

Genre/Form Task Force Annual Report, July 2012-June 2013
Nancy Lorimer, Chair, with Beth Iseminger, Past Chair

Members: Nancy Lorimer (Chair), Ralph Hartsock, Caitlin Hunter, Beth Iseminger, Marty Jenkins, Mark McKnight, Casey Mullin, Thom Pease, Karen Peters, Sheila Torres-Blank, Hermine Vermeij

BCC voting members have approved Nancy Lorimer as the new chair of the task force, following Beth Iseminger who will continue as a member of the group.

During the past year, the task force reviewed work done by Nancy on the genre hierarchies, including a combined list of all genre terms in one hierarchy, review of the top terms of the hierarchy (especially the terms “Art music”, “Popular music”, and “Folk music”), and an analysis of some jazz terms as prototype authority records.

At the MLA Annual Meeting in February 2013, the task force agreed to the goal of beginning the creation of authority records for genre terms within the next year, as well as the goal of finishing the task force’s work by MLA 2015. These goals are also highlighted below.

Additionally, Nancy has created a listserv to foster communication between everyone work on the genre/form and medium of performance projects, including all members of the Genre/Form Task Force, the Subject Access Subcommittee, and the LC project group. Since it is sometimes easier for LC staff to access a listserv rather than a wiki, this listserv is proving to be very helpful.

During the summer, the task force has been working on creating scope notes for the terms “Art music”, “Folk music” and “Popular music” and have been reviewing and adjusting the hierarchy for Popular music. The task force will soon be moving to terms in the folk, art, and dance hierarchies.

Past Goals

The goal of seeking technical advice from those having experience working with large database projects like this has been deferred. Technical advice regarding retrospective implementation could be transferred to a new BCC task force, to be identified later, which would work on thornier implementation issues. Technical advice for implementation of the new LCGFT and LCMPT vocabularies may be pursued in cooperation with the Library of Congress genre experts, which will be helpful in giving weight to the needs of the project.

The task force met the goal of combining the hierarchies into one. The second part of this goal, analyzing and refining the list, continues.

The task force continues work towards new genre authority records, in collaboration with the Medium of Performance Project/Subject Access Subcommittee and the Library of Congress.

Since the terms are still being finalized, the goal of submitting new authority records through the SACO Music Funnel continues as a goal for this year.

Goals 2013-2014

Begin creating authority records for music genre/form terms.

Respond to any discussion papers from the Library of Congress genre/form project group. Generate discussion papers for LC to review as needed.

Complete the task force's charge and work by MLA 2015.

Support work on medium of performance authority records as needed, since the need to complete the medium portion of the projects is pressing, per LC's desire to complete LCMPT by January 2014.

These goals meet the MLA Strategic Plan goal areas of Organizational Excellence and Advocacy, by collaboration with the Library of Congress and by improving access to music information through genre/form.