

ALA Midwinter Meeting 2014
Report from the Subject Analysis Committee (SAC)
And the SAC Subcommittee on Genre/Form Implementation (SGFI)
Report by Hermine Vermeij, Chair, Subject Access Subcommittee, MLA BCC

Subject Analysis Committee

Report of the liaison from the Policy and Standards Division of LC (Janis Young)

Full report: <http://connect.ala.org/node/217476>

LC is transitioning to online-only publication of its cataloging documentation. Free versions of the 34th (2012) edition of LCSH, the *Subject Headings Manual* instruction sheets revised through September 2013, and all of the back issues of the *Cataloging Service Bulletin* have been posted to the ABA public web site, <http://www.loc.gov/aba>. Selected Library of Congress classification schedules have also been posted, with others to follow as supplies of printed copies are depleted. By July 1, 2014, CDS will no longer have any print publications available.

The Tentative List of the initial 802 terms in the *Library of Congress Medium of Performance Thesaurus for Music* (LCMPT) have been posted and will be approved on February 10, 2014. Further information on the project and the Tentative List may be found at <http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/medprf-list.html>. After approval, the terms will be available for searching through Classification Web. In addition, a file of MARC 21 records will be freely provided on the Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access website (<http://www.loc.gov/aba>) at a URL to be announced, probably at the end of February. The file will be refreshed monthly when the Tentative List for the month is approved. The vocabulary will also be made available on the Library's Authorities & Vocabularies website (<http://id.loc.gov>), where they can be downloaded in a variety of formats. The records will not be available in the LC ILS nor in <http://authorities.loc.gov>.

The Library of Congress recently decided to sponsor the creation of a new vocabulary, entitled *Library of Congress Demographic Group Terms* (LCDGT). This vocabulary will be used to describe the creators of, and contributors to, resources, and also the intended audience of resources. Some LC subject headings – most notably the form headings for literature – include demographic information (e.g., Children's stories, American, in which *stories* is the form, *children* are the audience demographic, and *Americans* are the creator demographic). When the literature terms in *Library of Congress Genre/Form Terms for Library and Archival Materials* (LCGFT) are approved for use, however, the LCSH form headings will no longer be assigned to works of literature. (LCSH form headings will still be assigned to works *about* literature.) LCGFT does not include demographic terms because they do not relate to genres or forms. To avoid losing access to vital demographic information, the LC Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access Directorate Management Team has approved the creation of LCDGT. Terms from LCDGT will be coded in MARC 21 fields 385 and 386, for audience and creator/contributor characteristics, respectively, in bibliographic records and authority records for works. The Policy and Standards Division plans to approve the initial group

of terms by the end of 2014. The primary source for access to the approved terms will be *Classification Web*, and the terms will also be made freely available on LC's web site.

Report of the RDA Subcommittee Fields (Robert Maxwell)

The JSC has examined two very different proposals on how to structure the subject relationship in RDA, and has come to the conclusion that making a decision at this point would be premature. They will wait until the various Functional Requirements groups have finished and reconciled their work.

Presentation: "FAST: A Subject Schema for the Web" (Ed O'Neill)

Full presentation: <http://connect.ala.org/node/217667>

Ed described the history of FAST—it was developed jointly by OCLC and LC, designed to retain the rich vocabulary of LCSH but take advantage of faceting. There are eight facets (topical, geographic, event, chronological, personal names, corporate names, uniform titles, and form/genre).

It was interesting to learn that only 5.8% of LCSH headings currently in bibliographic records are established strings in authority records. All FAST headings are backed up by authority records. FAST headings are being added automatically to WorldCat records, beginning with LC records and moving on to other heavily held records. FAST headings also include a subfield \$0 with the FAST authority record number.

Update on LCDGT (Janis Young)

SAC went over the scope of the new vocabulary, LCDGT, and discussed some unresolved questions, including:

Is 150 the best place for the authority records? (Maybe not, but they don't want to wait a year for a MARC discussion paper and proposal.)

How extensive should the scope be? (Extensive enough so constant maintenance is not needed; not so extensive that it's never finished.)

Should there be terms for language speakers (*English speakers, French speakers, etc.*)? (Yes, but be selective; have OCLC run a report on which terms have been used in subject headings.)

At what level of granularity should demonyms (*Americans, Pennsylvanians, etc.*) be included? (Probably nationality-level and above only.)

Should American ethnic groups (*Chinese Americans, African Americans, etc.*) be included? (Yes, but again, being selective.)

A SAC task group will be formed to address these questions further.

Discussion paper on Authority Field 368 \$c (Adam Schiff)

Full paper: <http://connect.ala.org/node/217140>

The aim is to find a place in the authority format for personal names to record the type of terms that will be included in LCDGT—demographic groups (ethnicity groups, sexual

orientation groups, religious groups, etc.) to which a person belongs that are not already covered in the MARC Format. The discussion leaned toward the option of using the 368 \$c (Other Attributes of Person or Corporate Body—Other Designation) without requesting any changes to the MARC Format (although some instructions in the DCM Z1 would be needed).

SAC Subcommittee on Genre/Form Implementation

Report from Working Group on General Terms (Yael Mandelstam)

Full report: <http://connect.ala.org/node/217483>

The working group has produced a final draft of 162 proposed terms, along with syndetic structure and scope notes, and is currently waiting for a PSD response. We are hoping to begin authority record creation by ALA Annual. The proposed hierarchy has nine top terms: Commemorative works, Derivative works, Discursive works, Ephemera, Illustrated works, Informational works, Instructional and educational works, Recreational works, and Tactile works.

Report from Working Group on LCGFT Literature Terms (Alex Thurman)

The literature group submitted their final draft of proposed terms (over 500) in September. PSD sent feedback shortly before ALA, so the working group is still digesting it and deciding what changes need to be made. Unresolved issues include:

- Terms that denote style, e.g. Absurdist plays, Surrealist fiction.
- Terms that refer to subject matter and don't necessarily have other elements in common, e.g. Ecofiction, Musical fiction.
- Terms for ethnic performing art forms that incorporate music, dance, and drama, e.g. Khōn, Lian hua lao.

Report from AALL (Yael Mandelstam)

Yael reported that, now that Law LCGFT implementation is complete, the majority of law catalogers are now applying LCGFT terms to new records. But developing strategies for retroactive implementation has been difficult. One idea is to have a “term of the month”—everyone would try to apply one LCGFT term to records in their local databases, then provide crosswalks to OCLC.