What *is* it, anyway?

LC Genre/Form Terms for Library and Archival Materials

Fantasy, Fars eller First Person Shooter – Vad är det fråga om?

Conference, November 9, 2012

Janis L. Young
Library of Congress
Washington, DC, USA
Genre/form terms describe what a work *is* rather than what it is *about*
Examples

A war film

A book about World War II
Examples

An animated film

A book about animated films
Genre or Form?

- Genre: a category of works that is characterized by a similar plot, theme, setting, situation, or characters
  - Horror
  - Thriller
  - Western

- Form: a category of works with a particular format and/or purpose
  - Animated
  - Educational
  - Short
Genres and Forms in LCSH

- LCSH has always included genres and forms
  - Short stories
  - War films
  - Topographic maps
  - Constitutions
  - $v$ Drama
  - $v$ Catalogs
Genres and Forms in LCSH

Form subdivisions

- LC’s first foray into explicitly coding what something is differently from what it is about
- As of Feb. 1999, all form subdivisions in LCSH are coded in the $v$ subfield

Motion pictures $x$ Production and direction $v$ Handbooks, manuals, etc.
The Long History of Genre/Form Access at LC

- Radio Form-Genre Guide (RADFG)
- Moving Image Genre-Form Guide (MIGFG)
- Moving Image Materials: Genre Terms (MIM)
- Thesaurus for Graphic Materials (TGM)
- Ethnographic Thesaurus (ET)
- Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH)
- Guidelines on Subject Access to Individual Works of Fiction, Drama, Etc. (GSAFD)
- Art & Architecture Thesaurus (AAT)
- Medical Subject Headings (MeSH)
- Genre Terms: A Thesaurus for Use in Rare Book and Special Collections Cataloguing
- Et cetera, et cetera...
Why Create Another Thesaurus?

- To minimize the need to consult multiple controlled vocabularies
  - Expedites the cataloging process
- To create full authority records
  - Provides reference structure
  - Allows for machine validation
  - Enriches the semantic web
- To allow for updating
  - Keeps terminology current
Why Create Another Thesaurus?

- To bring genre and form to the forefront
  - Simplifies searching
    - In LCSH, form is usually in the final subdivision, opposite the way many users search
Why Create Another Thesaurus?

- To bring genre and form to the forefront
  - Simplifies searching
    - In LCSH, form is usually in the final subdivision, opposite the way many users search
      “Where are the short stories?”
      “I’d like to use a Swedish-English dictionary.”
      “What guidebooks do you have for Stockholm?”
Why Create Another Thesaurus?

- To allow better data manipulation and display
  - In LCSH, form headings are coded as topics
  - Explicit and unambiguous MARC coding is essential in the new interfaces
    - Faceted searching and display, word clouds
Why Create Another Thesaurus?

SH System: z-Other

$f lcgft
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| 035 | $a (DLC)sh2007025374 |
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| 040 | $a DLC $b eng $c DLC $f lcgft |
| 155 | $a War films |
| 455 | $a Combat films |
| 555 | $w g $a Motion pictures |
| 555 | $a Anti-war films |
| 670 | $a Moving image genre-form guide online, April 27, 2007 $b (war: 1. F |

155
455
555
Why Create Another Thesaurus?

Examples:

Title: Shakespeare’s sonnets: a linguistic analysis

650 #0 $a Sonnets, English $x History and criticism.
Why Create Another Thesaurus?

Examples:

Title: Shakespeare’s sonnets: a linguistic analysis

   650 #0 $a Sonnets, English $x History and criticism.

Title: Shakespeare’s sonnets: a collection.

   650 #0 $a Sonnets, English.
   008/35-37: eng
   655 #7 $a Sonnets. $2 lcgft
DATABASE: Library of Congress Online Catalog
YOU SEARCHED: Subject Browse = sonnets english
SEARCH RESULTS: Displaying 1 through 100 of 100.

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<td>Sonnets, English--History and criticism--Bibliography.</td>
<td>LC subject headings</td>
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"sonnets english"
Refine My Results

Material Type
- Books (142)
- Audio (2)
- Scores (1)
- Video (1)

Author/Creator
- Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616 (9)
- ebrary, Inc (8)
- Wordsworth, William, 1770-1850 (2)
- Spiller, Michael R. G (2)
- Nye, Robert (2)
Shakespeare's Sonnets
by David West, William Shakespeare

Members | Reviews | Popularity | Average rating | Conversations
---|---|---|---|---
25 | None | 354,194 | None | None

Add to your library | Add to wishlist

Recently added by: PhilipKinsella, k.wickerworks, LindaKB, Anhrefn, EdwardGPettit, k.c.w., AnthonyTFS, jandk, OpenLoopPress

Tags:
- adult
- British
- classic poetry
- classics
- from cora
- gift
- Joshua Kryah
- literature
- MR
- non-fiction
- Penguin Literature Catalog 2008
- poetry
- seminary
- September 2007
- Shakespeare
- Shakespeare criticism
- ShakesPoetry
- sonnet
- sonnets
Development Strategy

