

# **Cancellation of *LCGFT***

## **Character- and Franchise-Based Terms for Moving Images**

### **Discussion Paper**

August 1, 2011

In the spring of 2007 the Library of Congress embarked upon an experiment to create genre/form terms in the area of moving images (films, television programs, and video recordings), along with policies for assigning them. Over five hundred genre/form terms for moving image works have been approved, and it has been almost three years since LC implemented them.

With any experiment, policies that look reasonable in theory may be less so in application. This is perhaps particularly true in the case of the moving image genre/form terms, since the Policy and Standards Division's plans for the genre/form thesaurus have evolved and matured since the moving image project began.

The thesaurus is now a separate vocabulary, entitled *Library of Congress Genre/Form Terms for Library and Archival Materials (LCGFT)*, and is distinct from *Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH)*. The disciplines of cartography, law, and spoken-word sound recordings have been added, and the addition of three others – literature, music, and religion – is planned. Each of these projects brought its own challenges, and all have helped to inform PSD's decision to develop *LCGFT* as a faceted thesaurus in which terms will be post-coordinated instead of applied as strings with subdivisions.

Most of the policies governing the moving image genre/form terms were developed when the terms were still part of *LCSH* and closely followed *LCSH* policies. The recent separation of the genre/form thesaurus from *LCSH* provides an opportunity to reexamine the genre/form terms approved during the moving image experiment in order to determine whether they fit into the overall thesaurus, given the trajectory of development.

One ongoing issue has been what this paper will loosely refer to as “character- and franchise-based terms.” These are authorized terms that include either a character name or the title of a film or television program (e.g., **Die Hard films; Dracula television programs; Scooby-Doo television programs; Star Wars films**). PSD is proposing to cancel all of these terms from the genre/form thesaurus. This paper will explain the issue and the rationale for this proposed revision to *LCGFT*. It will also list all of the affected terms, along with suggestions of genre/form terms and LC subject headings to apply instead. The Policy and Standards Division requests input from interested parties before making a final decision. *Comments will be accepted through September 30, 2011.*

### **Character- and franchise-based headings in LCSH**

The principle of literary warrant drives the development of *LCSH*. Literary warrant allows catalogers to propose new headings and revisions to existing headings as vocabulary changes and develops, and as works are published that are not adequately described by existing headings.

In film and television studies, critical works may discuss either individual titles (e.g., *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*), or related films that may be referred to with a collective term (e.g., the eight Harry Potter films). By long-standing LC practice, if a critical work discusses three or fewer individual titles, subject access is provided by the assignment of the uniform title for each. If a critical work discusses four or more related titles, then a phrase heading is constructed instead (e.g., **Harry Potter films**). These phrase headings are simply a cataloger construct designed to provide subject access.

Examples:

*Title:* The making of Alien resurrection.  
630 00 \$a Alien resurrection (Motion picture)

*Title:* King Kong.  
630 00 \$a King Kong (Motion picture : 1933)  
630 00 \$a King Kong (Motion picture : 2005)

*Title:* Meanings of Ripley : the Alien quadrilogy and gender.  
650 #0 \$a Alien films \$x History and criticism.

*Title:* The mythology of Star wars.  
650 #0 \$a Star Wars films \$x History and criticism.  
655 #7 \$a Documentary television programs. \$2 lcgft

*LCSH* practice would not be affected by the proposed cancellation of character- and franchise-based terms from *LCGFT*.

### **Character- and franchise-based terms in LCGFT**

When the moving image genre/form project began in 2007, the intent was to create a separate list of genre/form terms contained within *LCSH*. The style and syntax of the genre/form terms was synchronized with *LCSH* headings in order to provide “one-stop shopping,” wherein researchers can discover exemplars of the genre or form at the same time that they discover works about the genre or form. Synchronizing the authorized strings was also a practical measure, since the authority records for both the *LCSH* headings and the *LCGFT* terms were coded as *LCSH* (008/11 value “a”). Using different authorized strings would have caused circular references and confusion in databases.

