Report on the Moving Image Genre/Form Project

Executive Summary

In early 2007 the Cataloging Policy and Support Office (CPSO) initiated a project to develop a system of genre/form headings. With these headings the form of a work – what it is *– is brought to the forefront. This is distinguished from traditional cataloging practice, in which the form of a work is represented either by means of a subdivision attached to a topical heading (which defines what a work is* about*), or through the use of an ambiguous heading that represents both a form and a topic. The former practice is particularly problematic because it tends to "hide" the form of a work, which cannot be searched directly using a subject query in many online catalogs.*

The genre/form project was undertaken at the behest of the library community, which for many years has recognized the utility and value of such differentiating headings and has petitioned the Library of Congress to create a unified, cohesive system, along with policies for its use. CPSO chose moving image headings as an experimental group because it constituted a relatively small, defined subgroup for now within Library of Congress Subject Headings *(LCSH). The finite number of moving image genre/form headings would allow CPSO to test policies and procedures on a small scale, and to use the lessons learned to inform future projects.*

This report explains the concept and utility of genre/form headings; the history of the development of MARC coding for genre/form headings and subdivisions; the choice of moving image headings as the experimental group; principles developed by CPSO as the project moved forward; and recommendations for the management of future projects. In brief, CPSO's recommendations are:

1. *Expand the development of genre/form headings into other disciplines, including but not limited to those for law, music, literature, cartography, and religion.*
2. *Treat the addition of headings for each discipline as a separate project that contributes to a centralized genre/form thesaurus.*
3. *Appoint a project manager who will coordinate all future projects, in order to promote consistency across the disciplines.*
4. *Limit the number of staff actively working on the headings as they are being developed, to allow for better control and coordination of decisions.*
5. *Explore new models for a community based thesaurus for genre/form terms in collaboration with professional organizations and other institutions.*

The report also includes an appendix that consists of a sample of comments received from the library community, showing its support and enthusiasm for the development of genre/form headings at the Library of Congress.

Providing explicit access to the genre/form characteristics of works will be of great benefit to users of the Library of Congress and to libraries throughout the world.

Report on the Moving Image Genre/Form Project

***Report for Beacher Wiggins, Director, Acquisitions & Bibliographic Access Directorate,
Library Services, Library of Congress
Prepared by the Cataloging Policy and Support Office
March 17, 2008***

This report explains the function of genre/form headings, including the impact that they
have on both cataloging operations and end-user searching (sections 1 and 2). It then
reviews the history of genre/form headings in MARC format and at LC over the last
decade (section 3). The following two sections (4 and 5) explain the logic of choosing
moving image headings as the experimental group and the principles that the Cataloging
Policy and Support Office (CPSO) developed as the project progressed. The sixth section
makes recommendations for the management of future projects. A final seventh section
provides a short summary. There is also an appendix, which provides a sampling of
statements of support for the genre/form project CPSO received over the past several
months.

1. Introduction

Although the concept of a separate thesaurus of genre/form headings within or parallel to
Library of Congress Subject Headings is relatively new, catalogers have been expressing
the genres and forms of works for generations. This expression has taken two shapes, the
first being the assignment of form and genre headings, but coded as MARC field 650,
which denotes the topic, not the form. (Note: MARC field 655 in bibliographic records
was available in 1997 and implemented shortly thereafter. Field 155 in authority records
was also made available in 1997 but not implemented by LC until 2007.) The second
method is the addition of form subdivisions to topical headings, which were coded as
"general" subdivisions in $x until $v, specifically for form subdivisions, was
implemented in 1999.

The practice of using the topical code 650 for genre/form headings is exemplified by
subject analysis practice for musical works. Music catalogers already use form and genre
headings to describe works (e.g., **Trios**, **Sonatas**, **Fiddle tunes**). In so doing they are
describing what a work *is*, not what it is *about*. In fact, thousands of genre/form headings
for musical works already exist, coded as topical headings. While significant issues
remain to be resolved in order to convert them into true genre/form headings coded
155/655, including legacy data in which the headings are coded 150/650, the terminology
is already in place.