- Collaborative
  - Partnering with professional organizations
    - American Association of Law Libraries
    - Music Library Association
    - American Theological Library Association
    - SAC Subcommittee on Genre/Form Implementation
  - Public discussion papers
  - Presentations
Development Strategy

- Discipline by discipline
  - Allows for an orderly rollout
  - Allows for adjustments as issues are discovered and resolved
“Finished” Projects

- Moving images (films, television programs)
- Spoken-word sound recordings (chiefly radio programs)
- Cartography
- Law
  - Partner: American Association of Law Libraries
Projects in Progress

- Music
- Religion
- Literature
- General terms
Projects in Progress: Music

- Project coordinator: Geraldine Ostrove
- Project participants
  - MLA’s Bibliographic Control Committee, Genre/Form Task Force
  - LC committee of stakeholders from the Music Division, MBRS, and the American Folklife Center
Projects in Progress: Music

- Two separate but related projects
  - Genre/form
    - Approximately 800 terms so far
  - Medium of performance
    - Approximately 700 terms so far
  - MARC 21 development
    - Bibliographic field 382
    - Authority format: proposal for a field is planned for the 2013 ALA Midwinter Meeting
Projects in Progress: Music

- Hundreds of LC subject headings will be deconstructed
  - 650 #0 $a Sonatas (Flute and trumpet)
  - 382 01 $a Trumpet $n 1 $a Flute $n 1 $s 2
  - 655 #7 $a Sonatas. $2 lcgft

- Tentative timeline: Terms approved in late 2013
Partnersing with ATLA since June 2010

- Serving as a conduit for other organizations
- ATLA has provided PSD with its completed thesaurus
  - LC staff are now commenting
- Terms are likely to be approved in early 2013
Partnering with the ALA/ALCTS/SAC Subcommittee on Genre/Form Implementation (SGFI)
- Working Group on LCGFT Literature Terms

PSD provided a seed list of approximately 550 LCSH form headings

Timeline: SGFI will present the thesaurus to PSD in 2014
Projects in Progress: General Terms

- Undertaken in cooperation with SGFI
- Potential genre/form terms

  Dictionaries
  Encyclopedias
  Guidebooks
  Handbooks
  Quotations
Projects in Progress: General Terms

- Based on LCSH form subdivisions
- Timeline: SGFI’s report to PSD is scheduled for 2013
LC Genre/Form Terms for Library and Archival Materials

Characteristics and Application
Characteristics of LCGFT

- Syntax is consistent across disciplines
  - Significant word is almost always in the first position
  - All authorized terms are in natural-language order
    - Terms may be qualified, but never inverted
Characteristics of LCGFT

- Syntax is consistent across disciplines
  - Detective and mystery films
  - Topographic maps
  - Indulgences (Canon law)
  - but ...
  - Television comedies
  - Filmed panel discussions
Characteristics of LCGFT

- Limited to genres and forms and does not explicitly include
  - Audience
  - Language
  - Geography
  - Ethnicity or nationality
  - Chronology
  - Religion
- Must be coded somewhere else, if significant
Characteristics of LCGFT

- Reflects the FRBR work and expression levels
  - Not the physical carrier -- VHS, DVD, electronic file, textual volume, sound cassette, etc.
  - Allows for collocation of all manifestations of a work within and across catalogs
Characteristics of LCGFT

- Hierarchical
  - Class/class member relationship
  - Each discipline has a “broadest term”
    
    - Motion pictures
    - Television programs
    - Sound recordings
    - Cartographic materials
    - Law materials
  
  - All terms in a discipline can be found by “drilling up” or “drilling down”
Characteristics of LCGFT

- Hierarchical

  Computer animation films has BT Animated films
    ... which has BT Motion pictures
  Loran charts has BT Nautical charts
    ... which has BT Maps
    ... which has BT Cartographic materials
Characteristics of LCGFT

- Post-coordinated and faceted
  - Each authorized term describes one aspect
  - Terms do not overlap in meaning

Animated television programs
Comedy television programs
Characteristics of LCGFT

- Closely interconnected with
  - Descriptive elements
  - Subject headings
  - Other vocabularies (e.g., LC Medium of Performance Thesaurus for Music)

- Does not replace nor repeat the rest of the cataloging record
Characteristics of LCGFT

- Closely interconnected with descriptive elements

110 1# $a Virginia, $e jurisdiction governed.
240 10 $a Laws, etc.
245 10 $a Laws passed by the British Parliament related to the Colony of Virginia.
655 #7 $a Statutes and codes. $2 lcgft
710 1# $a Great Britain, $e enacting jurisdiction.
Characteristics of LCGFT

- Closely interconnected with subject headings

650 #0 $a World War, 1939-1945 $v Drama.
655 #7 $a War films. $2 lcgft
655 #7 $a Comedy films. $2 lcgft
Characteristics of LCGFT

