



Library of Congress genre/form headings

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conference

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Genre/form headings

Describe what a work *is*
rather than what it is *about*

Genre/form v. topical headings

- Examples

- *Saving Private Ryan*: a war film

- *British Intelligence in the Second World War*: a book about World War II

- *The Lady and the Tramp*: an animated film

- *The Encyclopedia of Animated Films*: a book about animated films

MARC 21 coding

- Topical headings
 - Authority records: heading and references coded in X50 fields
 - Bibliographic records: heading coded in 650 fields
- Genre/form headings
 - Authority records: heading and references coded in x55 fields
 - Bibliographic records: heading coded in 655 fields

MARC 21 coding

Topical heading

- *Authority record*
 - 150 \$a War films
 - 450 \$a Combat films
 - 550 \$w g \$a Motion pictures
 - 550 \$a Anti-war films
- *Bibliographic record*
 - 650 #0 \$a War films \$x History and criticism.

Genre/form heading

- *Authority record*
 - 155 \$a War films
 - 455 \$a Combat films
 - 555 \$w g \$a Motion pictures
 - 555 \$a Anti-war films
- *Bibliographic record*
 - 655 #0 \$a War films.

Why two records?

- MARBI Proposal 93-8:
 - Proposed new codes for 008/18-21 of authority records
 - Byte 18 would indicate whether an authorized topical heading (tag 150) could be used as a genre/form heading (tag 655) in bibliographic records
- MARBI indicated a preference for different variable fields in authority records, instead of fixed-field data

Why two records?

- MARBI Proposal 95-11:
 - Authority fields 155, 455, and 555 and bibliographic field 655 (Index Term—Genre/Form) proposed and approved

Current genre/form projects

- Moving images
 - Films
 - Television programs
 - Video recordings
- Radio programs

Project objectives

- To assist in retrieval by providing access points for the forms and genres of expressions, to complement headings describing subject content.

Project objectives

- To create a system of authority records that:
 - Permits future development and maintenance by LC and eventually by other libraries, patterned after the routines established for *LCSH* as a whole
 - Supports automatic validation of headings assigned to bibliographic records

Project objectives

- To determine the issues that will arise in the creation and use of such thesauri, in order to determine whether to expand the project beyond moving images, recorded sound, and musical compositions

Rationale for project order

- **First project: Moving images**
 - LC's Moving Image, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division (MBRS) approached CPSO in 2005
 - Requested that the *Moving Image Genre/Form Guide (MIGFG)* be included in *LCSH*
 - The moving image genre/form terms constitute a small, defined subgroup in *LCSH*
 - This small project helped us identify and solve problems that we will encounter with larger projects

Rationale for project order

- Second project: Radio programs
 - Conversion of MBRS' *Radio Form-Genre Guide (RADFG)*
 - Another small project
 - Helped us identify issues that arose as the new discipline was added to the thesaurus

Project statistics to date

- Moving image project: ~ 380 headings
- Radio program project: ~ 60 headings



Policies

LC genre/form headings

Policy decisions: Headings

- “That’s not a genre!”
 - Film scholars v. general public’s definition
 - Headings based on literary usage and warrant
 - What would a library user look for?

Policy decisions: Headings

- Available in two *Subject Cataloging Manual (SCM)* instruction sheets
 - H 1913, Moving image genre/form headings
 - H 1969.5, Radio program genre/form headings

Policy decisions: Headings

- One heading is used for all manifestations of a motion picture work
 - Intent is to catalog the *expression*, not the *manifestation* (i.e., catalog the intellectual or artistic expression of a work, not its physical embodiment (VHS, DVD, electronic, etc.))
 - Allows collocation of all manifestations within and across catalogs

Policy decisions: Headings

- Definition of terms
 - **Film**: work that is originally recorded and released on motion picture film, on video, or digitally
 - **Television program**: work that has been or is meant to be telecast
 - **Radio program**: work that has been or is meant to be broadcast over radio waves