The latter procedure for bringing out the form of a work – the addition of a form
subdivision to a topical heading – is practiced consistently across all of the disciplines.
The subdivision is coded using subfield $v, to distinguish it from geographic, topical, and
chronological subdivisions, coded $z, $x, and $y, respectively. For example, in the

heading **Washington (D.C.) $x History $y 20th century $v Periodicals**, the form subdivision is **$v Periodicals**.

The Library of Congress supports both practices through its provision of authority records for headings and subdivisions, and through *Subject Cataloging Manual* (SCM) instruction sheets explaining their application. The library community makes daily use of both of these products, but its members are not content with this method of bringing out the form of works, which is considered to be outdated.

Instead, librarians have been requesting that LC develop a system whereby 1) already existing form headings, such as those for music, are coded as such instead of as topics; and 2) the genre or form of a work is brought to the forefront through use of an explicit genre/form heading, and not buried at the end of a subject string, almost as an afterthought. The beginning of these ideas can be traced back at least as far as the 1991 Airlie House conference, where both possibilities were raised as mechanisms whereby subject analysis could be modified to better serve the user.[*]

In the mid-1990s CPSO announced that it would develop these genre/form headings. Unfortunately, circumstances – in particular, the implementation of the new integrated library system -- intervened, and the project was put on hold. Since LC did not immediately accede to libraries' request to create the genre/form heading scheme, catalogers in other institutions developed local policies and headings. Because each library has worked alone in this endeavor, each has developed different policies and practices, based on local needs. This has inhibited the development of national "best practices" and hearkens back to the earliest days of cataloging, before LC's centrally-produced cards helped to standardize cataloging procedures for the entire nation.

CPSO took its first tangible step toward fulfilling its promise to the cataloging community when it partnered in early 2007 with the Moving Image/Broadcasting/ Recorded Sound Division (MBRS) to undertake the development of genre/form headings for moving images. The moving image genre/form project was designed as an experiment during which issues and problems with the development of the headings would be uncovered and solutions designed, and the reasonableness of undertaking further projects would be determined.

2. Why genre/form headings? Definition and impacts
Subject headings have traditionally been assigned to describe the *content* of the work. In current practice, a work is usually identified as one *about* a topic, and only secondarily as a work *in* a particular format. When the format is brought out (e.g., periodicals, bibliographies, encyclopedias), it is almost always as the final subdivision in a subject string.

Genre/form headings, on the other hand, describe what an item *is*, not what it is *about*. These headings allow catalogers to approach their work in a completely different way;

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[*] See *The Future of Subdivisions in the Library of Congress Subject Headings System: Report from the Subject Subdivisions Conference Sponsored by the Library of Congress, May 9-12, 1991*.

they are able to bring out the genres and forms of works as headings in their own right, rather than burying those aspects within pre-coordinated heading strings. Since users commonly seek works by genre or form, the use of genre/form headings enhances the viability of the library catalog.

Genre/form headings are therefore very valuable, and there are several disciplines that lend themselves to such a treatment: moving images (films, television programs, and video recordings), recorded sound, music, cartography, religion, and literature to name a few. No less important is the discipline of law, where most publications fall into a distinct form or genre (e.g., treaties, statutes, administrative regulations), and the forms and genres are considered so crucial that extensive form subdivision tables were created for them in the classification schedules. Finally, there are non-disciplinary formats that could usefully be brought out through use of genre/form headings; many of these are currently coded in MARC $v of subject headings contained in the 600, 610, 611, 630, 650, and 651 fields – fields whose primary purpose is to designate the *content*, not the *form*.

The current practice of assigning form subdivisions in lieu of true genre/form headings is outdated. It was useful in the card catalog environment, where users searched by subject heading strings and the subdivision served to split large files of cards. This is still the case in browse displays in the online environment, but may be less important where keyword searching abounds.

Libraries have perceived the limitations of form subdivisions, and the need for genre/form headings, for many years. Some, like the University of Washington and Brigham Young University, have developed their own in-house systems of genre/form headings, based on *LCSH* and other thesauri. For many years the library community has asked the Library of Congress to take on the task of creating a system of genre/form headings and standard policies for its use.