The effect of the “one-stop shopping” approach was the approval of a genre/form term to match every *LCSH* form heading, as well as one to match almost every *LCSH* heading that is “genre-like” (i.e., displaying the same syntax as a form heading). The character- and franchise-based terms entered *LCGFT* as part of the latter group. It was thought that inclusion of the terms would enhance the discovery process, be transparent to users, and

simplify reference service. Therefore, headings such as **Superman films** and **Sherlock Holmes films** were accepted into *LCGFT*, so researchers can find films that feature Superman and Sherlock Holmes, respectively, at the same time that they find works about those films.

There was confusion about the application of the “genre-like” terms almost from the beginning. For example, should **Sherlock Holmes films** be applied to films such as *Sherlock Jr.*, a 1924 Buster Keaton film about a film projectionist who wants to be a detective? Or to *Young Sherlock Holmes*, a 1985 film not based on an Arthur Conan Doyle work, in which Holmes and Dr. Watson meet as boys in a boarding school? Should **Tarzan films** be applied only to films in which Johnny Weissmuller stars as the eponymous character, or may it also be applied to 1999’s *Tarzan*, a Disney production starring Tony Goldwyn as the voice of Tarzan? This confusion leads to uneven cataloging, and thus to unpredictable discovery.

Some discussion has centered on the idea that the viewing public thinks in terms of characters and franchises. However, if the intent is to provide access to the primary character’s name, then application of a subject heading for the fictitious character, subdivided by **–Drama**, would suffice (e.g., **Tarzan (Fictitious character)—Drama**). In addition, *LCGFT* terms that are based on titles often merely repeat the significant words in the titles of the films (e.g., the term **Die Hard films** is applied to *Die Hard*; *Die Hard 2*; *Die Hard: With a Vengeance*; and, *Live Free or Die Hard*). In these cases, the genre/form term is redundant.

*LCGFT* is being developed as a faceted thesaurus, so this redundancy is not desired. The genre/form terms themselves should not overlap in meaning with each other, but the genre/form terms should also not repeat information found elsewhere in the record. Since subject headings for the main characters in films and television are often provided as a matter of course, also applying a genre/form term that includes the name of the character is not necessary. Likewise, since the title of the work is always provided, it is not necessary to repeat the significant words of that title within a genre/form term.

### **The proposal**

The Policy and Standards Division, in consultation with the Library’s Moving Image, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division, is proposing the cancellation of all of the character- and franchise-based genre/form terms from *LCGFT*. Films and television programs would be assigned genre/form terms that represent the genre or form, instead of the character or franchise. The genre/form terms would be post-coordinated with one or more fictitious character or imaginary place subject headings, as appropriate. The subject and genre/form arrays in the following examples are indicative of the results.

*Title:* The Dark Knight.  
 650 #0 \$a Batman (Fictitious character) +v Drama.  
 650 #0 \$a Joker (Fictitious character) +v Drama.  
 655 #7 \$a Superhero films. \$2 lcgft  
 655 #7 \$a Feature films. \$2 lcgft  
 655 #7 \$a Fiction films. \$2 lcgft  
 [not 655 #7 \$a Batman films. \$2 lcgft]

*Title:* The Hound of the Baskervilles.  
 650 #0 \$a Holmes, Sherlock (Fictitious character) +v Drama.  
 650 #0 \$a Attempted murder +v Drama.  
 650 #0 \$a Dogs +v Drama.  
 650 #0 \$a Legends +v Drama.  
 655 #7 \$a Detective and mystery films. \$2 lcgft  
 655 #7 \$a Film adaptations. \$2 lcgft  
 655 #7 \$a Feature films. \$2 lcgft  
 655 #7 \$a Fiction films. \$2 lcgft  
 [not 655 #7 \$a Sherlock Holmes films. \$2 lcgft]

