ALA MIDWINTER CONFERENCE REPORT
Seattle, WA, January 25-28, 2013
Report from the ALCTS-CAMMS Subject Analysis Committee (SAC)
and the SAC Subcommittee on Genre/Form Implementation
(Selected for interest to MLA)

Subject Analysis Committee

Presentation: "When URIs become the authority: Benefits and challenges of library Linked Date" (Kevin Ford, Library of Congress Network Development and MARC Standards Office)

Kevin Ford gave an overview of the state of authorities in the development of BIBFRAME. He focused on the idea of BIBFRAME authorities as an abstraction layer—not designed to replace current authorities, but to act as a placeholder when a direct link to an authority via an identifier would not be possible (e.g., when a subject heading consists of a heading + a subdivision or subdivisions, and the combination does not have an authority record). One possibility is to create URIs for all possible combinations of subject headings and subdivisions, but that may not be feasible. Moving from using form subdivisions towards using faceted LCGFT terms is seen as a positive progression.

SAC Subcommittee on Genre/Form Implementation

MARC Proposals

The subcommittee submitted three MARBI proposals for consideration at Midwinter ([2013-05: Defining New Field 385 for Audience Characteristics in the MARC 21 Bibliographic and Authority Formats](#), [2013-06: Defining New Field 386 for Creator/Contributor Group Categorizations in the MARC 21 Bibliographic and Authority Formats](#), and [2013-07: Defining Encoding Elements to Record Chronological Categories and Dates of Works and Expressions in the MARC 21 Bibliographic and Authority Formats](#)). All three proposals passed with minor revisions.

The passage of these proposals marks significant progress towards making MARC more accommodating to the facets related to genre/form. Two new fields have been established: the 385 for audience characteristics and the 386 for creator/contributor characteristics. Additionally, revisions were made to the 046 and the 648 to allow for chronological aspects to be coded more accurately. Here are some examples of how concepts currently expressed in music subject headings could be expressed using the new fields in the future:

Current	Future
650 #0 Rock music $y 1961-1970.	046 ## $o 1961 $p 1970

	655 #7 Rock music. $2 lcgft *046 $o – Single or starting date for aggregated contents* *046 $p – Ending date for aggregated contents*
650 #0 Jews $v Music.	386 ## Jews $2 lcsh 655 #7 Music. $2 lcgft *386 – Creator/Contributor Group Characterization*
650 #0 Music for the blind.	385 ## Blind. $2 lcsh 655 #7 Music. $2 lcgft *385 – Audience Characteristics*

Working Group on LCGFT Literature Terms

The literature group is finalizing an initial draft of their thesaurus to submit to LC by late spring 2013, which includes over 514 terms. The scope of the project is for belles-lettres terms only; i.e., no terms for nonfiction. However, the working group is reviewing this directive and hoping to be able to broaden the scope. One concern is terms that are used in multiple disciplines, including music terms Rhapsody and Laud.

Report from AALL

Yael Mandelstam reported on her attempts at retrospective conversion for law genre/form terms in bibliographic records. She started with a very ambitious strategy working with OCLC records, but she has discovered that the undertaking would have been extremely time-consuming. No two LCGFT terms could be treated the same way, and no strategy was foolproof.

Ongoing Work

A new working group was formed to reevaluate a potential 386 (Creator/contributor Group Characterization) field in personal name authority records. MARBI had concerns about the redundancy of the 386 with the existing 384 (Occupation) and 385 (Gender). The working group will address concerns and develop various options and a recommendation for how to move forward.

One of the subcommittee's next steps will be to look at options for controlled vocabularies for the various genre/form facets. LCSH has been used in examples, but is not ideal for many reasons.

Submitted by Hermine Vermeij, MLA-BCC Subject Access Subcommittee Chair