THESAURUS FOR GRAPHIC MATERIALS I: SUBJECT TERMS
Profile sheet for *TGM I*, 2004 April

Available for searching or downloading at http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/tgm1
Questions? Contact *TGM I* editor: Arden Alexander aale@loc.gov

Scope:
  – Offers terms for subject indexing of pictorial materials, particularly large general collections of historical images found in many libraries, historical societies, and archives, including photographs, posters, cartoons, architectural drawings, and prints.
  – Features vocabulary for specific activities, objects, types of people, events, and facilities depicted in visual materials as well as broad concepts such as agriculture and civil rights.
  – Includes ca. 600 terms to designate pictorial genres and media, such as "Circus posters," "Glass negatives," "Portraits," and "Watercolors." (For terms with scope notes, see *TGM II*, http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/tgm2/)
  – Does not include proper noun names of people, organizations, events, and places. To index such named entities, use TGM in conjunction with other vocabularies such as the *Library of Congress Authorities*, http://authorities.loc.gov/.

Statistical Profile:
  – Main Terms: 6,900
  – Equivalencies (Used For Terms):   5,200
  – Hierarchical Relationships   (Broader & Narrower Terms): 5,300 pairs
  – Associative Relationships (Related Terms): 13,700
  – New terms added each year: 50 to 100

Background:
  – Started in the 1980s at the Library of Congress Prints & Photographs Division by Elisabeth Betz Parker.
  – Based on a consolidation and expansion of subject headings developed during the previous 50 years to arrange browsing files and card catalogs. Examples: "Industry—Oil" and "Industry—Oyster."
  – Built from the bottom up as catalog pictures in new subject areas. Current P&P projects are adding terms related to Middle East history. Outside contributors include the Denver Public Library, North Dakota State University, and National Library of Wales.

Goals:
  – Provide access to pictures while following thesaurus standards and using limited resources (2 or 3 hours of staff time per week) to best advantage.
  – Strive for compatibility with vocabulary found in *LC Subject Headings* and the *Art & Architecture Thesaurus*.
  – Develop new terms for visual image topics such as "Corn husking," "Moonlight," and "Yin yang (Symbol)" and for contemporary concepts such as "Spontaneous shrines" and "Digital photographs."

Future Directions:
  – Integrate TGM terms into catalogs to improve access for catalog users. Example: Indiana University Digital Library, Cushman Photograph Collection, http://webapp1.dlib.indiana.edu/cushman/index.jsp
  – Produce a MARC/XML format version to expand service to digital library projects.
  – Separate precoordinated headings into distinct terms. Example: "Children riding horses" will become "Children" and "Horseback riding."