

# Coming to Terms with Genre/Form Access

Library of Congress  
Genre/Form Terms for  
Library and Archival Materials

Janis L. Young  
Policy and Standards Division  
Library of Congress  
December 9, 2011

Genre/form terms describe what a work *is* rather than what it is *about*

## Examples


**A war film**





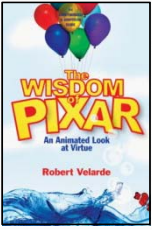
**A book about World War II**

## Examples



**An animated film**

**A book about animated films**



## Genre or Form?

- Genre: category of works that is characterized by a similar plot, theme, setting, situation, and characters
  - Horror
  - Thriller
  - Western
- Form: work 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
  - ⌘ Drama
  - ⌘ Handbooks, manuals, etc.

### The Long History of Genre/Form Headings 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...

7

### Why create another thesaurus?

- To minimize the need to consult multiple thesauri
  - Expedites the cataloging process
- To create full authority records
  - Provides reference structure
  - Allows for machine validation
- To allow for updating
  - Keeps terminology current

8

### Why create another thesaurus?

- To provide consistency in syntax and terminology, utilizing natural language terms in current use
  - Simplifies user searching and resource discovery

9

### Example: The Closer

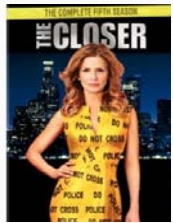
650 #0 \$a Criminal investigation \$z California \$z Los Angeles \$v Drama.

650 #0 \$a Detectives \$z California \$z Los Angeles \$v Drama.

655 #7 \$a Police films and programs. \$2 mim

655 #7 \$a Police \$v Television series. \$2 migfg

655 #7 \$a Mystery television programs. \$2 gsafd



10

### Why now?

- To take advantage of new search and display technologies
  - New search engines employ faceted searching, word clouds
  - Explicitly coding genre/form headings should allow for better data manipulation

11




Search results for "baseball"

**Narrow by Format**

- All Formats (95,961)
- Book (29243)
  - eBook (2854)
  - Thesis/dissertation (2663)
  - Microform (557)
  - Braille (222)
  - Large print (200)
  - Continually updated resource (4)
- Article (16542)
  - Downloadable article (40)
- Internet resource (12904)
  - Website (24)
  - Downloadable image (12)
- Archival material (11346)
  - Downloadable archival material (210)
- Video (6640)
  - VHS (2978)
  - DVD (1938)
  - Film (1449)
  - eVideo (58)
  - Blu-ray (28)

Results 1-10 of about 95,961 (.23 seconds)

Select All Clear All Save to: [New List] Save

-  **Free baseball**  
by Sue Corbett  
Book : Elementary and junior high school : Fiction  
Language: English  
Publisher: New York : Dutton Children's Books, 2006.  
[View all editions and formats](#)
-  **Baseball**  
by James Keiley  
Book : Elementary and junior high school  
Language: English  
Publisher: New York : Dorling Kindersley Pub., 2000.  
[View all editions and formats](#)
-  **The desperado who stole baseball**  
by John H Ritter  
Book : Elementary and junior high school : Fiction  
Language: English  
Publisher: New York : Philomel Books, ©2009.  
[View all editions and formats](#)

Show more....

**Refine Your Search**

**Author**  
 Bill Lee (7590)  
[Bain News Service...](#) (2154)  
[The Hurley Farmside](#) (508)  
 Unknown (273)  
 Ken Burns (219)  
[Show more...](#)

**Year**  
 2009 (2971)  
 2007 (2696)  
 2006 (2499)  
 2003 (1647)  
[Show more...](#)

**Language**  
 English (78433)  
 Undetermined (6079)  
 Japanese (1412)  
 Spanish (706)  
 French (354)  
[Show more...](#)

**Content**  
 Biography (6243)  
 Fiction (3422)  
 Non-Fiction (92639)  
 Thesis/Dissertation (2702)

4. **Louis Sockalexis : Native American baseball pioneer**  
 by Bill Wise, Bill Farnsworth  
 Book : Biography - Juvenile audience  
 Language: English  
 Publisher: New York : Lee & Low Books, ©2007.

