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MARC Authority Records for LC Genre/Form Terms

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Background

The master authority records reside in Classification Web, and copies also are available in the LC database and in LC’s Linked Data Service. LCGFT is freely available on the Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access website.

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 online MARC 21 documentation. More examples of MARC authority records can be found in Appendix F.

Revision history

Updated in October 2023.
1. Characteristics of genre/form authority records

a. Approved terms

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.

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

Variable data fields
Genre/Form terms employ the 155 field (authorized term), 455 fields (UF references), 555 fields (broader terms (BT) and related terms (RT)), and 668 field (history note (HN)).

- 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.
Example 1

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)

Example 2

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 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.

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 Policy, Training, and Cooperative Programs Division (PTCP) has signed 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 PTCP 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 by a single genre/form authority record that has an 010 field with a gf record number.
- It is represented in the Classification Web Proposal System by two genre/form authority 10 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 yymm (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 genre/form 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).

The following sources, although useful tools for reference purposes, may not be used as the only authoritative citation for the assignment of a genre/form term.

● Bibliographic records in the LC database

● Tentative Lists of new proposals (including those marked (A)).