

Library of Congress to Cancel *LCGFT* Sport-Specific Terms for Moving Images

April 24, 2012

The Policy and Standards Division (PSD) of the Library of Congress will cancel sport-specific moving image genre/form terms from *Library of Congress Genre/Form Terms for Library and Archival Materials (LCGFT)* on June 18, 2012. The rationale and plan for this action follow.

The decision to cancel the sport-specific terms follows the same logic that led to the cancellation of the character- and franchise-based terms earlier this year. When the moving image genre/form project began in 2007, a genre/form term to match each *LCSH* form heading was created, as was one to match almost every *LCSH* heading that is “genre-like” (i.e., displaying the same syntax as a form heading). Character- and franchise-based terms (e.g., **Dracula films**; **Die Hard films**) entered *LCGFT* as part of the latter group. In mid-2011, PSD proposed canceling the character- and franchise-based terms because of confusion regarding their application and also because *LC* subject headings for the main characters in films and television programs are often provided as a matter of course. A genre/form term that simply restated the subject heading was therefore redundant. Response to PSD’s proposal to cancel the terms was generally positive, and the terms were removed from *LCGFT* in February 2012. (The discussion paper and announcement of the decision are available under the header Moving Image Materials and Radio Programs on *LC*’s genre/form web page, <http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpsso/genreformgeneral.html>.)

Terms that refer to films about individual sports (e.g., **Baseball films**) were included in *LCGFT* for the same reasons that the character- and franchise-based terms were: they were in *LCSH* and were “genre-like.” The analogous terms for television programs about individual sports (e.g., **Baseball television programs**) were then added.

The decision to cancel the character- and franchise-based terms, along with the recent proliferation of proposals that refer to films about individual sports (e.g., **Curling films**; **Roller skating films**), have led PSD and the Moving Image, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division (MBRS) to investigate whether phrases in the form **[sport] films** and **[sport] television programs** are indeed valid for inclusion in *LCGFT*.

By definition, genres comprise works that are characterized by a combination of similar plots, themes, settings, situations, and characters that distinguish the works and set them off from others (see question 2 of the genre/form FAQ, http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpsso/genre_form_faq.pdf). Not all of the recent proposals, some of which were approved, seem to fit this definition. For example, a proposal for “Motorcycle racing films” cited an action film, *Biker Boyz*, and also a comedy, *Fast Charlie... Moonbeam Rider*, in the justification. The approved heading **Roller skating films** cited as justification *The Rink*, a comedy; *Whip It!*, a drama; and *Rollerball*, a science-fiction thriller. The only element that ties these films together is that they each feature the same sport. PSD and MBRS have determined that sharing a single plot element is not sufficient to deem the films to collectively constitute a genre.

For the sake of consistency, all of the existing *LCGFT* terms in the form **[sport] films** or **[sport] television programs** will be cancelled. *LCSH* policy, which permits headings to be established based on the terminology used in works about the films, is unchanged. Therefore, if a work is written about curling films, for example, a proposal may be made to add curling films to *LCSH*.

Like the decision to cancel the character- and franchise-based genre/form terms, this decision to cancel the sport-specific terms is based on the fact that subject matter should be brought out with subject headings, while genre/form terms should be reserved for films that exhibit similarities in style, plot elements, settings, and characters, and/or format and purpose. Therefore, the sport featured in the film or television program may be brought out with a subject heading, subdivided by **-Drama**. If desired, the genre/form term **Sports films** or **Sports television programs** may also be assigned.

Example:

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Title: Men with brooms.
650 #0 $a Curling $v Drama.
655 #7 $a Sports films. $2 lcgft
655 #7 $a Romantic comedy films. $2 lcgft
655 #7 $a Feature films. $2 lcgft
655 #7 $a Fiction films. $2 lcgft
[not 655 #7 $a Curling films. $2 lcgft]
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Proposals to cancel the sport-specific genre/form terms will appear on the Tentative Monthly List dated June 18, 2012, and the authority records will be cancelled in July. A *[Former heading]* reference (MARC tag 455 \$w nne) for each will be made to either **Sports films** or **Sports television programs**, as appropriate. The terms to be cancelled are:

<u>LCCN</u>	<u>Genre/form term</u>
gf2011026077	Baseball films
gf2011026078	Baseball television programs
gf2011026079	Basketball films
gf2011026080	Basketball television programs
gf2011026100	Boxing films
gf2011026792	Cricket films
gf2011026761	Curling films
gf2012025031	Football films
gf2011026287	Football television programs
gf2011026793	Golf films
gf2011026303	Golf television programs
gf2011026316	Hockey films
gf2011026317	Hockey television programs
gf2011026769	Horse racing films
gf2011026580	Ice skating films
gf2011026810	Roller skating films
gf2012025030	Soccer films
gf2012025028	Soccer television programs
gf2011026624	Surfing films
gf2011026809	Tennis films
gf2011026685	Tennis television programs
gf2011026790	Wrestling films