5. **Baseball great**  
 by Tim Green  
 Book : Elementary and junior high school - Fiction  
 Language: English  
 Publisher: New York : HarperCollinsPublishers, ©2009.  
[View all editions and formats](#)

6. **Baseball**  
 by Michael Teitelbaum  
 Book : Juvenile audience  
 Language: English  
 Publisher: Ann Arbor, Mich. : Cherry Lake Pub., ©2009.

7. **Day & me : a baseball card adventure**

## 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

14


## Development Strategy

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

15

## “Finished” Projects


- Moving images (films, television programs, video recordings)
- Spoken-word recorded sound
- Cartography
- Law



16

## Projects in Process

- Music
- Religion
- Literature
- Non-disciplinary terms



17

Fundamental question:  
 What constitutes a genre or a form?

18

## Assumptions and Policies

- Terms describe the expression, not the manifestation, of a work
  - Catalog the intellectual or artistic expression, not its physical carrier -- VHS, DVD, electronic, textual, sound cassette, etc.
  - Allows for collocation of all manifestations of a work within and across catalogs
- Redefined the word film
  - Works that are originally recorded and released on motion picture film, on video, or digitally

19

## Assumptions and Policies

- LCGFT includes genre/form records to match almost all of the moving image and radio form headings in LCSH
  - "Pure" forms
    - Actualities (Motion pictures)**
    - Topical forms
      - War television programs**
      - Characters and franchises
        - Charlie Chan films**

20

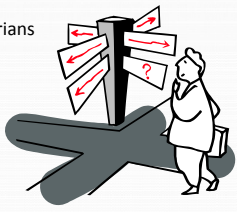
## Assumptions and Policies

- Some LCSH headings are not genres or forms, or are not useful in a genre/form thesaurus
  - Cult films**
  - Color motion pictures**
  - Headings qualified by nationality
    - Motion pictures, American**

21

## Assumptions and Policies

- Users would be confused if they could find only books with a heading
  - Difficult for reference librarians to explain



22

## Assumptions and Policies

- Parallel heading structure
  - Biographical films**
  - Biographical television programs**
  - Biographical radio programs**

23

## Assumptions and Policies

- What should be done with works that don't fit?
  - Internet videos
  - Podcasts
  - Webisodes



24

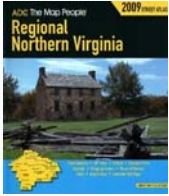
## Assumptions and Policies

Cartographic materials

- Avoid parallel terms wherever possible
- Post-coordinate instead

**Road atlases**

Atlases



25

## Facets

- Merriam-Webster online dictionary
  - Facet: def. 2: Any of the definable aspects that make up a subject (as of contemplation) or an object (as of consideration)
  - Synonyms: angle, aspect, hand, phase, side

26

## Facets

Coding single terms or phrases, representing individual concepts, separately in the bibliographic record

27

## Facets

Library materials often have multiple facets

- Accessibility
- Audience
- Chronology
- Class of person of creator
- Ethnology of creator
- Language
- Location/Geographic setting
- Nationality of creator
- Place of publication
- Topic
- Carrier

28

## Facets: LCSH

- In LCSH, facets are often provided in pre-coordinated heading strings
  - Women \$z Pennsylvania \$x History \$y 19<sup>th</sup> century \$v Juvenile literature.
  - Washington (D.C.) \$v Aerial views.
  - Children's writings, American \$v Bibliography.
  - Constitutional law \$z United States \$v Encyclopedias.

29

## Facets: LCSH

- In LCSH, facets can be brought out through post-coordinated headings
  - Crayfish fisheries \$x Catch effort.
  - Cherax cainii fisheries.

