

LC Genre/Form Headings and What They Mean for I-Share Libraries

Prepared by the I-Share Cataloging and Authority Control Team (ICAT)

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Background

The LC Policy and Standards Division (PSD) has an ongoing project to develop authorized genre/form headings. Genre/Form headings describe what a work IS rather than what it is ABOUT (which would be a subject heading). For example, the book *The History of Horror Films in the United States* is ABOUT horror films so it gets a subject heading (650) Horror films, while the film *Psycho* IS a horror film so it gets a genre/form heading (655) Horror films.

So far, the project has focused on developing genre/form headings for six disciplines. They started with **moving image** headings, then moved on to headings for **cartographic materials** and **law**. They are currently working on headings for **musical works** and **religion**. They expect to start on the last discipline, **literature** in 2011.

Originally, the genre/form headings were created as part of the Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH), although they had separate authority records using the 155 field. The Library of Congress developed a new thesaurus for LC genre/form headings, entitled the *Library of Congress Genre/Form Terms for Library and Archival Materials (LCGFT)*. In May 24, 2011, the authority records for these terms (i.e., records for 155 terms) have been removed from the LCSH authority and are now in a separate genre authority file.

More information about the genre/form heading project is available at the Library of Congress website: <http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/genreformgeneral.html>. The FAQs may be particularly useful.

Changes in Cataloging

The new LCGFT requires different coding in the MARC 655 field:

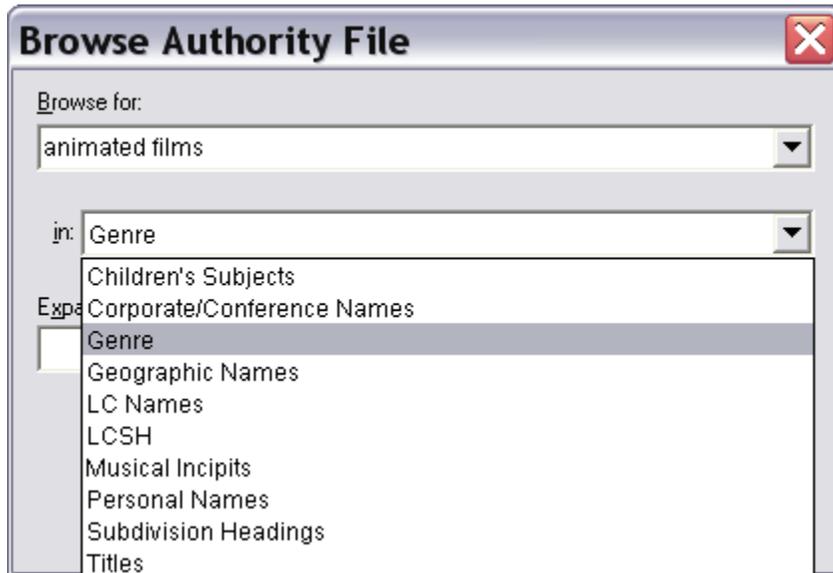
Former practice:

655 _0 \$a Animated films.

Current practice:

655 _7 \$a Animated films. \$2 lcgft

Genre terms in OCLC's Connexion are now searched in their own index:



Within Connexion, genre terms can be controlled, and controlling headings in an existing record with the old coding will flip these headings to the new standard when the change is straightforward. OCLC has not announced any plans to perform systematic database clean-up on existing records outside of this method of individually controlling headings. More information about genre/form headings in Connexion is available in the OCLC Technical Bulletin 259R: <http://www.oclc.org/support/documentation/worldcat/tb/259/259.pdf>.

Use in Voyager

The new LCGFT authority records have been loaded into all I-Share libraries' catalogs and the former genre heading records have been deleted. The LCGFT authority records look mostly like the former LCSH authority records, but with some coding to identify it as LCGFT.