Policy decisions: Headings

- **Exceptions: Video recordings for the hearing impaired and Video recordings for people with visual disabilities**
 - Libraries requested the headings
 - May be used instead of, or in addition to:
 - **Films for the hearing impaired**
 - **Films for people with visual disabilities**
 - **Television programs for the hearing impaired**
 - **Television programs for people with visual disabilities**

Policy decisions: Headings

- Prefer to use same heading string for the genre/form heading and the topical heading wherever possible

155 Horror films

150 Horror films

- Allows for “one stop searching”

Policy decisions: Headings

- Not always possible to use the same string

Cinéma vérité films [*genre/form*]

Cinéma vérité [*topical*]

Television news programs [*genre/form*]

Television broadcasting of news [*topical*]

Policy decisions: Headings

- If identical topical and genre/form heading strings exist, then
 - The scope is the same
 - [*Caveat*: the genre/form heading describes what a work is, while the subject heading describes what a work is about]
 - The reference structure is often identical

Policy decisions: Headings

- Genre/form headings without a corresponding topical heading exist

Computer animation television programs

Filmed boxing matches

Radio airchecks

Policy decisions: Headings

- Topical headings without a corresponding genre/form heading exist
 - The topical heading may be new
 - If needed for a genre/form heading it may be proposed
 - The topical heading may not be appropriate for use as a genre/form heading
 - Conscious decision

Policy decisions: Headings

- A scope note is added to topical headings that are not appropriate as genre/form headings

150 Cult films

680 This heading is not used for individual cult films. Individual cult films are entered under headings appropriate to the content, genre, and/or form of the film.

Policy decisions: Headings

Recordings of events v. cinematic works

- Recordings or broadcasts of events (e.g., musicals, concerts) considered nonfiction
- Cinematic works considered fiction
- Format of headings:

Filmed operas *[recording]*

Opera films *[cinematic]*

Televised football games *[recording]*

Football television programs *[cinematic]*

Policy decisions: Headings

Recordings of events v. cinematic works

Singin' in the rain

[the 1952 cinematic version]

655 #0 \$a Musical films.

655 #0 \$a Fiction films.

Singin' in the rain

[recording of a Broadway performance]

655 #0 \$a Filmed musicals.

655 #0 \$a Nonfiction films.

Policy decisions: References

- References are made according to the general principles in *SCM H 370*
 - **UF** references for variant terminology and/or different forms of heading
 - **BT** references for explicit class/class member relationships
 - **RT** references for terms with meanings that overlap or are used interchangeably

Policy decisions: References

- “Broadest term” references for each format
 - **Motion pictures, Television programs, Video recordings, Radio programs**
 - May be applied to collections that are composed of multiple genres and/or forms to which more specific headings cannot be applied
 - Provided chiefly for hierarchy

Policy decisions: Scope notes

- Format of scope notes is different from that for other headings
 - Allows for clarity in ILS displays
 - Provides subdivision information for end users and catalogers

Policy decisions: Scope notes

- Scope note examples: the genre/form heading must be defined

155 Western television programs

680 This heading is used as a genre/form heading for television programs that feature the American West during the period of westward expansion.

Policy decisions: Scope notes

- Scope note examples: the topical heading needs to be defined

150 Western television programs

680 This heading is used as a topical heading for works about television programs that feature the American West during the period of westward expansion. When used as a topical heading it is subdivided by the appropriate geographic, topical, and/or form subdivisions.

Policy decisions: Scope notes

- Scope note examples: the heading does not need to be defined

150 Mummy films

680 When subdivided by the appropriate geographic, topical, and/or form subdivisions, this heading is used for works about mummy films.

Policy decisions: Scope notes

- Scope note examples: the topical heading cannot be used as a genre/form heading

150 Color motion pictures

680 This heading is not used for individual films, which are entered under headings appropriate to the content, genre, and/or form of the film.

