

MUSIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
SUBJECT ACCESS SUBCOMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT
July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011

Members: Hermine Vermeij (Chair), Janet Bradford, Scott Brandwein, Ralph Hartsock, Marty Jenkins, Margaret Kaus, Peter Lisius, Nancy Lorimer , Geraldine Ostrove (LC Representative), Carlos Peña, Karen Peters, and Sheila Torres-Blank.

Report on activities:

At MLA in February the Subject Access Subcommittee (SAS) welcomed new members Scott Brandwein (New York Public Library) and Peter Lisius (Kent State University, and said goodbye to outgoing member Patty Falk (Bowling Green State University).

SAS agreed to take over work on the medium of performance facet of the music genre/form project, which was previously part of the work of the MLA Genre/Form Task Force.

Medium of performance is the instrument(s), voice(s), and other participants (narrator, etc.) in musical resources as created or arranged. In current LCSH practice, headings with medium terms in them are assigned to musical works in the same way as genre/form terms are. Many headings combine medium and genre/form terms. But medium of performance vocabulary is out of scope for LCGFT and is now recognized as an entirely separate facet of musical works. Consequently, it is also necessary that medium be separately searchable. When LCGFT is implemented for music, LCSH headings with medium terms in them will no longer be valid to assign to music. Genre/form terms will be recorded in 655 fields; medium of performance terms will need to be accommodated elsewhere in the MARC record.

The subcommittee authored a MARBI discussion paper (Additional Means of Identifying Medium of Performance in the MARC21 Bibliographic and Authority Formats) that was discussed at the second MARBI meeting at ALA Annual in New Orleans. The paper seeks to find a place in the MARC record for medium of performance information currently housed in subject headings. The most likely contender is the 382, which has already been defined for medium of performance. (It will need substantial enhancements to be able to accommodate additional elements such as the number of each medium, the total number of performers required, and alternate instrumentation(s).) The other option is a new 6XX field. MARBI encouraged us to submit a proposal at ALA Midwinter, which we plan to do.

List of previous goals and progress made toward each goal:

- Help support the Music SACO Funnel - Ongoing.

- Collaborate with other BCC subcommittees on special projects, including best practices for the new 3XX fields and crosswalks to Dublin Core and other metadata schemas for genre/form elements – A member of SAS (Hermine Vermeij) took part in the Task Force on RDA Best Practice Guidelines for MARC 38X Fields. The task force's report was finalized and distributed in November 2010.
- Help support Genre/Form Task Force – Ongoing. SAS has taken over work on the medium of performance facet of the music genre/form project.

List of goals for the next year:

- Create a MARBI proposal for additional means of identifying medium of performance and present it at ALA Annual 2012 in Anaheim.
- Review documents from the Library of Congress music genre/form project group (they are working on a Functional Requirements of Medium of Performance statement as well as a list of common medium of performance terms not currently in LCSH) and provide feedback.
- Begin creating the hierarchy for medium of performance terms.
- Help decide where authority records for the new medium of performance terms will live (possibility of a new authority system).
- As we prepare to move genre/form and medium of performance terms out of LCSH and implement genre/form terms for music, collaborate with LC to form policy for topical music subject headings (e.g. for books about violin music or symphonies).

Submitted by Hermine Vermeij