

ALA ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT

New Orleans, LA, June 23-28, 2011

Report from the ALCTS-CCS Subject Analysis Committee (SAC)
and the SAC Genre/Form Implementation Subcommittee
(Selected for interest to MLA)

Subject Analysis Committee

Report from the Policy and Standards Division (PSD) of the Library of Congress (LC)

Paul Weiss, the cataloging policy specialist who was responsible for subject headings and classification in the social sciences, law, and philosophy, retired in February after 37 years of service. There are now only three subject specialists in PSD: Libby Dechman, Gerry Ostrove, and Janis Young.

PSD has changed the frequency of the tentative and the approved weekly lists of classification and subject headings to a monthly schedule. There will be a new system for creating online subject proposals no earlier than July 18, 2011. This should streamline the process for proposing new and revised subject and genre/form headings.

In June 2011 LC added cartographic coordinates (034 fields) to approximately 16,500 authority records for geographic features established in LCSH.

On May 24, 2011 more than 700 existing genre/form authority records were canceled and reissued with new MARC coding. LCGFT authority records now have an 008/11 value of "z" (other) and an 040 \$f value of "lcgft." The LCCN prefix in these records has also been changed from "sh" to "gf." As of May 24, the correct coding for LCGFT in bibliographic records is: 655 #7 \$a [term]. \$2 lcgft. PSD expects to complete the bibliographic file maintenance for this project by the end of the year.

On June 15, 2011, LC began applying law genre/form terms to new cataloging, chiefly for English-language works.

Report from the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL)

In January 2011 the AALL Law Genre/Form Implementation Project began. A team of law catalogers joined forces with Ed O'Neill from OCLC to develop strategies for identifying WorldCat records for retrospective application of law genre/form terms. First they developed criteria for the creation of a subset of law-related WorldCat records, and they are currently putting the final touches on those criteria. They are also working on strategies for specific terms like "Law reviews," "Restatements of the law," and "Casebooks." Once the terms are added to WorldCat, they hope to get a crosswalk between the OCLC numbers and the relevant terms so the terms can be merged into existing records in ILSs.

A Law SACO Project has been approved.

Report from the Subcommittee on Genre/Form Implementation

The subcommittee formed the 185/155 Working Group in 2010, with the goal of identifying some terms of general application (current LCSH form subdivisions) to many types of resources that could be recommended for inclusion in LCGFT. The recommendations of the working group were presented to SAC (a very large document), and SAC will be discussing them on its listserv (camms-sac).

Joint Meeting with CC:DA

SAC met with the Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access (CC:DA) to discuss the treatment of “subject” in the Functional Requirements (FR) models and on subject entities in RDA.

John Attig, the ALA representative to the Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA (JSC) spoke about subject entities in RDA. RDA will not be including specific instructions for recording attributes of subjects or for formulating authorized access points; it will be higher-level. FRBR allows a relationship between subject and work, but not between subject and other group 1 entities (expression, manifestation, and item). This doesn't work well for considering genre/form, since genre/form can apply to all group 1 entities.

Gordon Dunsire gave a presentation on subjects in the FR family. He gave an overview of FR in Resource Description Framework (RDF), the data model often used for linked data. Metadata statements are constructed in “triples” with the structure subject-predicate-object (e.g. subject [this book] predicate [has title] object [“Treasure Island.”]) The different FR models present subject slightly differently: Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR) has the “has subject” relationship, which is between works and any of the other entities. Functional Requirements for Authority Data (FRAD) introduced an attribute of the FRBR work entity, “subject of the work” (which is an attribute and not necessarily a relationship), and also introduced a new entity: “family.” Finally, Functional Requirements for Subject Authority Data (FRSAD) presented “thema,” which can be any of the entities, and “nomen,” which is an appellation of the thema. The conclusion is that thema can be any thing, and therefore may be an equivalent class to Thing (the class of all classes).

Following the presentations, the assembled group discussed the LC Discussion paper on Group 3 entity chapters in RDA (6JSC/LC rep/3). John Attig will send a positive response to the JSC before their next meeting in November 2011.

SAC Subcommittee on Genre-Form Implementation

The subcommittee spent a large portion of its six hours of meetings discussing the different aspects (or facets) of genre/form that are not in and of themselves genre or form. Members of the group had prepared reports exploring options in MARC for representation of the aspects: where/if they are currently recorded, and what the subcommittee's recommendation might be for possible new practices.

Some conclusions drawn from the discussion:

- Characteristics of person is a broad category of information important to genre/form access. These characteristics can apply to either creator or intended audience. Idea of possibly broadening the definition of the 656 field for this use.
Facets of characteristics:
 - Age group
 - Class of persons (including occupational groups, field of activity groups)
 - Disability group
 - Ethnicity
 - Gender
 - Geographic origin
 - Language
 - Nationality – use the name of the country or the noun form of people from that country (e.g., United States vs. Americans)?
 - Religion/denomination
 - Sexual orientation
- Chronology—for both creation and setting—is an important aspect, not always currently recorded in any machine-actionable field.
- Geographic setting may be important, but can sometimes be reflected in a subject heading. Idea of suggesting a new relator term, “setting” to be used with 6XX fields.
- These aspects need to be available in the both the authority and bibliographic formats, and reliably indexed. They are currently scattered across the bibliographic record.
- It can be difficult to draw the line between topical subjects and genres/forms; this is obvious from some of the already-established terms in LCGFT (e.g., War films, Geological maps). Sometimes usage is important; if enough people think of something as a genre, it can become one.

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