*Title:* Star wars. Episode I, The phantom menace.  
 650 #0 \$a Blockade +v Drama.  
 655 #7 \$a Science fiction films. \$2 lcgft  
 655 #7 \$a Action and adventure films. \$2 lcgft  
 655 #7 \$a Fiction films. \$2 lcgft  
 655 #7 \$a Feature films. \$2 lcgft  
 [not 655 #7 \$a Star Wars films. \$2 lcgft]

*Title:* Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince.  
 650 #0 \$a Potter, Harry (Fictitious character) +v Drama.  
 650 #0 \$a Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry (Imaginary organization) +v Drama.  
 650 #0 \$a Wizards +v Drama.  
 650 #0 \$a Witches +v Drama.  
 650 #0 \$a Teenagers +v Drama.  
 655 #7 \$a Fantasy films. \$2 lcgft  
 655 #7 \$a Action and adventure films. \$2 lcgft  
 655 #7 \$a Feature films. \$2 lcgft  
 655 #7 \$a Fiction films. \$2 lcgft  
 [not 655 #7 \$a Harry Potter films. \$2 lcgft]

The attached appendix consists of a chart that comprises a list of all of the character- and franchise-based terms currently in *LCGFT* that would be cancelled, along with the suggested replacement term(s) from *LCGFT* and the *LCSH* heading(s) for post-coordination, if applicable. When taken together, the second and third columns list the authorized strings that together bring out the character(s) and genre(s) represented by the cancelled genre/form term.

### **Comments**

Interested parties are invited to submit comments on this plan to PSD through *September 30, 2011*. Comments may be sent to Janis L. Young, genre/form coordinator, at [jayo@loc.gov](mailto:jayo@loc.gov).

## Appendix

### Character- and franchise-based *LCGFT* terms to be cancelled, with suggested replacement terms

*Note:* The chart is not intended to be comprehensive or prescriptive. The *LCGFT* terms and *LCSH* headings suggested may not be applicable in all cases, and other subject headings and genre/form terms may also be assigned to an individual work.

<b><i>LCGFT</i> term to be cancelled</b>	<b>Suggested replacement <i>LCGFT</i> term(s)</b>	<b>Suggested <i>LCSH</i> heading(s)</b>
<b>Alien films</b>	<b>Science fiction films</b>	<b>Ripley (Fictitious character)–Drama</b>
<b>Amityville films</b>	<b>Horror films</b> <b>Haunted house films</b>	n/a
<b>Andy Hardy films</b>	<b>Comedy films</b> <b>Coming-of-age films</b>	Hardy family (Fictitious characters)–Drama <sup>1</sup>
<b>Angélique films</b>	<b>Action and adventure films</b> <b>Historical films</b>	Angélique (Fictitious character)–Drama <sup>1</sup>
<b>Austin Powers films</b>	<b>Parody films</b> <b>Spy films</b>	<b>Powers, Austin (Fictitious character)–Drama</b>
<b>Batman films</b>	<b>Superhero films</b>	<b>Batman (Fictitious character)–Drama</b>
<b>Big Brother television programs</b>	<b>Reality television programs</b>	n/a
<b>Bourne films</b>	<b>Action and adventure films</b> <b>Spy films</b>	<b>Bourne, Jason (Fictitious character)–Drama</b>
<b>Bowery Boys films</b>	<b>Comedy films</b>	n/a <sup>2</sup>
<b>Bulldog Drummond films</b>	<b>Detective and mystery films</b>	<b>Drummond, Bulldog (Fictitious character)–Drama</b>
<b>Carmen films</b>	* <b>Carmen films</b> may be used on a variety of unrelated films in which the main character is named Carmen. Assign genre/form terms specific to the film being described.	<b>Carmen (Fictitious character)–Drama</b>
<b>Carry On films</b>	<b>Comedy films</b>	n/a
<b>Charlie Chan films</b>	<b>Detective and mystery films</b>	<b>Chan, Charlie (Fictitious character)–Drama</b>

