

# Proposed Treatment of Globes in the LCGFT Environment

## Discussion paper

May 24, 2012

In 2009 the Library of Congress' Policy and Standards Division (PSD) and LC's Geography and Maps Division (G&M) began a project to develop genre/form terms for cartographic materials. In 2010 approximately 60 terms were approved for use and implemented. However, an important issue has not yet been resolved: What is the appropriate genre/form treatment for globes? This paper will define and provide background on the issue and propose a solution.

PSD and G&M are requesting comments on the proposed solution, and are also interested in hearing about additional solutions that others have developed. Responses to this paper may be sent to Janis L. Young at [jayo@loc.gov](mailto:jayo@loc.gov) by July 31, 2012.

### **BACKGROUND**

*Library of Congress Genre/Form Terms for Library and Archival Materials* (LCGFT) currently includes three terms for globes: **Globes**; **Lunar globes**; and **Celestial globes**. Through its reference structure, which includes a UF *Terrestrial globes*, it is clear that **Globes** is to be used for spherical depictions of the Earth. This reflects the fact that most users equate the word globe with a representation of the Earth, to the exclusion of other heavenly bodies. **Lunar globes** is to be used for spherical depictions of the Earth's moon, and **Celestial globes** refers to globes that depict the relative positions and brightness of heavenly bodies. This raises the question of the appropriate treatment of globes of other bodies, such as the other planets and moons, stars, comets, meteors, etc., which are not yet represented in LCGFT.

PSD and G&M have considered and rejected two options for resolving this issue. The first rejected option was to retain the existing terms **Lunar globes** and **Globes**, and retain their meanings as well. Globes of the Earth would continue to be assigned **Globes**, and globes of the moon, **Lunar globes**. Additional specific terms would be created for categories of heavenly bodies (e.g., Comet globes; Planetary globes) and/or for specific heavenly bodies (e.g., Martian globes; Jovian globes; Halley's Comet globes). Both of these approaches would violate a basic principle of LCGFT – to include only genres and forms, not topics – because the topic of a globe is the heavenly body depicted and the terms would therefore explicitly combine topic with form. The more specific approach – making a genre/form term for specific heavenly bodies – also exhibits an additional problem: it is unlikely that most users would search by the phrases that would result. Would a user search for a globe of Jupiter, for example, by searching the phrase “Jovian globes?”

The second rejected option also retained the genre/form term **Globes**, but redefined it to refer to any heavenly body, including the Earth. The UF *Terrestrial globes* would also be retained, helping to make it clear that the term would be used for globes of the Earth. The genre/form term **Lunar globes** would be cancelled. **Celestial globes** would be retained since that is a distinct form.

Under this option, globes of the Earth would be assigned the genre/form term **Globes** and a subject heading would not be necessary since the genre/form term **Globes** would intrinsically mean globes of the Earth. A globe of any other body would be assigned the genre/form term **Globes** along with a subject heading for the body, with the form subdivision **-Globes**. *Examples:*

*Title:* [Globe of Mercury].

651 #0 \$a Mercury (Planet) \$v Globes.  
655 #7 \$a Globes. \$2 lcgft

*Title:* [Globe of Ganymede].

651 #0 \$a Ganymede (Satellite) \$v Globes.  
655 #7 \$a Globes. \$2 lcgft

*Title:* [Ein Globus der Erde].

655 #7 \$a Globes. \$2 lcgft

*Title:* [Globe of the Earth].

655 #7 \$a Globes. \$2 lcgft

*Title:* Sky-master.

655 #7 \$a Celestial globes. \$2 lcgft

This option would have been adequate for traditional library catalogs, which rely on left-anchored browse indexes and keyword access. In fact, the only difference from the user's perspective would be that when applied to globes of the Earth, the heading **Globes** would now be a genre/form term instead of a subject heading. For globes of other heavenly bodies, the subject treatment would not change, and the genre/form term **Globes** would merely be added.

In faceted discovery systems, though, the situation is different. Someone searching "globes" would be presented with a display such as the following.

