BACKGROUND: Genre/form authority records in Classification Web and in the LC database take precedence over all other products as authority for LC genre/form terms.

The master authority records reside in Classification Web, and copies are also available in the LC database and in LC’s Linked Data Service. In addition to being the most authoritative and up-to-date list of genre/form terms, Classification Web is also used for products such as the monthly Tentative Lists of proposals and Library of Congress Genre/Form Terms for Library and Archival Materials, which has been published annually since 2008. (From 2008-2015, it was published as a supplementary vocabulary within Library of Congress Subject Headings. Beginning in 2016, it has been published as a separate publication.) LCGFT is available as free PDF files on the Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access website (http://www.loc.gov/aba).

This instruction sheet provides guidelines on the coding of LC genre/form authority records in MARC 21 format. For full information on coding in authority records, see the MARC documentation at http://www.loc.gov/marc/authority/.


   a. Approved terms.

   (1) Control numbers. An existing term that is approved and valid for use is represented in Classification Web and the LC database by a single authority record with a control number in the 010 field having the prefix gf.

   (2) Fixed field and data fields. Authority records for genre/form terms may also be identified by the following coding.

       008/15  z (Other)
       040    $f lcgft
       155    Authorized term
       455    Used For reference(s)
       555    Related Term and Broader Term reference(s)

   Genre/form authority records also contain other fields, e.g., 670, 675, 680, and 681.

   a. Approved terms. (Continued)

   (3) Examples.

   010 ## $a gf2011026101 $z sh2007025282
   040 ## $a DLC $b eng $c DLC $f lcgft
   155 ## $a Buddy films
   555 ## $w g $a Motion pictures
   670 ## $a Work cat.: Easy rider, 1983.
   670 ## $a Moving image genre-form guide online, March 28, 2007 $b (Buddy: Fictional work focusing primarily on the camaraderie between two individuals, usually two men or two women. Often their relationship develops as they are thrown together while traveling or as professional partners. Although perhaps starting out as strangers, or even enemies, a bond usually comes to exist between the pair as they become friends or at least allies)

   010 ## $a gf2014026967
   040 ## $a CaStSMF $b eng $c DLC $f lcgft $d DLC
   155 ## $a Noise music
   455 ## $w g $a Rock music
   670 ## $a Work cat.: Incapacitants (Musical group). Incapacitants present No progress [SR] 199-
   670 ## $a Incapacitants WWW site, July 9, 2001: $b profile (The performances of Incapacitants ... are so wide-open that they explode the usual image of noise music. Along with Hijo Kaidan, Merzbow, C.C.C.C., and Solmania, Incapacitants is one of the most well known of the noise bands which started out in the early '80s)
   670 ## $a All music guide to electronica, c2001: $b p. xii (Brief style descriptions. Noise: Sludgy, abrasive, and punishing. "Noise" is everything its name promises, expanding on the music's capacity for sonic assault while almost entirely rejecting the role of melody and songcraft. From the ear-splitting, teeth-rattling attack of Japan's Merzbow to the thick, grinding intensity of Amphetamine Reptile-label bands like Tar and Vertigo, it's dark, brutal music that pushes rock to its furthest extremes. By the end of the '90s, a resurgence in the use of sine waves--originally explored by musique concrète artists in the '50s--became increasingly frequent among "noise" artists such as Otomo Yoshihide) p. 325, under Merzbow (guitar, effects, producer/noise, dark ambient, experimental ... one of the world's most prolific practitioners of eardrum-assaulting Japanese noise)
   675 ## $a Shuker, R. Key concepts in popular music, 1998; $a The electronica primer WWW site, July 17, 2001.

   a. Approved terms.

   (3) Examples. (Continued)

   010 ## $a gf2014026112
   040 ## $a IlChALCS $b eng $c DLC $f lcgft
   155 ## $a Indexes
   455 ## $a Indices
   555 ## $w g $a Reference works
   670 ## $a Genre terms : a thesaurus for use in rare book and special
collections cataloging, via WWW, Aug. 5, 2014 $b (Indexes. BT Reference
works)
   670 ## $a Art & architecture thesaurus online, Aug. 5, 2014 $b (indexes
(reference sources). UF indices. Systematic guides to the contents
of texts, files, or documents, presented as a list, usually in
alphabetical order, of persons and/or subjects referred to in documents,
with location of references thereto.)
   670 ## $a Reitz, J.M. ODLIS : online dictionary for library and information
science, Aug. 5, 2014 $b (index: An alphabetically arranged list of
headings consisting of the personal names, places, and subjects treated
in a written work, with page numbers to refer the reader to the point
in the text at which information pertaining to the heading is found.
In single-volume works of reference and nonfiction, any indexes appear
at the end of the back matter. In a multivolume work, they are found
at the end of the last volume. In very large multivolume reference
works, the last volume may be devoted entirely to indexes. Alternate
plural: indices. Also refers to an open-end finding guide to the
literature of an academic field or discipline (example: Philosopher's
Index), to works of a specific literary form (Biography Index) or
published in a specific format (Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature),
or to the analyzed contents of a serial publication (New York Times
Index). Indexes of this kind are usually issued in monthly or quarterly
paperback supplements, cumulated annually.)
   670 ## $a Görlach, M. An alphabetical list of English text types, in
Text types and the history of English, c2004: $b p. 49 (index: list
at end of book)
   680 ## $i Works consisting wholly or chiefly of systematic guides to
the content of resources, usually presented as alphabetical lists
of names, places, subjects, etc., with references to their locations
in the resources.

a. Approved terms.

