

Coming to Terms with Genre/Form Access

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

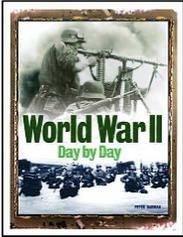
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Library of Congress
December 9, 2011

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

Examples

A war film





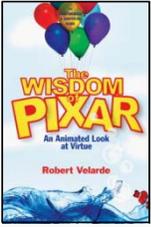
A book about World War II

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...

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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

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Why create another thesaurus?

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

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Example: The Closer

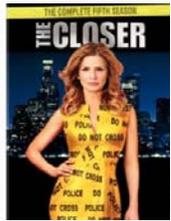
650 #0 \$a Criminal investigation \$z California \$z Los Angeles \$v Drama.

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



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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

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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)

Show more...

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](#)

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 (9047)
[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

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Development Strategy

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

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“Finished” Projects

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



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Projects in Process

- Music
- Religion
- Literature
- Non-disciplinary terms



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Fundamental question:
 What constitutes a genre or a form?

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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

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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**

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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**

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Assumptions and Policies

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



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Assumptions and Policies

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

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Assumptions and Policies

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



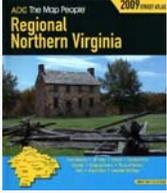
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Assumptions and Policies

Cartographic materials

- Avoid parallel terms wherever possible
- Post-coordinate instead

~~Road atlases~~
Atlases



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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

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Facets

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

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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

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Facets: LCSH

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

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Facets: LCSH

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

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Facets: LCGFT

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

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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

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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

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Facets: Bibliographic Record

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

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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

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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~~

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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

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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

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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

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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?

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Questions?

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Assigning Genre/Form Terms

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LCGFT Structure

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

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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.

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LCGFT Structure

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

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MARC Coding

Authority record	Bibliographic record
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	

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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

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LCGFT Application

Moving images (H 1913)

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

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LCGFT Application

Moving images (H 1913)

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

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LCGFT Application

Radio programs (H 1969.5)

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

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LCGFT Application

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

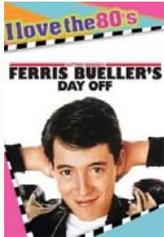
650 #0 \$a Malingering \$v Drama.

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



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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

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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

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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



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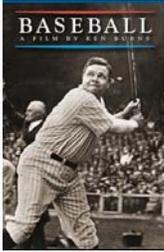
LCGFT Application



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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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



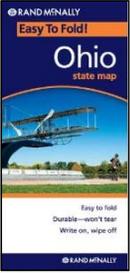
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LCGFT Application

- 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**

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LCGFT Application

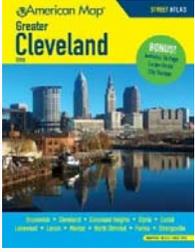


650 #0 \$a Roads \$z Ohio \$v Maps.

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

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LCGFT Application



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

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

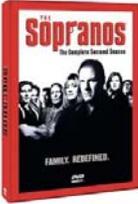
655 #7 \$a Atlases. \$2 lcgft

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Hands-on exercises

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Exercise 1



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

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

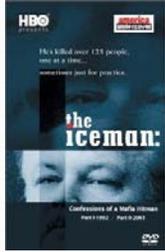
650 #0 \$a Crime \$z New Jersey \$v Drama.

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

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

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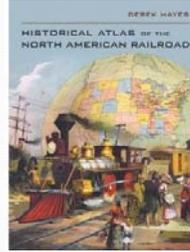
Exercise 2



- 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

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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

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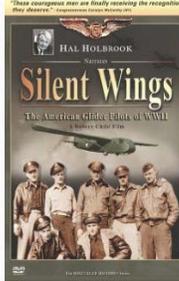
Exercise 4



- 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

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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

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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

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Wrap-Up and Q&A

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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

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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

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Questions?

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