# New Developments in Genre/Form Access

Oregon Library Association, April 2, 2009

Lori Robare
Adam Schiff
Rebecca Belford

# Form, genre, subject…

- Genre/form headings describe what an item **is** (rather than what it is about)

- Form: characteristic of works with a particular format and/or purpose
  - American poetry
  - Artists' books
  - Sonatas (Bagpipe and continuo)
  - Vellum bindings
  - Short films

- Genre: categories of works characterized by similar plots, themes, settings, situations, characters
  - Detective and mystery stories
  - Film noir, Crime films, Thrillers

# Thesauri – a few examples

- **aat**

  Art & architecture thesaurus (Getty Research Institute)

- **gmgpc**

  Thesaurus for graphic materials: TGM II, Genre and physical characteristic terms (Library of Congress)

- **gsafd**

  Guidelines on subject access to individual works of fiction, drama, etc. (ALA)

- **lcsh**

  Library of Congress subject headings (LC)

# Thesauri – a few examples

- **migfg**

  Moving image genre-form guide (Motion Picture Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division, LC)

- **rbbin**

  Binding terms: a thesaurus for use in rare book and special collections cataloguing (ACRL)

- **rbgenr**

  Genre terms: a thesaurus for use in rare book and special collections cataloguing (ACRL)

# MARC 21 coding

**Bib record: 655 field**

2nd indicator for source of term

655 _ 0 Documentary films
*(genre heading from LCSH)*

655 _ 7 Medical novels. $2 gsafd

655 _ 7 Lithographs. $2 gmgpc
*(thesaurus specified in $2)*

**Authority record: 155 field**

455, 555 references

# LCSH & genre/form

- Many headings in LCSH represent genre or form
    - Used extensively for music, collections of literature, etc.
    - Some appear to represent genre/form but intended for use as topical only (Horror films)

- LC has previously coded all as 650 _0
    - French poetry    *(for a collection -- form)*
    - French poetry $x History and criticism    *(topical)*

- Form subdivisions also used ($v)
    - Fiction, Maps, Biography, Drama, etc.

# New approach

- LC has begun a project to identify genre/form terms in LCSH and…

  ◦ Create 155 authority records

  ◦ Bring in new terms from other thesauri as 155s

  ◦ Begin coding such headings 655 in bibliographic records

# Motion Picture & Television Reading Room

MOTION PICTU
BROADCASTIN
RECORDED SOUND DIVIS

# The Moving Image Genre-form Guide

## Compiled by:

- Brian Taves (Chair)
- Judi Hoffman
- Karen Lund

February 1998

## Table of Contents

# Progress to date

- Over 500 genre/form headings for moving images and radio programs approved for use

- MBRS began using the new LC genre/form headings exclusively on January 1, 2009

- SACO proposals now accepted

- Genre/form headings maintained in a separate list, co-existing with LCSH

*Reindeer games / a Marty Katz production ; directed by John Frankenheimer ;...*

**LC Control No.:** 2001643819

**LCCN Permalink:** http://lccn.loc.gov/2001643819

**Type of Material:** Moving Image or Slide/Transparency

**Summary:** After being imprisoned for six years on a grand theft auto charge, Rudy Duncan and his cellmate Nick are finally going to be paroled. Rudy heard endless stories of Nick's romantic correspondence to a woman named Ashley he has never met. When Nick is killed during a prison riot, Rudy decides to assume Nick's identity upon release from prison and meet up with the unknown woman. Burdened with a base knowledge of Nick's Indian casino employment past, Rudy finds himself in too deep with Ashley's brother Gabriel and is violently forced to cooperate with a casino robbery that Gabriel and his gang have been planning with Nick in mind.

**Subjects:** Criminals --Drama.

Casinos --Drama.

Robbery --Drama.

**Form/Genre:** Caper --Feature. migfg

Crime --Feature. migfg

**LC Classification:** CGD 1152-1157 (viewing print)

old practice

**Brief Record** | **Subjects/Content** | **Full Record** | **MARC Tags**

*21 / a Trigger Street/Michael De Luca production ; directed by Robert...*

**LC Control No.:** 2008636036

**LCCN Permalink:** http://lccn.loc.gov/2008636036

**Type of Material:** Moving Image or Slide/Transparency

**Summary:** A group of gifted MIT students, led by a brilliant statistics professor, use their mastery of numbers to beat the odds at blackjack in a daring plot to break Vegas.

**Subjects:** Massachusetts Institute of Technology --Students --Drama.
Cardsharping --Drama.
Blackjack (Game) --Drama.
Casinos --Nevada --Las Vegas --Drama.
Gamblers --Drama.

**Form/Genre:** Caper films.
Feature films.
Fiction films.

new practice

**LC Classification:** CGE 2971-2976 (viewing print)
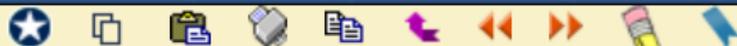
## H 1913  Moving Image Genre/Form Headings

**BACKGROUND:** *Moving image works are defined as those created by recording moving visual images, with or without sound. Individual moving image works are usually cataloged in the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division (MBRS) of the Library of Congress. This instruction sheet provides special guidelines for the assignment of genre/form headings to works cataloged by MBRS. For guidelines on assigning subject headings to bring out the content of individual moving image works, see H 2230.*

*Note: As used in this instruction sheet and in the genre/form headings themselves, the term **films** refers to works that are originally recorded and released on motion picture film, on video, or digitally. The phrase **television programs** refers to those works that are originally telecast.*

1. *Assignment of genre/form headings.*

   *a. **General rule.** Assign genre/form headings to both fiction and nonfiction works. Headings may be assigned from different levels of the same hierarchy if desired.*