(3) Examples. (Continued)

010 ## $a gf2011026331 $z sh2007025201
040 ## $a DLC $b eng $c DLC $f lcgft
155 ## $a Infomercials
455 ## $a Infomercials
555 ## $w g $a Promotional television programs
555 ## $a Home shopping television programs
670 ## $a Infomercial.tv glossary, Aug. 27, 2007: $b (Infomercial: any
television commercial longer than two minutes, typically just under
30 minutes)
670 ## $a Merriam-Webster online dictionary, Aug. 27, 2007: $b (infomercial:
a television program that is an extended advertisement often including
a discussion or demonstration)
670 ## $a Home shopping in the United States, April 2005 via Research
and Markets WWW Home page, Aug. 27, 2007: $b (Infomercials are program
length TV commercials devoted solely to one product; contrasted with
home shopping programs, which are ongoing programs, some of which
are broadcast 24 hours a day, purvey a wide variety of goods, and
are broadcast on network, cable, and satellite television)
670 ## $a OED online, Aug. 27, 2007: $b (informercial: An advertising
film (usu. shown on television) which promotes a product, service,
etc. in an informative and purportedly objective and spontaneous style;
informercial SEE ALSO infomercial)
680 ## $i Program-length television commercials that are devoted to one
product, and that usually include a discussion or demonstration. For
live television programs that purvey a wide variety of goods that
can be purchased by viewers see $a Home shopping television programs.
681 ## $i Note under $a Home shopping television programs

a. Approved terms.

(3) Examples. (Continued)

010 ## $a gf2011026318 $z sh2007025244
040 ## $a DLC $b eng $c DLC $f lcgft
155 ## $a Home shopping television programs
555 ## $w g $a Television programs
670 ## $a Infomercials
670 ## $a Moving image genre-form guide, 1988; $b (home shopping: television work in which hosts display various types of merchandise that the viewer can then purchase by using the telephone)
670 ## $a Infomercial.tv glossary WWW Home page, Aug. 27, 2007: $b (home shopping is a term now used to describe the live, 24 hour per day home shopping networks)
670 ## $a Home shopping in the United States, April 2005 via Research and Markets WWW Homepage, Aug. 27, 2007: $b ("home shopping" usually associated exclusively with television shopping, as in the Home Shopping Network; shopping programs: ongoing programs, some of which are broadcast 24 hours a day, purvey a wide variety of goods, and are broadcast on network, cable, and satellite television; contrasted with infomercials, which are program length TV commercials devoted solely to one product)
680 ## $i Live television programs that purvey a wide variety of goods that can be purchased by the viewers. For program length television commercials that are devoted to one product, and that usually include a discussion or demonstration, see $a Infomercials.
681 ## $i Note under $a Infomercials

b. Records for newly proposed terms. Proposed terms reside in the Proposal System, which is a module of Classification Web. The control number in the 010 field has the prefix gp. The term is not valid for use until it has been approved during the editorial process. Once the Data Integrity Section has assigned a proposal to a Tentative List, the list number may be found in the 907 $t subfield of the MARC authority record.

c. Records for terms being updated. An existing term that is being changed in any way is represented in the Proposal System by two authority records, one having a control number with the prefix gf in the 010 field, and the other having the same control number but with the prefix gp. In order to determine the nature of the update being performed, it is necessary to compare the gf record to its gp counterpart. Once the Data Integrity Section has assigned a proposal to a Tentative List, the list number may be found in the 907 $t subfield of the MARC authority record.
2. Assigning valid terms. Before assigning an LC genre/form term to a work being cataloged, ascertain that it meets one of the following criteria.

- It is represented in Classification Web or the LC database by a single genre/form authority record that has an 010 field with a gf record number.

- It is represented in the Proposal System by two genre/form authority records, one of which has an 010 field with a gf number and the other with a gp number, and the change being made is to a field other than the 155 field.

*Do not assign* an LC genre/form term if the term is represented by both gf and gp records and a change is being made to the 155 field. If that is the case,

- Ascertain whether the proposal has been scheduled for a Tentative List (the list number is displayed in the 907 $t subfield).

- Determine whether the editorial process is complete, based on the Tentative List number. List numbers consist of the year and month of the list in the format yy:mm (e.g., Tentative List 1512 was dated December 2015).

- If the editorial process is complete, consult the Approved List posted on the Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access website (http://www.loc.gov/aba) to determine whether the change was approved. Records with a control number prefix gp in the Proposal System are converted to gf records approximately 3-4 weeks after the date on the Tentative List. The Approved List is posted shortly afterward.

Revised terms (i.e., those with changes to 155 fields) may be assigned if the change was approved, as indicated by the Approved List or the removal of the gp record.

*Do not assign* an LC demographic group term if the term is represented only by a single authority record that has an 010 field with a gp number (see sec. 1.b above).

3. Non-authoritative sources of genre/form terms. The following sources, although useful tools for reference purposes, may not be treated as authority for the assignment of a genre/form term.

- Bibliographic records in the LC database
- Tentative Lists of new proposals (including those marked (A)).