

Library of Congress to Approve Genre/Form Headings for Cartographic Materials

April 26, 2010

In early 2007 the Library of Congress began a project to create genre/form headings, which describe what a work *is* rather than what it is *about*. To date, over 500 headings for moving images (films, television programs, and video recordings) and sound recordings have been approved.

Two years later, in 2009, the Policy and Standards (PSD) and Geography and Maps divisions of the Library of Congress began work on the next genre/form project to go into production: cartographic materials. PSD will be approving new cartographic genre/form headings (MARC 21 tag 155) and revised form subdivisions (\$v) in stages over the late spring and summer of 2010, and plans to implement the new system *no earlier than August 1, 2010*. Be advised that LC will not implement any aspect of the cartographic genre/form headings until all of the elements are in place. The tentative timeline follows.

On Wednesday, May 19, 2010 approximately 60 cartographic genre/form headings will appear on Tentative Weekly List 20 and be approved. This list will also include some revisions to existing cartographic headings (MARC 21 tag 150), generally to bring them into direct language order (e.g., the heading **Maps, Comparative** will be revised to **Comparative maps**). Tentative Weekly List 20 will be available for viewing through the [SACO web site](#) early in the week of May 10th, and PSD encourages interested parties to review the list.

From late May through early July PSD will draft proposals to change the structure of form subdivisions for cartographic materials. These changes will reflect the revision in policy as explained in its November 13, 2009 announcement, "[Library of Congress to Modify Structure of Form Subdivisions used for Cartographic Materials](#)".

The proposals to revise the form subdivisions will appear on a Tentative Weekly List no earlier than July 21, 2010. LC will implement the new system two weeks after the revisions appear on a Tentative Weekly List; the delay will allow for the redistribution of authority records. If the proposals appear on the list for July 21st, LC will implement cartographic genre/form headings and the revised subdivisions on August 1, 2010.

A firm date for LC's implementation of cartographic genre/form headings and the new form subdivision structure will be announced when it becomes available.

Information on all of PSD's genre/form projects including a general timeline, an extensive FAQ, announcements and discussion papers, can be found on PSD's [genre/form web page](#). Questions and comments may be sent to Janis L. Young, LC genre/form coordinator, at jayo@loc.gov.