

# Library of Congress to revise the treatment of Globes in LCSH and LCGFT

January 7, 2013

On May 24, 2012, the Policy and Standards Division (PSD) of the Library of Congress issued a discussion paper entitled “Proposed Treatment of Globes in the LCGFT Environment” ([http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpsso/genre\\_form\\_globes.pdf](http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpsso/genre_form_globes.pdf)). The paper explained that currently in *Library of Congress Genre/Form Terms for Library and Archival Materials* (LCGFT), the term **Globes** refers to globes of the Earth, to exclusion of globes of other heavenly bodies (e.g., other planets, comets, asteroids). The paper went on to suggest revisions to both LCGFT and *Library of Congress Subject Headings* (LCSH) to allow for more accurate and consistent description of all globes.

PSD would like to thank all those who provided comments on this issue.

Specialists in PSD and staff in LC’s Geography and Maps Division (G&M) reviewed all of the comments and found them to be generally in favor of the proposal. PSD will therefore move forward to implement it. Respondents also raised two other issues that PSD and G&M have decided to address at this time: the LCSH heading for the Earth, and the LCSH form subdivision –**Globes**.

PSD’s plans to address these additional issues are addressed below, followed by the plans and timeline for implementing the revision to the meaning of **Globes** in both LCSH and LCGFT.

## Subject heading for the Earth

In LCSH, all subject headings for the planets include a qualifier, except the heading for the Earth: **Mars (Planet)**; **Venus (Planet)** but **Earth**. *Subject Headings Manual* instruction sheet H 357, “Parenthetical Qualifiers in Subject Headings,” states that when a term or phrase has more than one dictionary definition, a qualifier should be added to indicate which of the several definitions is intended. The instruction sheet goes on to say that a qualifier should not be added if the heading refers to the “commonly accepted meaning” even though the word or phrase may have other, more obscure, meanings.

According to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, the word “earth” has multiple meanings: the planet earth, soil suitable for cultivation and other uses, an animal’s dwelling place, and several other more obscure definitions. Since there are at least two, and possibly three, commonly accepted meanings, the heading for Earth as a planet should be qualified. The heading will be revised to **Earth (Planet)**.

### The LCSH form subdivision –Globes

In July 2010, the form subdivisions for specific types of maps (**--Maps, Pictorial; --Index maps**) were cancelled in favor of the unqualified form subdivision **--Maps**. The specific type of map is now brought out by assigning the appropriate genre/form term. *Example:*

*Title:* Pictorial map of Washington, D.C.  
651 #0 \$a Washington (D.C.) \$v Maps.  
655 #7 \$a Pictorial maps. \$2 lcgft

Another cartography-related LCSH form subdivision is **--Globes**. The subdivision is not free-floating and must be established under every heading on which it is to be used (e.g., **Mars (Planet)—Globes; Paleogeography—Globes**).

To promote collocation of all of the globes, maps, and atlases of a place, the subdivision **--Globes** will be cancelled in favor of using the form subdivision **--Maps**. The fact that a work is a spherical representation will be brought out with the genre/form term **Globes**. *Examples:*

*Title:* Globe of Ganymede.  
651 #0 \$a Ganymede (Satellite) \$v Maps.  
655 #7 \$a Globes. \$2 lcgft

*Title:* Globe of the distribution of phytoplankton.  
651 #0 \$a Phytoplankton \$x Geographical distribution \$v Maps.  
655 #7 \$a Globes. \$2 lcgft

### The scope of **Globes** in LCSH and LCGFT

To allow for more consistent description of all globes, the meaning of the LCGFT term **Globes** will be broadened to encompass globes of all heavenly bodies. The term **Lunar globes** will be cancelled.

The entry for the LCGFT term **Globes** will appear as follows.

**Globes**  
SN This heading is used as a genre/form heading for spherical representations of individual planets, stars, moons, comets, etc.  
UF Lunar globes [Former heading]  
BT Cartographic materials

In LCSH, the subject heading **Globes** currently has the UFs *Terrestrial globes* and *Earth—Globes*. These UFs will be removed and **Earth (Planet)—Maps** will be established as a separate heading.

The LCSH headings **Earth (Planet)—Maps** and **Globes** will appear as follows.

**Earth (Planet)—Maps**  
UF Terrestrial maps

**Globes** (*May Subd Geog*)

SN Here are entered works about spherical representations of individual planets, stars, moons, comets, etc. This heading may be subdivided geographically to indicate the current location or place of publication of the globes.

SA subdivision -Maps under names of individual planets, stars, moons, comets, etc., and topics, e.g., Eros (Asteroid)-Maps; Earth (Planet)-Maps; Submarine topography-Maps

BT Cartographic materials

NT Gottorf Globe

Rubik's World

The scope notes on the free-floating subdivision **-Maps** will be revised to read:

**--Maps**

Use as a topical subdivision under names of countries, cities, etc., individual celestial bodies, and individual corporate bodies, and under topical headings for works about maps on those subjects.

Use as a form subdivision under names of countries, cities, etc., individual celestial bodies, and individual corporate bodies, and under topical headings for individual maps or collections of maps on those subjects.

The above revisions will appear on Tentative List 02 (February 18, 2013) and the revised records will be distributed in March 2013.