

## Moving Image Genre/Form Terms H 1913

**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 terms 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 terms themselves, the word **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 terms.

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

**b. Limiting to fiction or non-fiction.** Also assign one of the terms 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

#### *Examples:*

*Title: Till the clouds roll by.*  
655 #7 \$a Biographical films. \$2 lcgft  
655 #7 \$a Fiction films. \$2 lcgft

*Title: Survivor : Thailand.*  
655 #7 \$a Survival television programs. \$2 lcgft  
655 #7 \$a Nonfiction television programs. \$2 lcgft

*Title: Harlan County, U.S.A.*  
655 #7 \$a Documentary films. \$2 lcgft  
655 #7 \$a Nonfiction films. \$2 lcgft

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### 1. Assignment of genre/form headings. (Continued)

*c. Short films or Feature films.* Additionally, for motion pictures assign either **Short films** or **Feature films** as appropriate. Short films are defined as those running less than 40 minutes, and feature films are full-length films running 40 minutes or longer.

*d. Multiple genres.* Assign as many genre/form terms as necessary to bring out important forms and genres to which the work belongs. *Example:*

*Title: The Wizard of Oz*

655 #7 \$a Musical films. \$2 lcgft  
655 #7 \$a Fantasy films. \$2 lcgft  
655 #7 \$a Children's films. \$2 lcgft  
655 #7 \$a Film adaptations. \$2 lcgft  
655 #7 \$a Fiction films. \$2 lcgft  
655 #7 \$a Feature films. \$2 lcgft

### *e. Moving image works for people with disabilities.*

*(1) Hearing impaired.* Assign one of two terms to moving-image works produced with captions or sign language for viewing by the hearing impaired: **Films for the hearing impaired** or **Television programs for the hearing impaired**.

Do not assign this term to works in one language with subtitles in another language if the subtitles are intended only as a translation, and not specifically as an aid for the hearing impaired.

*(2) Visually impaired.* Assign one of two terms to moving-image works with additional audio description provided for people with visual disabilities: **Films for people with visual disabilities** or **Television programs for people with visual disabilities**.

*Note: The terms **Video recordings for the hearing impaired** and **Video recordings for people with visual disabilities** are also provided, as an exception. Individual libraries may choose to develop local policies to assign them instead of, or in addition to, the above required terms.*

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### 2. Construction of headings.

*a. General rule.* All genre/form terms must be established. The process for proposing genre/form terms follows the general guidelines on the creation of subject authority records, see H 200.

#### *b. Form of term.*

*(1) Use of headings already in LCSH.* Before proposing a new genre/form term, search LCSH to determine whether there is a topical subject heading that is appropriate for use as a genre/form term. If there is, propose that the new genre/form term be identical to the topical heading.

*Example:* The work in hand is a film made by a child. The topical term **Dystopian films** exists in LCSH and can be proposed for use as a genre/form term.

*(2) Construction of new terms.* Create separate terms for film and television genres and forms. Prefer the formulas [. . .] **films** and [. . .] **television programs**, or **Film** [. . .] or **Television** [. . .]. If neither of the above two options is practical (e.g., due to common usage or literary warrant), then terms may be constructed by using the qualifiers (**Motion pictures**) or (**Television programs**) or by another appropriate method. *Examples:*

```
155 ## $a Horror films
155 ## $a Film adaptations
155 ## $a Rushes (Motion pictures)
155 ## $a Horror television programs
155 ## $a Television adaptations
155 ## $a Variety shows (Television programs)
```

[*but* 155 ## \$a Televised sports events]

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### 2. Construction of headings. (Continued)

*c. References.* Construct references according to the following guidelines, which follow the general principles for references presented in H 370.

(1) *Used for references.* Add 455 fields for variant terminology and/or different forms.

(a) *Television programs.* Provide a reference including the phrase “television programs” for terms that have the structure [ . . . ] **shows**.

*Example:*

```
155 ## $a Television cooking shows
455 ## $a Cooking television programs
```

(2) *Broader term references.* Judiciously add broader term references for explicit class/class member relationships. *Examples:*

```
155 ## $a Romantic comedy films
555 ## $w g $a Comedy films
```

```
155 ## $a Cinéma vérité films
555 ## $w g $a Documentary films
```

```
155 ## $a Buddy films
555 ## $w g $a Motion pictures
```

(3) *Related term references.* Link through related term references those terms with meanings that overlap to some extent, or that are used somewhat interchangeably.

```
155 ## $a Disaster films
555 ## $a Survival films
```

```
155 ## $a Survival films
555 ## $a Disaster films
```

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### 2. Construction of headings. (Continued)

**d. Scope notes.** Add a scope note to define the meaning of the genre/form term if necessary. Consult H 400 for guidance.

```
155 ## $a Novelty films
680 ## $i This heading is used as a genre/form heading for
        whimsical or humorous short films designed to catch
        one's attention momentarily with something of a
        novel twist.
```

**e. Research.** Perform thorough authority research demonstrating that the word or phrase selected for the proposed term is the appropriate one. In addition to other research, cite at least one of the following sources:

Katz, Ephraim. *The film encyclopedia.*

Konigsberg, Ira. *The complete film dictionary.*

Lopez, Daniel. *Films by genre : 775 categories, styles, trends and movements defined, with a filmography for each.*

Taves, Brian. *The moving image genre-form guide.*  
<<http://www.loc.gov/rr/mopic/migintro.html>>

Yee, Martha M. *Moving image materials : genre terms.*

**3. MARC 21 content designation and input conventions.** Library of Congress genre/form terms are recorded in field 155 in the authority format, with both indicators blank. In the bibliographic format they are recorded in field 655 with a second indicator of 7 (seven) and a \$2 subfield **lcgft**. *Example:*

```
655 #7 $a Horror films. $2 lcgft
```