30

### Facets: LCGFT

- Each term represents one facet
  - Do not overlap with each other
  - Are not subdivided
- Multiple facets are represented by multiple terms

31

### Facets: LCGFT

- One facet per term provides predictability

~~Animated western films~~  
~~Western animated films~~

~~Children's educational television programs~~  
~~Educational television programs, Juvenile~~  
 Educational television programs—Juvenile works  
 Juvenile educational television programs

32

### Facets: Bibliographic Record

- Data is not repeated within a record
  - Descriptive elements, subject headings, genre/form terms all play their own roles
  - Individual pieces of data work together to provide a complete understanding of the work

33

### Facets: Bibliographic Record

- The syntax and coding must be unambiguous
  - To catalogers
  - To end users
  - To the computer

34

### Facets: Bibliographic Record

- If a characteristic is present in the descriptive portion of the record, it probably isn't part of the genre or form, e.g.,
  - Language: recorded in 008, 041, 130, 240, 546
  - Place of production: recorded in 008, 257, 260

35

### Facets: Bibliographic Record

041 1# \$a ger \$h eng  
 043 \$a ~~e-gx---~~  
 245 00 \$a Goodbye Lenin! \$h [videorecording] / \$c X Verleih präsentiert eine X Filme Creative Pool produktion in co-produktion mit dem WestDeutschen Rundfunk.  
 257 \$a Germany. \$2 naf  
 300 \$a 1 videodisc (ca. 121 min.) : \$b sd., col. ; \$c 4 3/4 in.  
 546 \$a In German with optional English subtitles.  
 650 #0 \$a Mothers and sons \$v Drama.  
 651 #0 \$a Germany \$x History \$y Unification, 1990 \$v Drama.  
~~Germany films~~ Feature films—~~Germany~~

36

## Facets: Bibliographic Record

041 1# \$a ger \$h eng  
 043 \$a e-gx---  
 245 00 \$a Goodbye Lenin! \$h [videorecording] / \$c X Verleih präsentiert eine X Filme Creative Pool produktion in co-produktion mit dem WestDeutschen Rundfunk.  
 257 \$a Germany. \$2 naf  
 300 \$a 1 videodisc (ca. 121 min.) : \$b sd., col. ; \$c 4 3/4 in.  
 546 \$a In German with optional English subtitles.  
 650 #0 \$a Mothers and sons \$v Drama.  
 651 #0 \$a Germany \$x History \$y Unification, 1990 \$v Drama.  
 655 #7 \$a Comedy films. \$2 lcgft  
 655 #7 \$a Feature films. \$2 lcgft

37

## Facets: Bibliographic Record

- Genre/form terms and subject headings are symbiotic

650 #0 \$a World War, 1939-1945 \$v Drama.

655 #7 \$a War films. \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Comedy films. \$2 lcgft

651 #0 \$a Washington (D.C.) \$v Maps.

655 #7 \$a Topographic maps. \$2 lcgft

38

## Lessons [Being] Learned

- It's hard to change overnight
  - Librarians are accustomed to form headings being located in LCSH
  - Catalogers are loath to change local practices that have developed
- Listening to interest groups and being flexible are key, but seeing the "big picture" is essential

39

## Lessons [Being] Learned

- Building a thesaurus from scratch is difficult
  - Determining which LCSH policies should be adopted
  - Building it discipline-by-discipline is sometimes frustrating
    - Cross-over terminology
  - Unexpected issues will arise
    - When is a genre not a genre?

40

## Questions?

41

## Assigning Genre/Form Terms

42

## LCGFT Structure

- All roads lead to Vegas... or to a broadest term
  - Motion pictures**
  - Television programs**
  - Sound recordings**
  - Cartographic materials**
  - Law materials**

43

## LCGFT Structure

- Broadest term is authorized but generally cannot be assigned
  - Motion pictures**

This heading is used as a genre/form heading for collections of films that are composed of multiple genres and/or forms to which more specific headings such as Nonfiction films or Comedy films cannot be applied.

