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

Examples

**A war film**
- A book about World War II

**A book about animated films**
- An animated film

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
  - $v Drama
  - $v 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...

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

Why create another thesaurus?

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

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. $z Los Angeles $v Television series.
$2 mim
655 $7 $a Police $v Television series.
$2 migfg
655 $7 $a Mystery television programs. $2 gsafd

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
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, video recordings)
- Spoken-word recorded sound
- Cartography
- Law

Projects in Process

- Music
- Religion
- Literature
- Non-disciplinary terms

Fundamental question:
What constitutes a genre or a form?
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

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

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

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

Assumptions and Policies
- Parallel heading structure
  - Biographical films
  - Biographical television programs
  - Biographical radio programs

Assumptions and Policies
- What should be done with works that don’t fit?
  - Internet videos
  - Podcasts
  - Webisodes
Assumptions and Policies
Cartographic materials
- Avoid parallel terms wherever possible
- Post-coordinate instead

Road atlases
Atlases

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

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

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

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.

Facets: LCSH
- In LCSH, facets can be brought out through post-coordinated headings
  - Crayfish fisheries $x$ Catch effort.
  - Cherax cainii fisheries.
Facets: LCGFT
- Each term represents one facet
- Do not overlap with each other
- Are not subdivided
- Multiple facets are represented by multiple terms

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

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

Facets: Bibliographic Record
- The syntax and coding must be unambiguous
  - To catalogers
  - To end users
  - To the computer

Facets: Bibliographic Record
- 041 1# $a ger $h eng
- 043  $a g-rx--
- 245 00 $a Goodbye Lenin! $h [videorecording] / $c X Verleih präsentiert eine X Filme Creative Pool production in co-produktion mit dem WestDeutschen Rundfunk.
- 257  $a Germany $z 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.
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.
653  #0 $a Germany $x History $y Unification, 1990 $v Drama.
655  #7 $a Comedy films. $2 lcgft
655  #7 $a Feature films. $2 lcgft

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

Questions?

Assigning Genre/Form Terms

- Genre/form terms and subject headings are symbiotic
- Genre terms and subject headings are the same
- Genre terms come before 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

651  #0 $a Washington (D.C.) $v Maps.
655  #7 $a Topographic maps. $2 lcgft

Lessons [Being] Learned

- Building a thesaurus from scratch is difficult
- Determining which LCSH policies should be adopted
- Building discipline-by-discipline should be adopted
- Cross-over terminology
- Unexpected issues will arise
- When is a genre not a genre?
All roads lead to Vegas... or to a broadest term

- Motion pictures
- Television programs
- Sound recordings
- Cartographic materials
- Law materials

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.

Does not include explicit indication of

- Geography
- Language
- National origin
- Ethnicity
- Setting
- Audience
  - Exception: children and people with disabilities

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

Moving images (H 1913)

- Assign one of the following
  - Fiction films
  - Nonfiction films
  - Fiction television programs
  - Nonfiction television programs
LCGFT Application
Moving images (H 1913)
- For films, assign one of the following
  Short films
  Feature films

LCGFT Application
Radio programs (H 1969.5)
- If desired, assign one of the following terms
  Fiction radio programs
  Nonfiction radio programs

LCGFT Application
650 #0 $a School attendance $v Drama.
650 #0 $a Malingering $v Drama.
655 #7 $a Comedy films. $2 lcgt
655 #7 $a Juvenile delinquency films. $2 lcgt
655 #7 $a Feature films. $2 lcgt
655 #7 $a Fiction films. $2 lcgt

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

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 lcgt
655 #7 $a Nonfiction films. $2 lcgt
655 #7 $a Feature films. $2 lcgt
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LCGFT Application</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>650 $0 $a Baseball $v Drama.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>650 $0 $a Farms $v Drama.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>655 #7 $a Fantasy comedies (Motion pictures) $2 lcgt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>655 #7 $a Baseball films. $2 lcgt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>655 #7 $a Film adaptations. $2 lcgt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>655 #7 $a Feature films. $2 lcgt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>655 #7 $a Fiction films. $2 lcgt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LCGFT Application</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>650 $0 $a Baseball $z United States $x History.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>655 #7 $a Documentary television programs. $2 lcgt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>655 #7 $a Nonfiction television programs. $2 lcgt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>655 #7 $a Television mini-series. $2 lcgt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>LCGFT Application</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Washington Nationals at the Florida Marlins, May 6, 2011, broadcast on MASN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[no subject headings]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>655 #7 $a Televised baseball games. $2 lcgt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>655 #7 $a Nonfiction television programs. $2 lcgt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>LCGFT Application</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assign genre/form terms to indicate the expression, not the manifestation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DVDs, VHS tapes, Blu-ray, and streaming videos are all assigned the same headings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If in doubt, use original mode of issuance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>LCGFT Application</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moving images available on the Internet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assign appropriate film or television terms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-coordinate with one of the following</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet videos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Webisodes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Podcasts</td>
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</tbody>
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<tr>
<th>LCGFT Application</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>650 $0 $a Weddings $v Drama.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>655 #7 $a Medical television programs. $2 lcgt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>655 #7 $a Fiction television programs. $2 lcgt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>655 #7 $a Internet videos. $2 lcgt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 lcgt
655 #7 $a Nonfiction radio programs. $2 lcgt

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

LCGFT Application
650 #0 $a Roads $z Ohio $v Maps.
655 #7 $a Road maps. $2 lcgt
655 #7 $a Atlases. $2 lcgt

Hands-on exercises

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 lcgt
655 #7 $a Fiction television programs. $2 lcgt
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

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/cpso/genreformgeneral.html
- Frequently asked questions
- Announcements
- Reports
- Discussion papers
- Email: Janis L. Young, jayo@loc.gov