Policy decisions: Language

- Language is not provided for within the genre/form headings
 - Provided elsewhere in the description fields of the bibliographic record
 - Topical headings in the form **Motion pictures, [nationality]** (e.g., **Motion pictures, French**) do not denote the language of a film

Policy question: Subdivision

- Genre/form headings are not subdivided topically, geographically, chronologically, or by form
 - MARC 21 format permits it
 - LC has not implemented the subfields

Policy question: Subdivision

- Geographic subdivision debate
 - Arguments *against* geographic subdivision of moving image genre/form headings
 - Geography is not part of the genre or form
 - Could have many meanings and could be misinterpreted
 - Country of production is available in other parts of the record

Policy question: Subdivision

- Geographic subdivision debate
 - Arguments *for* geographic subdivision of moving image genre/form headings
 - Not possible to effectively limit a search using fixed field coding
 - Place of production (260 field) may be country of manufacture, not production of film
 - MARC 257 field not available for non-archival use
 - Patrons find it useful



Distribution

LC genre/form headings

Authority record distribution

- *Classification Web*
- Authorities website, authorities.loc.gov
- MARC Distribution Service
 - OCLC
 - Institutional subscribers
- Special section in the printed editions of *LCSH*



Cooperative efforts & Future directions

LC genre/form headings

Cooperative efforts

- CPSO has requested input from the cataloging community via discussion lists and conference presentations
- SACO pilot
 - Currently, two institutions are contributing new and revised genre/form authority records
 - Testing web fill-in form and workflow
- LC will be accepting contributions from all SACO libraries in the near future

Cooperative efforts

- SAC's Genre/Form Implementation Subcommittee (formed in 2007)
 - Charge: To facilitate two-way communication between CPSO and cataloging communities with an interest in genre/form headings
- CPSO representative to OLAC

Future directions

- Within the next few months:
 - LC catalogers will be trained on the use of the new moving image and radio program genre/form headings
 - Genre/form headings will be authorized for use in new LC cataloging
 - *MIGFG* & *RADFG* headings on LC bibliographic records will be replaced with LC genre/form headings

Future directions

- New projects
 - Law: in cooperation with AALL
 - Music: in cooperation with MLA
 - Literature
 - Cartography
- Timeline recommendations are being prepared by CPSO for review by LC's management



Application of headings

LC genre/form headings

Application of headings

- Genre/form headings describe what a work *is* rather than what it is *about*
 - Use topical headings to describe the subject of a work
 - Use genre/form headings to describe what a work is

Application of headings

- Topical headings
 - Assign headings designating content in accordance with general cataloging policies
 - For fictional moving image works add either **\$v Drama** or **\$v Juvenile films** to headings designating content
 - For nonfiction moving image works
 - For adult materials: do not use a form subdivision
 - For juvenile materials: subdivide by **\$v Juvenile films**

Application of headings

- Subfield \$v
 - Continue to assign \$v in subject heading strings (MARC fields 600, 610, 630, 650, 651) as appropriate, even if one or more 655s is present
 - Do not assign \$v (or any other subdivision) in genre/form (655) fields

Application of headings

- Moving images (genre/form)
 - Apply as many headings as necessary, from multiple levels of hierarchy if desired
 - Always apply either **Short films** or **Feature films**, as appropriate
 - Always apply one of the following:
 - Fiction films
 - Nonfiction films
 - Fiction television programs
 - Nonfiction television programs

Application of headings: Examples

Gone with the wind

650 #0 \$a O'Hara, Scarlet (Fictitious character) \$v Drama.

651 #0 \$a Georgia \$x History \$y Civil War, 1861-1865 \$v
Drama.

650 #0 \$a Women \$z Georgia \$v Drama.

655 #0 \$a Historical films.

655 #0 \$a War films.

655 #0 \$a Romance films.

655 #0 \$a Film adaptations.

655 #0 \$a Feature films.

655 #0 \$a Fiction films.

Application of headings: Examples

Ken Burns' *The Civil War*

651 #0 \$a United States \$x History \$y Civil War, 1861-1865.

655 #0 \$a Documentary television programs.

655 #0 \$a Nonfiction television programs.