44

## LCGFT Structure

- Does not include explicit indication of
  - Geography
  - Language
  - National origin
  - Ethnicity
  - Setting
  - Audience
    - Exception: children and people with disabilities

45

## MARC Coding

<b>Authority record</b>	<b>Bibliographic record</b>
008/11: z	655 #7 \$a [term]. \$2 lcgft
040 \$f: lcgft	
<i>Example:</i>	<i>Example:</i>
008/11: z	655 #7 \$a Topographic maps. \$2
040 \$a DLC \$b eng \$c DLC \$f lcgft	lcgft
155 \$a Topographic maps	
455 \$a Topographical maps	
555 \$w g \$a Maps	

46

## LCGFT Application

- Apply as many LCGFT terms as necessary to bring out what a work is
- Apply LCSH headings as usual to bring out what a work is about
- Together, LCGFT and LCSH provide users with a full understanding of the work

47

## LCGFT Application

Moving images (H 1913)

- Assign one of the following
  - Fiction films**
  - Nonfiction films**
  - Fiction television programs**
  - Nonfiction television programs**

48

### LCGFT Application

Moving images (H 1913)

- For films, assign one of the following
  - Short films**
  - Feature films**

49

### LCGFT Application

Radio programs (H 1969.5)

- If desired, assign one of the following terms
  - Fiction radio programs**
  - Nonfiction radio programs**

50

### LCGFT Application

650 #0 \$a School attendance \$v Drama.

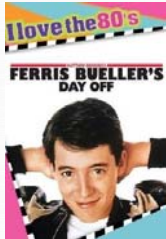
650 #0 \$a Malingering \$v Drama.

655 #7 \$a Comedy films. \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Juvenile delinquency films. \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Feature films. \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Fiction films. \$2 lcgft



51

### LCGFT Application

- Most genre/form terms are used for fictional works only
  - Nonfiction works should generally not be assigned thematic genre/form terms (e.g., **War films; Political television programs**)
    - A work is a documentary *about* a topic

52

### LCGFT Application

Beautiful son: a documentary about healing autism



600 10 \$a King, Beau.

650 #0 \$a Autism \$x Treatment.

655 #7 \$a Documentary films. \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Nonfiction films. \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Feature films. \$2 lcgft

53

### LCGFT Application

650 #0 \$a Autism \$v Drama.

650 #0 \$a Brothers \$v Drama.

655 #7 \$a Road films. \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Feature films. \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Fiction films. \$2 lcgft



54

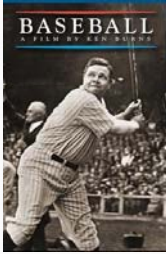
### LCGFT Application



650 #0 \$a Baseball \$v Drama.  
 650 #0 \$a Farms \$v Drama.  
 655 #7 \$a Fantasy comedies (Motion pictures) \$2 lcgft  
 655 #7 \$a Baseball films. \$2 lcgft  
 655 #7 \$a Film adaptations. \$2 lcgft  
 655 #7 \$a Feature films. \$2 lcgft  
 655 #7 \$a Fiction films. \$2 lcgft

55

### LCGFT Application





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 Television mini-series. \$2 lcgft

56

### LCGFT Application

Washington Nationals at the Florida Marlins, May 6, 2011, broadcast on MASN


[no subject headings]  
 655 #7 \$a Televised baseball games. \$2 lcgft  
 655 #7 \$a Nonfiction television programs. \$2 lcgft

57

### LCGFT Application

- Assign genre/form terms to indicate the expression, not the manifestation
  - DVDs, VHS tapes, Blu-ray, and streaming videos are all assigned the same headings
  - If in doubt, use original mode of issuance

58

### LCGFT Application

- Moving images available on the Internet
  - Assign appropriate film or television terms
  - Post-coordinate with one of the following
    - Internet videos
    - Webisodes
    - Podcasts

59

### LCGFT Application



650 #0 \$a Weddings \$v Drama.  
 655 #7 \$a Medical television programs. \$2 lcgft  
 655 #7 \$a Fiction television programs. \$2 lcgft  
 655 #7 \$a Internet videos. \$2 lcgft

60


### LCGFT Application

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



61

### LCGFT Application

- Cartographic materials
  - Assign a term for the genre or form of map
  - If necessary, post-coordinate with **Atlases**
  - Bring out special subject matter and geographic area with subject headings
    - Subdivide by **-Maps**

62

### LCGFT Application



650 #0 \$a Roads \$z Ohio \$v Maps.