<b><i>LCGFT</i> term to be cancelled</b>	<b>Suggested replacement <i>LCGFT</i> term(s)</b>	<b>Suggested <i>LCSH</i> heading(s)</b>
Cisco Kid films	Western films	Cisco Kid (Fictitious character)–Drama <sup>1</sup>
Commissario Montalbano television programs	Detective and mystery television programs	Montalbano, Salvo (Fictitious character)–Drama
DeGrassi television programs	Social problem television programs Teen television programs	n/a
Die Hard films	Action and adventure films	McClane, John (Fictitious character)–Drama
Doctor Mabuse films	Crime films	Mabuse, Doctor (Fictitious character)–Drama <sup>1</sup>
Don Camillo films	Comedy films	Camillo, Don (Fictitious character)–Drama <sup>1</sup>
Don Juan films	*Don Juan films may be used on a variety of unrelated films in which the main character is named Don Juan. Assign genre/form terms specific to the film being described.	Don Juan (Legendary character)–Drama
Don Juan television programs	*Don Juan television programs may be used on a variety of unrelated television programs in which the main character is named Don Juan. Assign genre/form terms specific to the television program being described.	Don Juan (Legendary character)–Drama
Dracula films	Vampire films	Dracula, Count (Fictitious character)–Drama
Dracula television programs	Vampire television programs	Dracula, Count (Fictitious character)–Drama
Fantozzi films	Comedy films	Fantozzi, Ugo (Fictitious character)–Drama
Fantômas films	Detective and mystery films	Fantômas (Fictitious character)–Drama

<b><i>LCGFT</i> term to be cancelled</b>	<b>Suggested replacement <i>LCGFT</i> term(s)</b>	<b>Suggested <i>LCSH</i> heading(s)</b>
Flash Gordon films	Action and adventure films Superhero films	Gordon, Flash (Fictitious character)—Drama
Frankenstein films	Monster films	Frankenstein, Victor (Fictitious character)—Drama Frankenstein's monster (Fictitious character)—Drama
Friday the 13 <sup>th</sup> films	Slasher films	Voorhees, Jason (Fictitious character)—Drama <sup>1</sup>
Godfather films	Gangster films	Corleone family (Fictitious characters)—Drama
Godzilla films	Monster films	Godzilla (Fictitious character)—Drama
Halloween films	Horror films Thrillers (Motion pictures)	Myers, Michael (Fictitious character)—Drama
Harry Potter films	Fantasy films	Potter, Harry (Fictitious character)—Drama Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry (Imaginary organization)—Drama
Hellraiser films	Horror films Thrillers (Motion pictures)	Pinhead (Fictitious character)—Drama <sup>1</sup>
Hopalong Cassidy films	Western films	Cassidy, Hopalong (Fictitious character)—Drama
Indiana Jones films	Action and adventure films	Jones, Indiana (Fictitious character)—Drama
Indiana Jones television programs	Historical television programs	Jones, Indiana (Fictitious character)—Drama
James Bond films	Action and adventure films Spy films	Bond, James (Fictitious character)—Drama
King Kong films	Monster films	King Kong (Fictitious character)—Drama

<b><i>LCGFT</i> term to be cancelled</b>	<b>Suggested replacement <i>LCGFT</i> term(s)</b>	<b>Suggested <i>LCSH</i> heading(s)</b>
Lone Ranger films	Western films	Lone Ranger (Fictitious character)-Drama <sup>1</sup>
Lord of the Rings films	Fantasy films	Middle Earth (Imaginary place)-Drama
Mothra films	Monster films	Mothra (Fictitious character)-Drama <sup>1</sup>
Mummy films	Monster films	Mummies-Drama
Mummy television programs	Monster television programs	Mummies-Drama
Nanny television programs	*Nanny television programs may be used on a variety of unrelated television programs (both fictional and reality-based) in which the main character is a nanny. Assign genre/form terms specific to the television program being described.	Nannies [subdivided by -Drama if appropriate]
Nightmare on Elm Street films	Horror films	Kreuger, Freddy (Fictitious character)-Drama
Niskavuori films	Historical films Melodramas (Motion pictures)	Niskavuori family (Fictitious characters)-Drama <sup>1</sup>
Our Gang films	Comedy films	n/a <sup>2</sup>
Pink Panther films	Comedy films	Closeau, Inspector (Fictitious character)-Drama
Pink Panther television programs	Comedy television programs Children's television programs Animated television programs	Pink Panther (Fictitious character)-Drama
Pirates of the Caribbean films	Pirate films Comedy films	Sparrow, Jack (Fictitious character)-Drama <sup>1</sup>
Planet of the Apes films	Dystopian films	n/a
Poltergeist films	Ghost films Horror films	n/a
Private Snafu films	Animated films Short films	Private Snafu (Fictitious character)-Drama