Librarians at LC also recognize the need for genre/form headings. To enhance access to LC's collections, catalogers here have been assigning genre/form headings for several years, but in general they have been using thesauri other than *LCSH*. For example, literature catalogers are permitted to assign headings from the *Guidelines on Subject Access to Individual Works of Fiction, Drama, etc.* (GSAFD); moving image catalogers, the *Moving-Image Genre/Form Guide* (MIGFG) and *Moving Image Materials: Genre Terms* (MIM); recorded sound catalogers, the *Radio Form/Genre Terms Guide* (RADFG); and art and graphic materials catalogers, the *Thesaurus for Graphic Materials* (TGM).

Additionally, the Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA (JSC) is working to incorporate many of these same ideas into the descriptive area of the cataloging record, albeit in a much more limited fashion. For instance, to replace the muddled concepts of general material designation (GMD) and specific material designation (SMD) the JSC has developed three new elements, which are based on values currently coded in the fixed field in MARC21 bibliographic records. The elements are: content type (e.g.,

Cartographic image, Computer program); media type (e.g., Audio, Video); and, carrier type (e.g., Online, Microscope slide). Many of the content, media, and carrier types are similar to genre/form headings.

Even more closely related to genre/form headings is the JSC's concept of "nature of the content," which is defined as "the specific character of the content of a resource." Appendix M of *RDA* will list terms designating nature of content, categorized in broad content areas such as text and spoken word (e.g., abstracts, bibliographies, encyclopedias, novels, speeches, treaties), music (e.g., anthems, carols, folk music, operas), cartographic content (e.g., atlases, globes), and computer datasets and programs (e.g., bibliographic data, computer program, font, game). Many of these terms are nearly identical to possible genre/form headings, although the genre/form thesaurus is already more extensive than the list in *RDA*'s Appendix M.

The short lists of terms in *RDA* cannot compensate for a fully functional genre/form thesaurus, but it may be useful to engage in discussions with the JSC to determine whether the richer thesaurus can be used with *RDA*, either in whole or in part. Using the two standards in conjunction with each other would allow for consistent terminology within records and reduce redundancies in documentation.

Developing a genre/form thesaurus based on specialized thesauri and housed within or parallel to *LCSH* will result in tangible benefits for LC, for the general library community, and for users, as discussed below.

2a. Beneficial impacts on cataloging operations at LC and elsewhere
The development and implementation of genre/form headings as part of *LCSH* may precipitate a reduction in the cost of cataloging, in several ways.

For example, there may be savings through the merging of terminology from various specialized thesauri. Although *LCSH* is the primary source for subject headings at the Library of Congress, other thesauri are used to supplement it where necessary. When the terminologies from these individual, specialized, thesauri are incorporated into a genre/form thesaurus contained within *LCSH*, catalogers will have to consult fewer manuals, thereby expediting the cataloging process. Alternatively, we could envision making various thesauri available for catalogers in a single search through Class Web, and there may be other viable models that could be explored to save cataloger's time.

Further, if we follow the model of having genre/form terms included within *LCSH*, catalogers at LC and elsewhere could update the terminology used in genre/form headings. Unlike most other thesauri, which are updated infrequently if at all, *LCSH* is updated weekly through a regular and time-tested process; proposals are made not only by LC catalogers, but also by SACO participants. The update mechanism allows the terminology to remain current, and allows for new headings to enter the scheme. It also allows the broader library community to contribute headings of interest to them, thereby pooling their resources while enhancing their libraries' catalogs.

As history bears out, standardization of the genre/form headings and their assignment leads to easier inter-library cooperation and sharing of cataloging. Because the Library of Congress makes instructions for subject heading assignment and subdivision (including form subdivisions) available through the *Subject Cataloging Manual*, libraries are able to assign headings more accurately and consistently, and are able to trust the subject analysis of others more fully.

