

Decision regarding the final disposition of *LCSH* headings for video recordings

November 6, 2009

On May 11, 2009, the Policy and Standards Division (PSD) of the Library of Congress requested input on its plan for the disposition of existing topical video recording headings (<http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/videorecheadings.pdf>). PSD would like to thank all of the individuals who voiced their opinions; those comments helped significantly as PSD determined the most appropriate course of action.

PSD has determined that topical headings (MARC tag 150) denoting a genre or form of video recording should be cancelled in favor of the existing correlated film headings, for the reasons stated in the discussion paper. Those headings are:

Topical video heading

Animated videos
Biographical videos
Comedy videos
Documentary videos
Educational videos
Ethnographic videos
Erotic videos
Experimental videos
Gay erotic videos
Instructional videos
Nature videos
Promotional videos
Sports videos
Video recordings for children
Wildlife videos

Correlated topical film heading

Animated films
Biographical films
Comedy films
Documentary films
Educational films
Ethnographic films
Erotic films
Experimental films
Gay erotic films
Instructional films
Nature films
Promotional films
Sports films
Children's films
Wildlife films

There is not a correlated film heading for **Sponsored videos**, the final heading in this category, so PSD will change the existing heading to **Sponsored films** and create a genre/form heading to match.

The discussion paper also examined the headings **Video mini-series** and **Interactive video**. In that paper, PSD suggested that **Video mini-series** and **Television mini-series** should be cancelled and that a new heading **Mini-series** should be created, which would apply equally to videos and television programs. Several correspondents objected to this idea, on the grounds that:

1. the distinction between television programs and films should be retained for mini-series, and

2. there are other types of mini-series, such as comic book mini-series and novel mini-series, and an unqualified heading such as **Mini-series** may pose problems in the future.

Taking these arguments into account, PSD has decided to retain the heading **Television mini-series**. The heading **Video mini-series** will be revised to **Film mini-series**, so that the heading will follow the general policy of using the word “film” or “films” where possible in genre/form headings. Neither “video mini-series” nor “film mini-series” has a significant amount of literary warrant, so making the change should not unnecessarily hinder access.

On the other hand, **Interactive video** has clear literary warrant, and LC’s catalog does not include any works employing the phrase “interactive films.” PSD will revise the heading to make it plural and create a genre/form heading to match, as suggested by the discussion paper.

Finally, the discussion paper raised the possibility of authorizing **Internet videos** and **Podcasts** as genre/form headings. These terms principally refer to distribution methods and therefore refer to manifestations and not expressions. However, as these “new media” evolve they are developing their own stylistic and/or release and exhibition parameters, which are aspects of genre and form. PSD will therefore retain the topical headings **Internet videos** and **Podcasts** and create corresponding genre/form authority records. In addition, PSD will create the genre/form heading **Webisodes**, which will be applied to short episodes that air initially as Internet downloads instead of as part of the related television program.

The heading **Internet videos** deviates from the standard terminology of the genre/form thesaurus, in which the term “films” is preferred; **Internet videos** was chosen as the heading because that phrase is clearly used more frequently than “internet films.” The authority record will include a UF reference from *Internet films*.

The existence of the genre/form headings **Internet videos**, **Podcasts**, and **Webisodes** should not be construed as a desire to create subgenres of podcasts and internet videos (e.g. Comedy podcasts, Animated internet videos, Legal webisodes). Instead, the appropriate film or television headings should be postcoordinated with these headings if desired.