Application of headings: Examples

The 1990 Clio Awards

650 #0 \$a Clio Awards.

655 #0 \$a Award presentations (Television programs)

655 #0 \$a Nonfiction television programs.

Application of headings: Examples

Anne of Green Gables

650 #0 \$a Shirley, Anne (Fictitious character) \$v Juvenile films.

650 #0 \$a Orphans \$z Prince Edward Island \$v Juvenile films.

650 #0 \$a Adopted children \$z Prince Edward Island \$v Juvenile films.

655 #0 \$a Children's television programs.

655 #0 \$a Made-for-TV movies.

655 #0 \$a Television adaptations.

655 #0 \$a Fiction television programs.

Application of headings: Examples

Reading rainbow

650 #0 \$a Reading (Elementary)

655 #0 \$a Children's television programs.

655 #0 \$a Educational television programs.

655 #0 \$a Nonfiction television programs.

Application of headings: Examples

*M*A*S*H*

650 #0 \$a Korean War, 1950-1953 \$x Medical care \$v
Drama.

610 10 \$a United States. \$b Army \$x Medical care \$z
Korea \$v Drama.

655 #0 \$a War television programs.

655 #0 \$a Anti-war television programs.

655 #0 \$a Fiction television programs.

655 #0 \$a Dark comedy television programs.

655 #0 \$a Medical television programs.

Application of headings: Examples

The Oprah Winfrey show

655 #0 \$a Television talk shows.

655 #0 \$a Nonfiction television programs.

Application of headings: Examples

Coming after Oprah : cultural fallout in the age of the TV talk show

650 #0 \$a Television talk shows \$z United States.

Application of headings

- Radio programs
 - Apply as many headings as necessary
 - Apply headings from multiple levels of hierarchy if desired
 - Apply one of the following, if desired:
 - Fiction radio programs
 - Nonfiction radio programs

Application of headings: Examples

Fireside chat, December 10, 1941 / Franklin D. Roosevelt

650 #0 \$a Pearl Harbor (Hawaii), Attack on, 1941.

655 #0 \$a Radio speeches.

655 #0 \$a Nonfiction radio programs.

[optional]

Application of headings: Examples

MIX 107.3 Jack Diamond morning show

655 #0 Disc jockey radio programs.

655 #0 Nonfiction radio programs. *[optional]*

Application of headings: Examples

A prairie home companion

650 #0 \$a Country life \$v Humor.

655 #0 \$a Variety shows (Radio programs)

655 #0 \$a Radio comedies.

655 #0 \$a Nonfiction radio programs.

[optional]

Application of headings

- Disciplines for which there are not yet genre/form authority records
 - Permissible to assign an LC-authorized topical heading (tag 150) as a genre/form heading (tag 655) **in some cases**
 - Code the heading as a local one
655 #7 \$a [heading]. \$2 local
 - *Note:* In the future, a library's local practices may differ from national policies

Application of headings

- When is it permissible?
 - When scope note states that the heading is used for works *of* a particular type

150 Constitutions

680 Here are entered collections of constitutions or texts of individual constitutions. Works about constitutions or constitutional law are entered under Constitutional law.

Application of headings

- When is it not permissible?
 - When scope note states that the heading is used for works *about* a particular subject

150 Interactive art

680 Here are entered works on art that requires or invites viewer participation, or that provides the elements from which the viewer creates a work of art.

Application of headings

- What if there is no scope note on the topical heading?
 - Use cataloger's judgment, knowledge of the discipline (including *SCM* instructions)

Cantatas (Equal voices) [permissible]

Detective and mystery stories [permissible]

Nautical charts [permissible]

Human figure in art [not permissible]



For further information

Further information

- *Subject Cataloging Manual*
 - H 1913: Moving image genre/form headings
 - H 1969.5: Radio program genre/form headings
- CPSO's web page (www.loc.gov/aba/)
 - Frequently asked questions
 - Announcements
- cpsol@loc.gov or jayo@loc.gov



Questions?