However, due to the lack of Library of Congress policy on genre/form headings coded as such in MARC authority field 155, individual libraries have developed their own policies with regard to genre/form headings. This has led to incompatible practices, which creates incompatible cataloging copy. Those libraries that choose to use LC genre/form headings and to follow LC policy regarding their assignment should be able to copy catalog more easily.

Additionally, the existence of authority records coded with MARC field 155 will permit libraries to take fuller advantage of the processing capabilities of their computer systems. First, authority records will allow for machine validation of headings in bibliographic records. Although catalogers currently use MARC bibliographic tag 655 for headings from specialized thesauri, and sometimes from *LCSH*, the headings cannot be validated because corresponding authority records (coded 155) do not exist. And second, many library systems are able to perform automatic updates to bibliographic records when authorized headings are changed, but authority records are a prerequisite. Automatic global updates have the potential to save hundreds of hours, freeing staff to work on other tasks.

2b. Beneficial impacts on users
The benefits are not just financial. Users will also gain from genre/form headings because of the enhanced search capabilities that such headings will provide.

Because subject cataloging has traditionally described the *content* of the work, instead of describing what the work *is*, subject strings may sometimes inhibit users' discovery of desired works. For example, a literature student who has been assigned the task of reading a novel-length western by each of three different authors, and then writing a paper comparing them, might reasonably do a subject search in the university library's catalog for "westerns." A cross-reference appears, showing that the preferred terms for "westerns" are **Western films**, **Western stories**, **Western television programs**, and **Western radio programs**. The user chooses **Western stories**.

When looking at the titles, however, it soon becomes apparent that there are not any novels presented. The user might assume that the library does not have any western novels, but that would probably be inaccurate. The truth is that since traditional subject cataloging has focused on the content of the work (here, the American West), and not on the genre (western stories), the heading **Western stories** is not assigned to individual works. It is instead assigned to collections of works, usually short stories, and to critical works *about* westerns.

In order to find western novels, the user would have to know to search under headings like **West (U.S.)—Discovery and exploration—Fiction** or **Frontier and pioneer life—West (U.S.)—Fiction** since those headings would represent the *content* of the work.

Genre/form headings resolve this hypothetical situation because the headings more closely approximate the terminology a user would expect to find in the catalog, thereby enhancing the discovery experience.

Academic libraries are not the only ones who will be benefit from genre/form headings. Public library users may more easily find desired materials when genre/form headings are implemented. Mothers and fathers looking for entertainment for their young children are more likely to search for "children's films," the genre/form heading, than they are to search for a specific subject subdivided by **–Juvenile drama** (e.g., **Animals—Juvenile drama**). Because such users would not think to do a keyword search using the terminology "juvenile drama," most of the films in a library's collection may be hidden from them. On the other hand, a search on "children's films" retrieves applicable works, whether a keyword or a heading search is done, since the terminology of the genre/form heading more closely matches common usage.

But the use of common terminology is only one way that genre/form headings will be a benefit to users. The creation of full authority records for genre/form headings will for the first time provide reference structures for them, and provide context between and among the headings. The various print and web-based thesauri used by catalogers today have broader terms, narrower terms, and non-preferred terms, but since there are not any authority records, the relationships are not visible to – or searchable by – users, thereby reducing their usefulness. Including genre/form authority records in *LCSH* allows for those relationships to be made.

The user search experience will also be enhanced because the consistent application of genre/form headings will lead to better collocation within and across databases and libraries. A good example of this "collocation effect" exists within LC itself. When LC catalogers consistently apply genre/form headings contained within *LCSH* to the Library's vast moving image collections, the collections will be more visible to users, since the headings applied will for the first time be consistent with the headings applied to other materials. Users will be able to discover not only works about a particular film genre (e.g., western films) but the films themselves, with only one search, instead of having to search the MIGFG terms separately from *LCSH* headings.

New possibilities for public interfaces are opened up when genre/form headings have authority records and are coded in the 655 fields of bibliographic records. It will be possible to define a separate search key for genre/form headings that will index the MARC 655 field, increasing precision for those who wish to retrieve only works *of* a particular genre or form, and not works *about* them.