Subjects

Alpha Centauri (1)  
Halley's Comet (2)  
Mars (Planet) (4)  
Neptune (Planet) (6)  
Venus (Planet) (10)

Genre/form terms

Celestial globes (12)  
Globes (101)

Note that the subject heading Earth is not provided in the subject facet since the cataloger did not assign **Earth—Globes** in the bibliographic record. This display leads to three logical assumptions. First, users might reasonably assume that the library does not have any globes of the Earth, and has only globes of Alpha Centauri, Halley's Comet, etc. Second, the 101 hits on **Globes** as a genre/form term include all of the globes in the library's collection, not just globes of the Earth, so users would have to examine all of those records to determine which ones depict the Earth. Third, it would not be possible to retrieve only records for globes of the Earth, because the computer cannot be programmed to narrow the results set based on the lack of a subject heading

for a celestial body other than the Earth. PSD and G&M therefore rejected this option as unworkable in the new discovery environments.

### **PROPOSED SOLUTION**

The proposed solution goes one step farther than the second rejected option discussed above. As in that option, the genre/form term **Lunar globes** would be cancelled, and **Celestial globes** would be retained. Also as above, the genre/form term **Globes** would be redefined to refer to all globes, not just globes of the Earth. However, with this proposed solution the UF *Terrestrial globes* would be removed and **Globes** would cease to be linked to a specific heavenly body.

The LCGFT terms would appear as follows.

#### **Globes**

SN This heading is used as a genre/form heading for spherical representations of individual planets, stars, moons, comets, etc.  
UF Lunar globes [Former heading]  
BT Cartographic materials

#### **Celestial globes**

SN This heading is used as a genre/form heading for spherical representations of the relative positions and brightness of stars and other celestial bodies.  
UF Star globes  
BT Astronomical models

LCSH would also be modified under this proposal. Currently, the subject heading **Globes** has the UFs *Terrestrial globes* and *Earth—Globes*. These UFs would be removed and **Earth—Globes** would be established as a separate heading with the BT **Globes**. The heading **Earth—Globes** would be parallel in structure and meaning to existing headings for the globes of other bodies (e.g., **Mars (Planet)—Globes**).

#### **Globes** (*May Subd Geog*)

SN This heading is used as a topical heading for general works about spherical representations of individual planets, stars, moons, comets, etc.  
BT Cartographic materials  
NT Earth—Globes  
Eros (Asteroid)—Globes  
Mars (Planet)—Globes  
Moon—Globes  
*[additional references were omitted]*

#### **Earth—Globes**

UF Terrestrial globes  
BT Globes

The genre/form term **Globes** would be applied to all globes except celestial globes. The heavenly body being depicted, including the Earth, would be brought out through the use of a subject heading for the body subdivided by the form subdivision **—Globes**. *Examples:*

*Title:* [Globe of Mercury].

651 #0 \$a Mercury (Planet) \$v Globes.  
655 #7 \$a Globes. \$2 lcgft

*Title:* [Globe of Ganymede].

651 #0 \$a Ganymede (Satellite) \$v Globes.  
655 #7 \$a Globes. \$2 lcgft

*Title:* [Ein Globus der Erde].

651 #0 \$a Earth \$v Globes.  
655 #7 \$a Globes. \$2 lcgft

*Title:* [Globe of the Earth].

651 #0 \$a Earth \$v Globes.  
655 #7 \$a Globes. \$2 lcgft

*Title:* Sky-master.

655 #7 \$a Celestial globes. \$2 lcgft

When implemented in traditional catalogs, this solution would provide the same level of access as is provided currently. A user doing a subject browse search on **Globes** would be led to a list of narrower terms, including **Earth—Globes**. A genre/form browse search would yield many hits under **Globes**, but the user would still be able to find records for the type of globe being sought. With regard to keywords, it could be argued that this approach would benefit English-language speakers. Currently, the word Earth does not appear in a subject heading in the bibliographic record; the heading **Globes** is used instead. This means that the users cannot limit their keyword searches to globes of the Earth alone. Since the revised policy would require that the subject heading **Earth—Globes** be used for terrestrial globes, the word Earth would always appear in the record and be searchable, independent of the language of the description (see the third example above).

This solution would also work well in a faceted environment. A user who searches for **Globes** would be met with a display that shows all of the heavenly bodies for which the library has a globe.

#### Subjects

Alpha Centauri (1)  
Earth (78)  
Halley's Comet (2)  
Mars (Planet) (4)  
Neptune (Planet) (6)  
Venus (Planet) (10)

#### Genre/form terms

Celestial globes (12)  
Globes (101)

The user would be able to click on the pertinent heavenly body heading, and be provided with a targeted list of bibliographic records.

#### COMMENTS

Interested parties are invited to submit comments on this proposal to LC through *July 31, 2012*. Comments may be sent to Janis L. Young, genre/form coordinator, at [jayo@loc.gov](mailto:jayo@loc.gov).