655 #7 \$a Road maps. \$2 lcgft

63

### LCGFT Application

650 #0 \$a Roads \$z Ohio \$z Cleveland \$v Maps.

655 #7 \$a Road maps. \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Atlases. \$2 lcgft

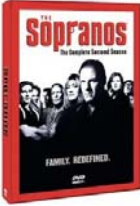


64

## Hands-on exercises

65

### Exercise 1



650 #0 \$a Mafia \$z New Jersey \$v Drama.

650 #0 \$a Families \$z New Jersey \$v Drama.

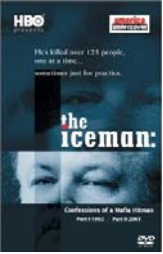
650 #0 \$a Crime \$z New Jersey \$v Drama.

655 #7 \$a Gangster television programs. \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Fiction television programs. \$2 lcgft

66

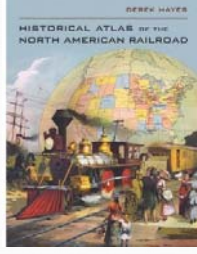
### Exercise 2



600 10 \$a Kuklinski, Richard \$v Interviews.  
 650 #0 \$a Assassins \$z United States \$v Interviews.  
 650 #0 \$a Mafia \$z United States.  
 655 #7 \$a Television interviews. \$2 lcgft  
 655 #7 \$a Documentary television programs. \$2 lcgft  
 655 #7 \$a Nonfiction television programs. \$2 lcgft  
 655 #7 \$a Internet videos. \$2 lcgft

67

### Exercise 3



650 #0 \$a Railroads \$z United States \$v Maps.  
 650 #0 \$a Railroads \$z Canada \$v Maps.  
 651 #0 \$a United States \$x Historical geography \$v Maps.  
 651 #0 \$a Canada \$x Historical geography \$v Maps.  
 655 #7 \$a Atlases. \$2 lcgft

68

### Exercise 4



630 00 \$a Star wars (Motion picture) \$v Parodies imitations, etc.  
 655 #7 \$a Parody films. \$2 lcgft  
 655 #7 \$a Science fiction films. \$2 lcgft  
 655 #7 \$a Fiction films. \$2 lcgft  
 655 #7 \$a Feature films. \$2 lcgft

69

### Exercise 5



650 #0 \$a World War, 1939-1945 \$x Aerial operations, American.  
 650 #0 \$a World War, 1939-1945 \$x Campaigns \$z Europe, Western.  
 650 #0 \$a Military glider pilots \$z United States \$x History.  
 655 #7 \$a Documentary films. \$2 lcgft  
 655 #7 \$a Nonfiction films. \$2 lcgft  
 655 #7 \$a Feature films. \$2 lcgft

70

### Exercise 6



650 #0 \$a World War, 1939-1945 \$z France \$v Drama.  
 655 #7 \$a War films. \$2 lcgft  
 655 #7 \$a Melodramas (Motion pictures) \$2 lcgft  
 655 #7 \$a Feature films. \$2 lcgft  
 655 #7 \$a Fiction films. \$2 lcgft

71

## Wrap-Up and Q&A

72

## Summary

- LCGFT is faceted
  - Meant to be used in conjunction with subject headings and descriptive cataloging
  - Multiple genre/form headings are assigned to bring out multiple concepts
- Emphasis is on the needs of the user
  - Common terminology in natural-language order

73

## For More Information

- Subject Headings Manual
  - H 1913: Moving image genre/form terms
  - H 1969.5: Radio program genre/form terms
- Genre/form web page  
<http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpsso/genreformgeneral.html>
  - Frequently asked questions
  - Announcements
  - Reports
  - Discussion papers
- Email: Janis L. Young, [jayo@loc.gov](mailto:jayo@loc.gov)

74

## Questions?

75