CPSO is aware that while a genre/form thesaurus within *LCSH* is highly desired and much anticipated, its development will be time-consuming. However, there may be other

approaches, for example a community-based thesaurus developed and maintained by many organizations and institutions, where LC might take the lead. CPSO will ask for guidance and assistance from stakeholders in the library community. For instance, the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) is already developing a genre/form thesaurus for law materials that it hopes to include within *LCSH*, and the Music Library Association (MLA) has also expressed interest in assisting CPSO to develop genre/form headings in its discipline. There is help on an interdisciplinary level as well. The Subject Analysis Committee (SAC) of the American Library Association (ALA) formed the Genre/Form Implementation Subcommittee and at its meeting at ALA Midwinter 2008, it decided that three of its action items will be to develop a list of communities working in the areas of genres and forms and determine what has already been done by those communities toward developing their vocabularies; to prioritize needs across disciplines; and to work on lists of genre and form headings that already exist in *LCSH*, but that are coded as topics.

3. History of MARC coding for genre/form headings

Efforts to develop coding and terminology for genre and form headings within MARC and *LCSH* have been underway for over a decade. Fourteen years ago the Network Development and MARC Standards Office (NDMSO) presented a proposal to the USMARC Advisory Group. The proposal defined new values for bytes 18-21 of the 008 field in authority records; the new values would indicate whether a heading could be used as a genre or form in addition to the topical use. The advisory group indicated that there was a slight preference for using new variable data fields rather than fixed field coded data, and the proposal was withdrawn.[†]

When in 1995 the Machine-Readable Bibliographic Information Committee of ALA (MARBI) approved SAC's proposal to define $v for the use of form subdivisions, it took the next step in the process to explicitly indicate the form of a work within MARC format. While *LCSH* had incorporated form subdivisions into its language decades before (e.g., through subdivisions like **--Bibliography**, **--Indexes**, and **--Periodicals**), the subdivisions had previously been coded in $x, which was also used for topical subdivisions. The approval of the new subfield constituted the first in a line of developments that would allow catalogers to conceptually separate topic from form, and code them differently, thereby allowing for new computer manipulations.

In 1997 MARC was further developed with MARBI's approval of fields 155 and 655 for authority and bibliographic records, respectively. These fields, defined as "Index Term—Genre/Form," provided libraries with an option. They could now code what a work *is* (the genre or form) differently from what a work is *about* (the topic, coded in other 6xx fields).

The definition of $v and 155/655 were prerequisites for all future development of genre/form headings, because they enabled computers to recognize the difference between a topic and a genre/form, even if the same terminology was used. Since the

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[†] The text of the decision is available at http://www.loc.gov/marc/marbi/1995/95-11.html.

coding was now in place, the remaining task was to determine the policies that would govern the use of the new field and subfield.

When it approved $v in 1995, MARBI specifically listed several issues that the Library of Congress had to consider while developing a plan for implementing it within the structure of *LCSH*. After careful study, in 1999 the Library of Congress implemented $v with the collaboration of OCLC, RLIN, and other cooperative partners. Since many American libraries accepted LC cataloging with little or no modification – either directly through the Cataloging Distribution Service (CDS) or indirectly through bibliographic utilities such as OCLC and RLIN – $v was implemented nationwide at that time.

As part of the $v implementation and discussions, LC also announced an initiative to develop headings specifically for use as genre/forms, which would be coded in the 155/655 fields. A few authority records coded 155 were input locally into MUMS, but progress was soon halted as the Library implemented its new integrated library system.

4. Choice of the experimental project
In 2001, MBRS approached CPSO to inquire whether its in-house thesaurus, the *Moving Image Genre-Form Guide* (MIGFG), could be integrated into *LCSH*. The request was made in part because MIGFG needed to be updated, but there was no mechanism to do so, and no staff to do it. *LCSH* already had both a staff and a mechanism. Including MIGFG terminology in *LCSH* would also make the terminology available to a wider audience, and enhance *LCSH*'s treatment of moving images.

