

Library of Congress
CDS Announcement

Reissuing Genre/Form Authority Records

Over the past few years the Library of Congress' Policy and Standards Division (PSD) has been developing genre/form terms. Genre/Form terms, found in field 655 in bibliographic records and field 155 in authority records, are distinct from subject headings, because they describe what something *is* as opposed to what it is *about*. As a first step toward formally separating the genre/form terms from the LC subject headings list, PSD titled the new thesaurus the *Library of Congress Genre/Form Terms for Library and Archival Materials (LCGFT)* in June 2010.

PSD has approved genre/form terms in four areas: moving images, sound recordings, cartographic resources, and law. Terms in three other disciplines – music, literature, and religion – are also in development. No earlier than March 1, 2011, all genre/form authority records with an 'sh' LCCN prefix will be cancelled and delete transactions will be distributed. New records will be issued with MARC coding indicating that the headings are from LCGFT, and new LCCNs beginning with a 'gf' prefix, e.g., sh2010123456 will be replaced by gf2010987654. The MARC coding for these LCGFT records will be an 008/11 value of 'z' (Other) and an 040 subfield \$f value of 'lcfgft'. See www.loc.gov/catdir/cpsd/genreformthesaurus.html for more detail.

Current plans are to cancel and reissue all of the approximately 700 existing LCGFT authority records in the same week and MDS issue, in order to provide a clear demarcation in coding practices

Questions or comments on these plans or on the genre/form projects in general may be addressed to:

Janis L. Young
Policy and Standards Division
Email: jayo@loc.gov

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