- Closely interconnected with subject headings

650 #0 $a World War, 1939-1945 $v Drama.
655 #7 $a War films. $2 lcgft
655 #7 $a Comedy films. $2 lcgft
Characteristics of LCGFT

- Closely interconnected with subject headings
  651 #0 $a Scandinavia $v Maps.
  655 #7 $a Topographic maps. $2 lcgft
Application of LCGFT

- Remember:
  - Subject headings describe what a work is about
  - Genre/form terms describe what a work is
Application of LCGFT

- Remember:
  - Subject headings describe what a work is about
  - Genre/form terms describe what a work is

A documentary about horror films
650 #0 $a Horror films $x History and criticism.
655 #7 $a Documentary films. $2 lcgft
Application of LCGFT

- Apply multiple terms to bring out multiple facets
  - Do not subdivide the terms
- Apply subject headings as usual, including form subdivisions (subfield $v$)
Application of LCGFT

650 #0 $a Baseball $z United States $x History.
655 #7 $a Documentary television programs. $2 lcgft
655 #7 $a Nonfiction television programs. $2 lcgft
655 #7 $a Sports television programs. $2 lcgft
Application of LCGFT

650 #0 $a World War, 1939-1945 $v Drama.
655 #7 $a War films. $2 lcgft
655 #7 $a Romance films. $2 lcgft
655 #7 $a Feature films. $2 lcgft
655 #7 $a Fiction films. $2 lcgft
Application of LCGFT

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

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

655 #7 $a Radio speeches. $2 lcgft
655 #7 $a Nonfiction radio programs. $2 lcgft
655 #7 $a War radio programs. $2 lcgft
Application of LCGFT

650 #0 $a Law $z Virginia $v Periodicals.
650 #0 $a Bar associations $z Virginia $v Periodicals.
655 #7 $a Bar journals.  
$2 lcgft
Application of LCGFT

650 #0 $a Roads $z Sweden $v Maps.
655 #7 $a Road maps. $2 lcgft
655 #7 $a Atlases. $2 lcgft
Application of LCGFT

600 10 $a Carl $b XVI Gustaf, $c King of Sweden, $d 1946-
650 #0 $a Kings and rulers $z Sweden $v Biography.
655 #7 $a Biographies. $2 lcgft
Application of LCGFT

600 10 10 $a Christian $c VII, King of Denmark and Norway, 1749-1808 $v Fiction.
650 #0 $a Courts and courtiers $z Denmark $v Fiction.
650 #0 $a Mental illness $v Fiction.
655 #7 $a Historical fiction. $2 lcgft (?)
655 #7 $a Novels. $2 lcgft (?)
Application of LCGFT

650 #0 $a East Asians $v Fiction.
655 #7 $a Short stories.
   $2 lcgft
Application of LCGFT

650 #0 $a Short stories.
Application of LCGFT

655 #7 $a Short stories. $2 lcgft
Application of LCGFT

650 #0 $a Murder $x Investigation $v Fiction.
650 #0 $a Police $z Sweden $v Fiction.
655 #7 $a Detective and mystery fiction. $2 lcgft (?)
655 #7 $a Novels. $2 lcgft (?)
The thesaurus and coding are new, but the analysis is not

- Catalogers already determine the genre and/or form of a work, whether or not they can express it in the record
Application of LCGFT

- Benefits to search and retrieval
  - Intrinsic genre/form characteristics of the works will now be fully searchable
  - Terminology is current and in natural-language syntax
  - Result sets can be tailored to fill individual needs
“spy films”

72 Results
Refine My Results
Genre/Form

- Feature films (54)
- Fiction films (53)
- Spy films (52)
- Drama (33)
- Film adaptations (11)
- Detective and mystery films (7)
- Video recordings for the hearing impaired (6)
- War films (5)
- Thrillers (Motion pictures) (5)
- Catalogs (4)
- Action and adventure films (4)
- Romance films (4)
- Film and video adaptations (3)
- Comedy films (3)
- Silent films (2)
- Science fiction films (2)
- Short films (1)
- Indexes (1)
- Historical films (1)
- Thriller (1)

Silent films (2)
LCGFT is a collaborative project to develop consistent terminology that will enhance access to resources by

- Allowing catalogers to record intrinsic characteristics of resources
- Providing consistently coded data that can be easily manipulated for more effective search and display
Summary

- Development is ongoing
  - Four new projects will come to fruition over the next three years
  - Policies are being tweaked as each additional group of terms is added
Development is ongoing
  ◦ Four new projects will come to fruition over the next three years
  ◦ Policies are being tweaked as each additional group of terms is added

Nothing is written in stone!
For More Information

- Genre/form web page
  http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/genreformgeneral.html
  - Frequently asked questions
  - Announcements
  - Reports
  - Discussion papers

- Subject Headings Manual
  - H 1913: Moving image genre/form terms
  - H 1969.5: Radio program genre/form terms

- Email: jayo@loc.gov
Questions?