sup>2</sup>
Pink Panther films	Comedy films	Clouseau, Inspector (Fictitious character)–Drama

<b><i>LCGFT</i> term to be cancelled</b>	<b>Replacement <i>LCGFT</i> term(s)</b>	<b>Suggested <i>LCSH</i> heading(s)</b>
Pink Panther television programs	Comedy television programs Children's television programs Animated television programs	Pink Panther (Fictitious character)—Drama
Pirates of the Caribbean films	Pirate films Comedy films	Sparrow, Jack (Fictitious character)—Drama <sup>1</sup>
Planet of the Apes films	Dystopian films	n/a
Poltergeist films	Ghost films Horror films	n/a
Private Snafu films	Animated films Short films	Private Snafu (Fictitious character)—Drama
Rocky films	Boxing films	Balboa, Rocky (Fictitious character)—Drama
Schulmädchen-Report films	Erotic films	n/a
Scooby-Doo films	Comedy films Detective and mystery films	Scooby-Doo (Fictitious character)—Drama
Scooby-Doo television programs	Television comedies Detective and mystery television programs Children's television programs Animated television programs	Scooby-Doo (Fictitious character)—Drama
Shaft films	Blaxploitation films Detective and mystery films	Shaft, John (Fictitious character)—Drama
Sherlock Holmes films	Detective and mystery films	Holmes, Sherlock (Fictitious character)—Drama
Sherlock Holmes television programs	Detective and mystery television programs	Holmes, Sherlock (Fictitious character)—Drama
Shrek films	Comedy films Fantasy films Children's films Computer animation films	Shrek (Fictitious character)—Drama <sup>1</sup>
Spider-Man films	Superhero films	Spider-Man (Fictitious character)—Drama
Star Trek films	Science fiction films	n/a
Star Trek television programs	Science fiction television programs	n/a
Star Wars films	Science fiction films	n/a

<i>LCGFT</i> term to be cancelled	Replacement <i>LCGFT</i> term(s)	Suggested <i>LCSH</i> heading(s)
Superman films	Superhero films	Superman (Fictitious character)—Drama
Tarzan films	Action and adventure films Jungle films	Tarzan (Fictitious character)—Drama
Terminator films	Science fiction films Action and adventure films	n/a
Three Stooges films	Slapstick comedy films	n/a <sup>4</sup>
Tom and Jerry films	Comedy films Children's films Animated films	Tom (Fictitious character : Hanna and Barbera)—Drama Jerry (Fictitious character : Hanna and Barbera)—Drama
Torchy Blane films	Journalism films Detective and mystery films	Blane, Torchy (Fictitious character)—Drama <sup>1</sup>
Toy Story films	Comedy films Children's films Computer animation films	n/a
Trapalhães films	Comedy films	n/a
Wizard of Oz films	Fantasy films	Oz (Imaginary place)—Drama
Zatoichi films	Samurai films	Zatoichi (Fictitious character)—Drama <sup>1</sup>
Zorro films	Swashbuckler films Western films	Zorro (Fictitious character)—Drama
Zorro television programs	Swashbuckler films Western television programs	Zorro (Fictitious character)—Drama

<sup>1</sup> The fictitious character heading will be proposed for inclusion in *LCSH*.

<sup>2</sup> A name heading may be established for the group of actors/comedians and assigned as a descriptive access point. The heading would not be assigned as a subject heading in this context.

<sup>3</sup> The *LCGFT* term being cancelled refers to a variety of unrelated films or television programs depicting the same main character or character type (e.g., Carmen, Don Juan, nannies). The “former heading” reference will be added to either **Motion pictures** or **Television programs**, as appropriate. Genre/form terms specific to the work being cataloged should be assigned (e.g., one of the genre/form terms assigned to *Nanny 911* would be **Reality television programs**).

<sup>4</sup> The heading **Three Stooges (Comedy team)** may be assigned as a descriptive access point. It would not be assigned as a subject heading in this context.