

Assignment of Terms: Creator and Contributor Characteristics L 485

BACKGROUND: Demographic terms that describe characteristics of creators of, and contributors to, resources are assigned in bibliographic records and to authority records for works. This instruction sheet provides the general principles by which the terms are assigned. For guidelines on the assignment of terms in a particular category, see the instruction sheet for the category (e.g., L 530, Language Category). For examples of MARC 21 records to which demographic group terms have been assigned to describe the audiences of resources, see L 412.

For purposes of this instruction sheet, the word “creator” shall mean both creator and contributor.

1. General rule. Assign one or more demographic terms describing the creator(s) when they self-identify as a member of one or more demographic groups. Typical sources for self-identification include:

- “About the author”
- Title proper or other title information
- Statement of responsibility
- Introduction or preface (most often in the case of edited works and compilations)
- Information on the cover
- CIP data sheet

Avoid assigning terms based on a photograph or picture of the creator, or based on the creator’s name, because they can be misleading regarding age, ethnicity, gender, etc. Gendered titles such as *Ms.*, *Mr.*, or *Dottoressa* (i.e., an Italian title for a female university graduate) may be useful in assigning terms describing gender, but they must be used with caution, as must pronouns such as *he*, *she*, and their equivalents in other languages.

2. Number of terms. Use judgment to assign one or more demographic terms that will be useful for discovery purposes. There is no limit to the number of demographic terms that may be assigned to a resource.

3. Editions. Demographic terms assigned to earlier or later editions of the same resource may be reused *with caution* in the new cataloging record. Creators may self-identify with different demographic groups over the course of their lifetimes. Information provided in the resource being cataloged always takes precedence over information in other editions.

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4. A single creator responsible for multiple resources. Demographic terms assigned to other resources by the same creator may be reused with caution in the new cataloging record. Creators may self-identify with different demographic groups over the course of their lifetimes. Information provided in the resource being cataloged always takes precedence over information in other resources.

5. Multiple creators.

a. Multiple creators of a single work. Prefer to assign terms that separately reflect each author, but avoid redundancy in term assignment. *Example:*

A textbook by three authors, all of whom self-identify as academic librarians. Two also self-identify as men and one as a woman. Assign the terms **Academic librarians**, **Men**, and **Women**. Do not assign the terms **Men** and **Academic librarians** multiple times.

b. Multiple authors of compilations. Prefer to assign terms that collectively describe the creators. *Example:*

A collection of essays by family lawyers, government lawyers, public defenders, and legal-aid attorneys. Assign the term **Lawyers**.

Optionally, assign terms that describe each creator individually. *Example:*

A collection of essays by family lawyers, government lawyers, public defenders, and legal-aid attorneys. Assign the terms **Family lawyers**; **Government attorneys**; **Public defenders**, and **Legal-aid lawyers**.

6. Prohibitions on assigning terms. For restrictions on the assignment of terms in individual categories, see the instruction sheet for the category (e.g., **L 545**, Occupation/Field of Activity Category).

7. Specificity. Assign terms that correspond to the specific demographic groups with which the creators self-identify. Specificity is not a property of a given term. For example, a seemingly broad term like **Lawyers** is specific when it is assigned to a resource whose creator self-identifies as a lawyer.

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7. *Specificity.* (Continued)

Use the structure of LCDGT to find the closest match possible between the demographic group with which the creator self-identifies and the term(s) that exist to express that group in LCDGT. In situations where an appropriate term has not been established, see L 420 for general guidelines on establishing new demographic terms.

Assign a term that is broader or more general than the group it is intended to cover only when it is not possible to establish a precise term, or when an array of terms is needed (see sec. 8 below).

8. Multi-element demographic groups. If a creator self-identifies as belonging to a group that includes several discrete elements, assign a separate term for each element that will be useful for discovery purposes. *Example:*

An author who self-identifies as a lesbian teenager. Assign the terms **Lesbians** and **Teenagers**.

9. Overlapping terms. It is permissible to assign terms that overlap in meaning if the terms are classified in separate categories, as indicated by the category code in the authority records for the terms. *Examples:*

An author who self-identifies as an African American man. Assign **African Americans** (an ethnic group); **Americans** (a nationality group); and **Men** (a gender group).

10. *Examples.*

a. Individual works.

Title: Dork diaries : tales from a not-so-fabulous life / Rachel Renée Russell.

Data: "Rachel Renée Russell is an attorney. ... Rachel lives in Chantilly, Virginia"-Author blurb.

Terms: Virginians
Lawyers

[The author of this novel for preteens self-identifies as a resident of Virginia and a lawyer, so demographic group terms for both are assigned, principally for their scholarly research value. The terms may be omitted if they are not judged useful for discovery in a browsing collection.]

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10. Examples.

a. Individual works. (Continued)

Title: Tips for young players / Matthew Sadler.

Data: "Britain's No. 3 ranked player Grandmaster Sadler answers key questions..."-Page of cover.

Terms: Chess players
Britons

Title: New Mexico Space Trail / Joseph T. Page II.

Data: "Joseph T. Page II is a longtime resident of Southern New Mexico."-Page 4 of cover.

Term: New Mexicans

Title: Magic search : getting the best results from your catalog and beyond / Rebecca S. Kornegay, Heidi E. Buchanan, and Hildegard B. Morgan.

Data: "Rebecca S. Kornegay is head of reference at Western Carolina University's Hunter Library in Cullowhee, North Carolina ... Heidi E. Buchanan is a reference librarian at Hunter Library ... Hildegard B. Morgan is assistant head of cataloging at Hunter Library."-T.p. verso.

Terms: Academic librarians
Catalogers
Reference librarians
North Carolinians

Title: Assingation / Ross Gilbert Anderson.

Series: Studies in Scots law

Data: "This work represents a revised version of a thesis ... submitted to the University of Edinburgh for the degree Doctor of Philosophy ... awarded in June 2006."-Preface.

Terms: Doctoral students

not Scots

[Nationality of the creator cannot be assumed from the location of the university at which a creator studied]

not Lawyers

[Occupation of the creator cannot be assumed from the subject matter of a resource]

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10. Examples. (Continued)

b. Compilations

Title: Let go of my ear!, I know what I'm doing : an anthology of outstanding undergraduate short fiction.

Data: The table of contents indicates that all of the authors are students at American colleges and universities.

Terms: Undergraduates

not Americans

[Nationality of the creator cannot be assumed from the location of the universities at which the creators are studying]

Title: Glimpses : passing moments, captured thoughts : poems and photographs from the King County Poetry Bus Project.

Data: The project took place in King County, Washington.

Terms: Washingtonians (Washington State)

Title: I am not my breast cancer : women talk openly about love & sex, hair loss & weight gain, mothers & daughters, and being a woman with breast cancer.

Data: "This book gathers the warm, loving, frank, and informed voices of more than 800 women - from every state in the nation and from continents as far away as Australia and Africa..."-From summary in bibliographic record.

Terms: Breast cancer patients

Women