<b><i>LCGFT</i> term to be cancelled</b>	<b>Suggested replacement <i>LCGFT</i> term(s)</b>	<b>Suggested <i>LCSH</i> heading(s)</b>
Rocky films	Boxing films	Balboa, Rocky (Fictitious character)–Drama
Schulmädchen-Report films	Erotic films	n/a
Scooby-Doo films	Comedy films	Scooby-Doo (Fictitious character)–Drama
Scooby-Doo television programs	Television comedies Detective and mystery television programs Children’s television programs Animated television programs	Scooby-Doo (Fictitious character)–Drama
Shaft films	Blaxploitation films Detective and mystery films	Shaft, John (Fictitious character)–Drama
Sherlock Holmes films	Detective and mystery films	Holmes, Sherlock (Fictitious character)–Drama
Sherlock Holmes television programs	Detective and mystery television programs	Holmes, Sherlock (Fictitious character)–Drama
Shrek films	Comedy films Fantasy films Children’s films Computer animation films	Shrek (Fictitious character)–Drama <sup>1</sup>
Spider-Man films	Superhero films	Spider-Man (Fictitious character)–Drama
Star Trek films	Science fiction films	n/a
Star Trek television programs	Science fiction television programs	n/a
Star Wars films	Science fiction films	n/a
Superman films	Superhero films	Superman (Fictitious character)–Drama
Tarzan films	Action and adventure films Jungle films	Tarzan (Fictitious character)–Drama
Terminator films	Science fiction films Action and adventure films	n/a
Three Stooges films	Slapstick comedy films	n/a <sup>3</sup>

<b><i>LCGFT</i> term to be cancelled</b>	<b>Suggested replacement <i>LCGFT</i> term(s)</b>	<b>Suggested <i>LCSH</i> heading(s)</b>
<b>Tom and Jerry films</b>	<b>Comedy films Children's films Animated films</b>	<b>Tom (Fictitious character : Hanna and Barbera)–Drama Jerry (Fictitious character : Hanna and Barbera)–Drama</b>
<b>Torchy Blane films</b>	<b>Journalism films Detective and mystery films</b>	<b>Blane, Torchy (Fictitious character)–Drama<sup>1</sup></b>
<b>Toy Story films</b>	<b>Comedy films Children's films Computer animation films</b>	n/a
<b>Trapalhães films</b>	<b>Comedy films</b>	n/a
<b>Wizard of Oz films</b>	<b>Fantasy films</b>	<b>Oz (Imaginary place)–Drama</b>
<b>Zatoichi films</b>	<b>Samurai films</b>	<b>Zatoichi (Fictitious character)–Drama<sup>1</sup></b>
<b>Zorro films</b>	<b>Western films Swashbuckler films</b>	<b>Zorro (Fictitious character)–Drama</b>
<b>Zorro television programs</b>	<b>Western television programs</b>	<b>Zorro (Fictitious character)–Drama</b>

<sup>1</sup> The fictitious character heading would have to be proposed for inclusion in *LCSH*.

<sup>2</sup> A name heading may be established for the group of actors/comedians and assigned as a descriptive access point. The heading would not be assigned as a subject heading in this context.

<sup>3</sup> The heading **Three Stooges (Comedy team)** may be assigned as a descriptive access point. It would not be assigned as a subject heading in this context.