Beginning the development of genre/form headings with moving image terms had a major advantage. The moving image headings constitute a relatively small, defined subgroup within *LCSH*. Since this initial foray into genre/form headings would be small in scope, it would serve as an experiment to determine the issues that would arise. The resolution of the issues could serve as a template for other projects in other disciplines.

With those thoughts in mind, CPSO agreed to begin the project and announced it at ALA's midwinter meeting in 2006. While there were some attempts at drafting procedures and policies for the *MIGFG* genre/form headings over the following year, preparation for MBRS's move to the National Audiovisual Conservation Center (NAVCC) in Culpeper, Virginia, took priority.

In 2007, with the completion of MBRS's move to the NAVCC, moving image catalogers Laurie Duncan and Arlene Balkansky were able to devote time to developing the genre/form headings. Coincidentally, in March, 2007, Janis Young was detailed from HLCD to CPSO for six months and was asked to serve as the main CPSO contact for the project, with the oversight of Ana Cristán and assistance of Milicent Wewerka. Duncan, Balkansky, and Young began formulating authority records and drafting an instruction sheet to govern their use.

On May 4, CPSO announced the forthcoming release of genre/form records; on May 11 an initial draft of the new instruction sheet for moving image genre/form headings, H

1913, was posted on CPSO's website and input was requested from the library community. Several catalogers in other libraries wrote to CPSO with comments and questions, as well as statements of appreciation for LC's beginning the project (see the appendix). Young gave two presentations at the annual meeting of ALA in June, to the Online Audiovisual Catalogers' Cataloging Policy Committee (OLAC CAPC), and to SACO at Large, and gathered their comments as well.

Instruction sheet H 1913 was revised based on the comments received, and the revision was posted on CPSO's web site in August. It was also included in the *SCM* update package in October. The first 70+ genre/form headings appeared on *LCSH* Weekly List 36, September 5, 2007. New genre/form headings have appeared steadily since then, and there are now over 200 available for use, on an experimental basis.

5. *Principles and procedures for thesaurus and heading development*
Several principles have guided the development of headings in the moving image genre/form project. Having been successful, it is recommended that all future projects follow them, to the extent possible. They include:

1. Employ the principle of literary warrant to ensure the use of current terminology within the genre/form headings.

2. Synchronize the terminology, meaning, and style of the genre/form headings with that of the topical headings as much as possible, modifying topical headings, scope notes, and hierarchical structures as appropriate. This permits a "one-search" approach, in which searchers can discover *exemplars* of the genre or form at the same time that they discover works *about* the genre or form.

3. Include a scope note on a topical heading when one appears on the corresponding genre/form heading; the scope note on the former should include instruction on the application of the heading (must it be subdivided, et cetera).

4. Keep terminology and heading structure consistent within a discipline in the genre/form headings, and attempt to employ the same consistency across disciplines as they are added to the genre/form database.

5. Ensure that all of the related records (broader terms and related terms, and, if possible, narrower terms) for a new heading are present on a single weekly list, so that they are approved at the same time.

6. Examine each discipline independently to determine whether geographic subdivision is appropriate and should be permitted.

7. Investigate the need for a "top term" – a single overarching heading – for the genre/form thesaurus, and/or for a "top term" in each discipline that is represented in the thesaurus. The investigations should center on two issues: would such a term enhance catalog functionality; and, what would the relationship be between

genre/form "top terms" and RDA's rules on describing media, content, and carrier types.

8. Save authority records generated by LC staff in the local file until they are ready to be published on a weekly list; do not move records to the master database until then.

9. Coordinate with the Cooperative Cataloging Team to evaluate the procedures by which the broader cataloging community will contribute proposals, including but not necessarily limited to SACO participants (e.g., AALL as an organization as opposed to individual members of AALL, which may be SACO participants).

6. *Recommendations for management of future projects*

Its experiences with the moving image genre/form project have allowed CPSO to develop some general recommendations with regard to the management future projects. They are as follows:

1. Expand the development of genre/form headings into other disciplines, including but not limited to those for law, music, literature, cartography, and religion. CPSO will coordinate with the various interested parties, including relevant professional organizations, institutions, and individuals. As mentioned above, some associations such as AALL and MLA have already formed committees to assist CPSO.

