



Library of Congress

CDS Announcement

Distribution of Genre/Form Subject Authority Records (155) in MDS-Subject Authorities

The Library of Congress will begin to issue genre/form subject authority records (MARC 21 Tag 155) to subscribers of the weekly MDS-Subject Authorities product of the Cataloging Distribution Service. They will be issued no earlier than September 3, 2007.

Background

This effort represents the final phase of the planned expansion of the Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) to include records representing subdivisions (MARC 21 Tag 18X), and genre/form headings, originally announced and initiated in 1998.

Methodology for Creation

The creation of genre/form authority records will initially be limited to special projects designated by the Cataloging Policy and Support Office (CPSO); plans for expansion, to include accepting proposals from Subject Authority Cooperative (SACO) members, will be developed and announced at a later time. CPSO, working with colleagues in the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recording Sound Division, has begun to create sample "proposed" genre/form authority records in the LC database to assist in discussions related to the development of guidelines for the Subject Cataloging Manual: Subject Headings for genre/form application in LCSH. Although these sample records will not be approved until August or distributed until September, they may be consulted in the Library of Congress Authorities database (<http://authorities.loc.gov>). Note: these sample records may not reflect the final forms, reference structures, etc., but are provided to assist in the development process:

- Aviation films (sh2007002097)
- Aviation television programs (sh2007002098)
- Buddy films (sh2007002099)
- Buddy television programs (sh2007002100)

The genre/form headings will be included in the weekly MDS-Subject Authorities product. The initial distribution file (no earlier than September 3, 2007) may reach in excess of 500 genre/form headings, in addition to the other new and changed subject authorities. Subsequent weekly distributions will generally consist of not more than 20-30 such records unless future special projects increase that volume.

CDS Product Impact

In addition to MDS-Subjects, these genre/form subject authority records will be available in the Classification Web product, and the headings will be found in a separate section of the printed LCSH.

Any questions regarding the data content of these records can be directed to:

Cataloging Policy and Support Office
email: cpsol@loc.gov

May 4, 2007