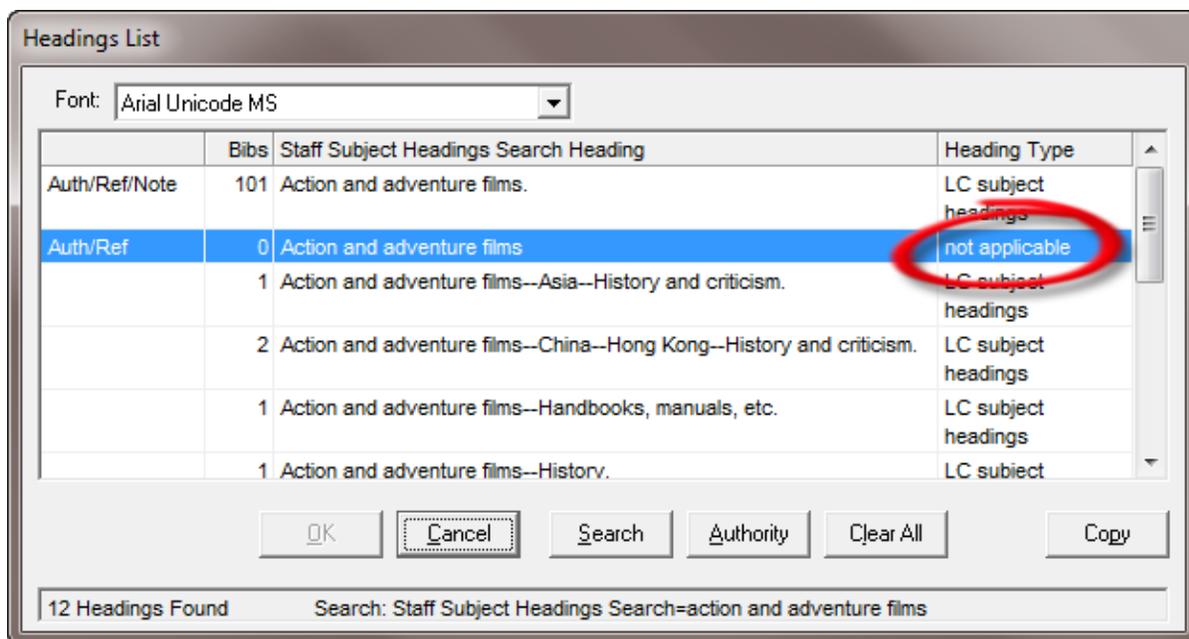
Authority record for LCGFT heading

Tag	I1	I2	Subfield Data
010			⌘a gf2011026005 ⌘z sh2007004004
035			⌘a (DLC)gf2011026005
040			⌘a DLC ⌘b eng ⌘c DLC ⌘f lcgft
155			⌘a Action and adventure films
455			⌘a Action-adventure films
455			⌘a Action films
455			⌘a Action movies
455			⌘a Adventure and action films
455			⌘a Adventure films
455			⌘a Adventure movies
555			⌘w g ⌘a Motion pictures
555			⌘a Swashbuckler films
670			⌘a Filmsite WWW site, May 21, 2008 ⌘b (Action films have tremendous impact, continuous high energy, lots of physical s rescues, battles, martial arts, mountains and mountaineering, destructive disasters (floods, explosions, natural disasters rhythm and pacing, and adventurous heroes - all designed for pure audience escapism with the action sequences at the

New lcgft control number in \$a
Former LCSH control number in \$z

\$f indicates thesaurus as lcgft

Voyager does not yet recognize the LCGFT coding as an independent authority file. When doing a search in the subject headings index, new heading records will show up as type, "not applicable" in Voyager, but will be listed. Because most genre headings continue to exist in LCSH as topical headings, they will appear twice in the index. Bibliographic records with genre headings coded under the old LCSH coding will appear in the subject headings index under the LCSH heading.



Here is the coding of a record in Voyager with some LCGFT subject headings. Note the 655 for “Video recordings for the hearing impaired” is still in the old format and needs to be flipped.

650	0	‡a Feature films ‡z United States. ‡2 local
650	4	‡a Na'vi (Fictitious characters) ‡v Fiction.
650	0	‡a Seres extraterrestres ‡v Teatro. ‡2 bidex
650	0	‡a Vida en otros planetas ‡v Teatro. ‡2 bidex
655	7	‡a Action and adventure films. ‡2 logft
655	7	‡a Science fiction films. ‡2 logft
655	7	‡a Fantasy films. ‡2 logft
655	7	‡a Fiction films. ‡2 logft
655	7	‡a Feature films. ‡2 logft
655	0	‡a Video recordings for the hearing impaired.
655	7	‡a Feature films ‡z United States. ‡2 local

Here is the same record being validated. Note that Voyager will validate the subject headings under the old coding if the subject heading matches a topical LCSH subject heading.

Heading	Tag(s)	Validation	Bib Heading	Near Heading
Subject	655	Heading Validated	⌘a Action and adventure films.	⌘a Action and adventure films
Subject	655	Heading Validated	⌘a Science fiction films.	⌘a Science fiction films
Subject	655	Heading Validated	⌘a Fantasy films.	⌘a Fantasy films
Subject	655	Heading Validated	⌘a Fiction films.	⌘a Fiction films
Subject	655	Heading Validated	⌘a Feature films.	⌘a Feature films
Subject	655	Heading Validated	⌘a Video recordings for the hearing impaired.	⌘a Video recordings for the hearing impaired
Subject	655	Partial Heading Validation	⌘a Feature films ⌘z United States.	⌘a Feature films [1]

Buttons: Create auth, Retrieve auth, Copy, Search..., Continue, Close

Because genre headings are no longer part of LCSH, libraries that use Voyager’s authority reports (such as the Global Headings Change or Cataloging Job 6, “See References with Linked Bibliographic References”) to perform authority control will no longer be able to identify headings that need to be updated through these reports.

Clean-up of Existing Genre/Form Headings

Voyager can recognize different subject headings by coding in the \$2 of the subject heading added entry. Unfortunately, at this time, Voyager does not recognize the \$2 code “lcgft.” Until Voyager recognizes the code, the Strawn utility Cataloger’s Toolkit cannot validate headings through the BAM function or update headings through the Big Red Cross. Once Voyager recognizes that code, libraries will be able to select the thesaurus as a subject heading to be checked during the BAM process. The Library of Congress has already submitted an enhancement request to include "lcgft" as a heading type, which may happen with the Voyager 8 upgrade.

Given the ongoing growth and development of LCGFT and the inability of Voyager to recognize it as separate thesaurus on the back end, it has been difficult for CARLI staff to develop SQL queries or macros to assist in the clean-up of existing headings. Functionality for global data change will be available with the Voyager 8 upgrade and should assist in both identifying and updating the genre/form headings. In the meantime, the new coding changes to genre/form headings do not affect users’ experiences or abilities in the online catalog. Genre/form headings in the 655 can be searched and retrieved in the same way, regardless of coding. Given these limitations and lack of impact in the public interface, ICAT is not recommending that libraries perform systematic updates to existing genre/form headings unless there a strong desire by local library staff to do so.