2. Treat the addition of headings for each discipline as a separate project that contributes to a centralized genre/form thesaurus. The genre/form initiative is bringing together terminology from various specialized thesauri with terminology that exists in *LCSH*, so approaching each separately is common sense. Then too, incremental development allows for adjustments as issues are discovered and resolved, thereby decreasing any negative impact on catalogs and cataloging workflows.

3. Appoint a project manager who will coordinate all future projects, in order to promote consistency across the disciplines.

4. Limit the number of LC staff actively working on the headings as they are being developed, to allow for better control and coordination of decisions.

5. Explore new models for a community-based thesaurus for genre/form terms in collaboration with professional organizations and other institutions.

7. *Summary*

The moving image genre/form project was undertaken as an experiment to determine the feasibility of developing headings specifically for use in MARC authority field 155 and bibliographic field 655. These headings describe what the work *is*, not what it is *about*, and provide a new way for users to discover works of interest to them. Perceiving the benefits of such a system and in absence of a national standard, libraries throughout the

United States have been using various specialized thesauri, or have been adapting *LCSH* headings for use in the 155/655 fields. This has led to conflicting policies, which inhibits the sharing of cataloging as well as cross-database and cross-library searching.

The Cataloging Policy and Support Office requests that the Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access Directorate (ABA) management team consider the benefits of a system of genre/form headings that would encompass all disciplines, but particularly moving images, recorded sound, cartography, literature, music, religion, and law, and permit CPSO to investigate the further development of genre/form headings. As each project is completed CPSO will report to ABA management, detailing the successes of the project, the problems encountered and their solutions, and the impacts on cataloging procedures and user discovery.

Appendix
Comments from the library community regarding
the moving image genre/form project

"First I wanted to express to you our excitement here regarding the announcement that LC will start distributing genre headings for films, videos, and television programs later in the year. We have been very actively proposing new genre headings for these materials, and have been using them in our catalog as 655 for many years."

Adam Schiff
University of Washington
May 16, 2007

"I'm going slowly in terms of implementing new headings and new application rules. I'm very glad that LC is moving in this direction, needless to say, and will be making use of the appropriate LC authority records to overlay our existing home-adapted authority records, where the headings are identical."

David Miller
Curry College
September 28, 2007
(via OLAC's discussion group)

"If we can be of any help to you in the conversion process, please ask. We'd be happy to assist in any way possible, including sharing of our genre authority records, most of which are based on LSCH ARs, if you would like some of them. We'd like very much for this to move forward as quickly as possible. We've been coding all of our form terms in 655 for ten years now and have built up a large genre/form authority file (we currently have 13,372 records). Since we've been working independently we no doubt have developed policies that will not wind up the final LC or national policies, but I hope we've come close and we will certainly be willing to work within the framework of whatever national policies develop."

Robert Maxwell
Brigham Young University
September 28, 2007

"For many years now, some catalogers (including myself) have been coding at least some *LCSH* form/genre terms as 655 rather than 650, creating local authority records as necessary. With the increased interest in form/genre headings among the broader cataloging realm now that LC is starting to create official authority records for these headings, I decided to comb through the *LCSH* to compile as exhaustive a list as I could of all such existing headings, for easy reference in one place. (Many of these headings

even already had a scope note of, 'Use for [collections of] works in this form. For works about this form, use [Heading] instead'.)

"The list is now complete enough to share; it is available at:
<http://www.hahnlibrary.net/libraries/formgenre.html>.

"While I know it's not 100% exhaustive, it does contain over a thousand such headings, covering fiction, poetry, music, film, television, electronic resources, and more. All of the headings that LC has distributed on the finalized Weekly Lists are included and marked as such. The list also includes those GSAFD headings that are not exact duplicates of *LCSH* headings, as well as a handful of local form/genre headings that we find useful."

Joel Hahn
Niles (Ill.) Public Library District
October 19, 2007
(via Autocat discussion group)