   *b. **Limiting to fiction or non-fiction.** Also assign one of the headings in the following list to each work to distinguish between fiction and nonfiction treatments of a subject:*

   Fiction films
   Nonfiction films
   Fiction television programs
   Nonfiction television programs

# www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/genreformgeneral.html

**CATALOGING AND ACQUISITIONS**

## Genre/Form Headings at the Library of Congress: General Information

Download the Adobe Acrobat Reader to view PDF documents. **Get ADOBE® READER®**

Search this site [GO]

- **Cataloging and Acquisitions Home**
- **About the Organization**
- **Contact**
- **FAQs**
- **News**

- **Acquisitions**
- **Cataloging Tools, Documentation**
- **Catalogs, Authority Records**
- **Classification**
- **Cooperative Programs**
- **General, Descriptive Cataloging**
- **Products for Purchase**
- **Professional Activities**
- **Publications, Reports**

FAQ on genre/form headings [updated 01/09] (PDF, 60KB)

Genre/Form Headings for Musical Works (03/26/09)

SACO Proposals for Moving Image and Radio Program Genre/Form Headings (02/17/09)

Genre/Form Headings for Cartographic Materials (02/10/09)

Timeline and Plan for the Next Five Library of Congress Genre/Form Projects

Library of Congress to Implement Moving Image and Radio Program Genre/Form Headings in New Cataloging

Presentation at the OLAC-MOUG 2008 conference, September 26-28, 2008 (Janis Young) (PDF, 250KB)

Moving image genre/form project report (07/10/08)

Genre/form headings for radio programs (04/09/08)

Genre/form authority records (08/15/07)

Timeline for genre/form projects, 2008-2012

2009　2010　2011　2012

Cartography

Law

Religion

Literature

Music
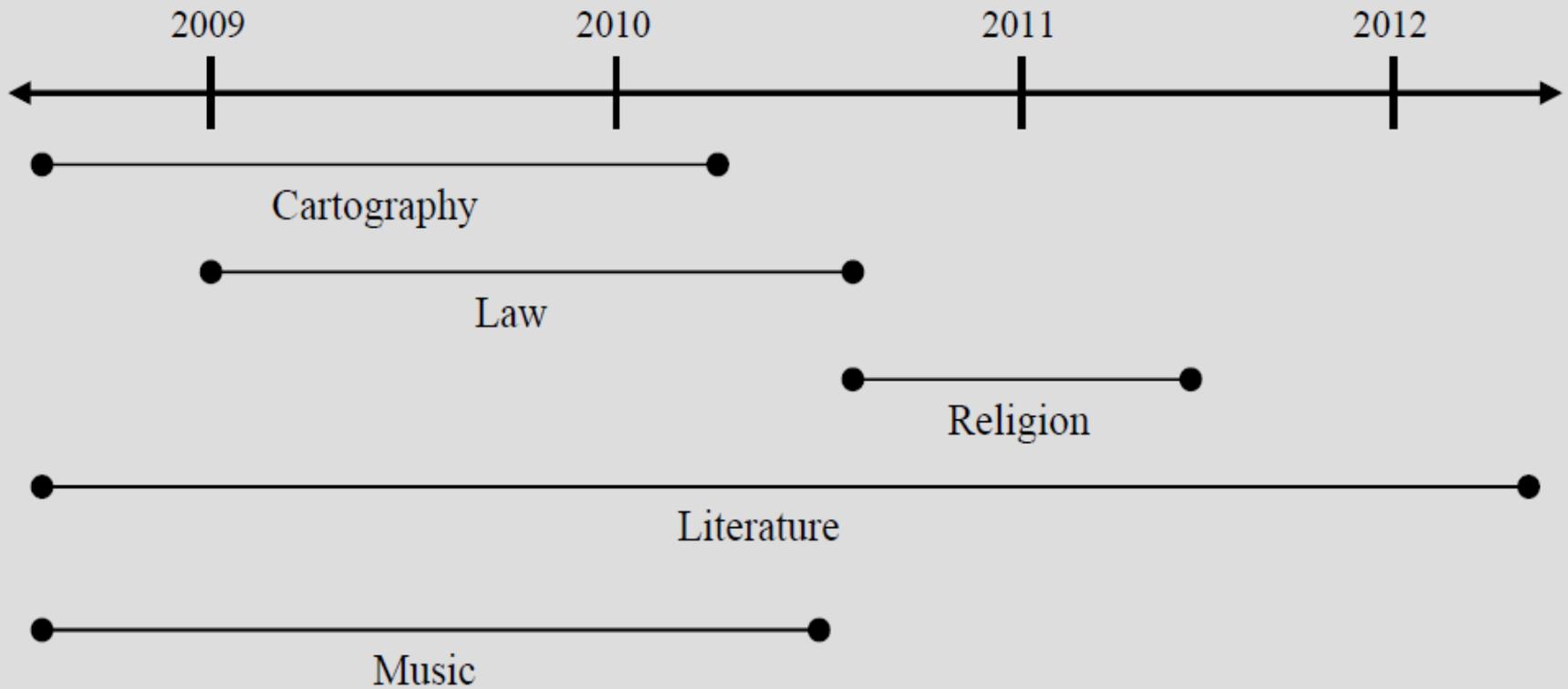
# ALCTS CCS Subject Analysis Committee Subcommittee on Genre/Form Implementation

- Charge:
  - Act as facilitator of communication between LC Policy and Standards Division and the cataloging communities with an interest in genre/form headings

- Open discussion list:
  - go to http://lists.ala.org/sympa/info/form-genre and choose Subscribe