

**Library of Congress Report**  
**ALA/ALCTS/CaMMS Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access**  
**American Library Association 2019 Midwinter Meeting**  
**Seattle, Washington**

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This document covers only selected initiatives undertaken at the Library of Congress since the ALA 2018 Annual Meeting in New Orleans, with a focus on descriptive cataloging activities. A full document covering all LC activities (including other cataloging-related topics) is available on the “LC at ALA” Website (<https://www.loc.gov/librarians/american-library-association/>).

**GENERAL**

**Library of Congress Exhibit Table**

The Library will feature a table in the Skybridge Lobby of the Washington State Convention Center in Seattle. (The Library will not exhibit its full Pavilion in Seattle). LC staff will be at the table to hand out promotional items and documents and to respond to questions from ALA attendees. They will also be collecting recommendations from attendees regarding the Library’s programming at the 2019 ALA Annual Conference.

**Federal Budget**

As of Jan. 11, 2019, the U.S. federal government was under a partial shutdown because of lapse of funding. The Library of Congress, however, is operating normally. The U.S. Congress enacted a full-year budget for all legislative branch agencies, including the Library of Congress, in time for the beginning of fiscal year 2019 on Oct. 1, 2018. The law is “2019 Appropriations Minibus (H.R. 5895).” The Library’s operations are not affected by the partial shutdown, with the exception of some activities in the Human Capital Directorate and in the overseas offices that are dependent on executive branch agency functions.

**Significant Library-wide Personnel Changes**

*Ryan Ramsey* was appointed Chief of Staff to the Librarian of Congress, effective June 26, 2018.

*David S. Mandel* was appointed Director of the Center for Exhibits and Interpretation, effective August 5, 2018.

*Shari Rosenstein Werb* was appointed Director of the Center for Learning, Literary, and Engagement, effective August 19, 2018.

**GENERAL CATALOGING**

**Staffing Changes**

*Dave Reser* accepted a new position in the ILS Program Office in July 2018, after almost 20 years as a cataloging policy specialist.

*Ivey Glendon* joined PSD as a senior library automation specialist on January 7, 2019. She replaces Bruce Johnson, who retired in December 2017 as the Cataloger’s Desktop product manager. Ivey previously worked at the University of Virginia Library.

*Veronica Ranieri* joined COIN in November 2018 as a cooperative cataloging policy specialist after working as an assistant editor in the Data Integrity Section of PSD.

*Randall Berry*, chief of the Asian and Middle Eastern Division of ABA, retired on June 29, 2018. Paul Hahn is serving as acting chief. The vacancy for a permanent chief was posted on USAJOBS, and the application closed on January 17, 2019.

*Zbigniew Kantorosinski*, chief of the Germanic and Slavic Division, retired on December 31, 2018. Lucy Barron is serving as acting chief.

*Linda Geisler*, chief of the U.S./Anglo Division, retired on December 21, 2018. Diana Snigurowicz is serving as acting chief.

*Fehl Cannon* was appointed field director of the Library's office in Islamabad, Pakistan, effective July 22, 2018.

### ***LC Guidelines Supplement to the MARC 21 Format for Authority Data***

In October 2018, an appendix was added to the LC Guidelines. This appendix describes the process by which changes to the *MARC 21 Format for Authority Data* are implemented in the LC/NACO name authority file (LC/NAF) as well as in the authority files for LCSH, LCGFT, LCMPT, and LCDGT.

### **BIBFRAME**

The Network Development and MARC Standards Office (NDMSO) and the Cooperative and Instructional Programs Division (COIN) continue to work together on BIBFRAME development and testing. Approximately 60 Library of Congress catalogers are currently participating in BIBFRAME Pilot Phase Two. During fiscal 2019, the number of participants will be expanded to 100.

Pilot participants have been creating bibliographic descriptions in both BIBFRAME and MARC 21 for each resource they catalog. Testing includes input of bibliographic data using BIBFRAME 2.0 vocabulary, input of non-Latin scripts, and the ability to incorporate authority data. Development of a policy decision on inputting non-Latin script with limited romanization is a goal for the 2019 fiscal year.

Work has also focused on providing a fuller level of interaction with a live BIBFRAME 2.0 database consisting of the complete BIBFRAME conversion of the Library of Congress bibliographic file. Features of the database include user search capability and use of linked data queries to highlight relationships between resources. Merging and matching BIBFRAME 2.0 work descriptions in the database is underway and will continue to be refined throughout 2019.

With feedback from COIN, NDMSO has developed, refined, and tested code for a number of improvements to the tools that are used in the BIBFRAME Pilot. This work included improved validation and posting of new descriptions to the BIBFRAME database from the BIBFRAME Editor, retrieving and editing previously posted descriptions (primarily brief descriptions called Initial Bibliographic Control data, or IBC), and posting the updated descriptions back to the database from the Editor. NDMSO has also worked on developing a "cloning" function for existing descriptions, to streamline the batch creation process, and has made constant improvements to the profiles for various formats of materials within the BIBFRAME Editor. Plans for the rest of 2019 include continuing to improve user interaction with these BIBFRAME Editor profiles and continuing to improve access to name/subject authority data. The bibliographic data in the BIBFRAME 2.0 database is used in combination with authority data from the LC Linked Data Service: <http://id.loc.gov>.

COIN and NDMSO staff members continued to exchange ideas about BIBFRAME with partners in the LD4P (Linked Data for Production) project, funded by the Mellon Foundation, and are preparing initial BIBFRAME training for the 17 Program for Cooperative Cataloging member institutions that were recently announced as members of the LD4P Cohort for the second phase of that project.

## DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGING

### **Library of Congress-Program for Cooperative Cataloging Policy Statements**

Since the text of the RDA Toolkit is currently “frozen” while the preparations for the 3R Project continue (see <http://www.rdatoolkit.org/3Rproject>), the LC-PCC Policy Statements are frozen as well. Should it become necessary to issue new or revised policy statements prior to the release of the 3R Project, they will be posted at: [http://www.loc.gov/aba/rda/lcps\\_access.html](http://www.loc.gov/aba/rda/lcps_access.html).

### **Descriptive Cataloging Manual**

Z12, Special Projects for Name Authority Records and Bibliographic Records, was added to the *Descriptive Cataloging Manual* in October 2018. DCM Z12 provides background information and instructions about special projects for authority records in the LC/NAF such as the Dance Heritage Coalition Access Project and the Pinyin Conversion Project. Z12 also contains information about LC bibliographic records changed during these projects. Z12 should be used in conjunction with Z1 and other appropriate cataloging documents for authority work.

## SUBJECT CATALOGING AND CLASSIFICATION

### **“Multiple” Subdivisions**

In order to better support linked-data initiatives, the Policy and Standards Division has begun a project to cancel “multiple” subdivisions from LCSH. “Multiple” subdivisions are a special type of subdivision that automatically gives free-floating status to analogous subdivisions used under the same heading. For example, in the established string **Influence (Psychology)—Religious aspects—Buddhism [Christianity, etc.]**, the multiple subdivision is **—Buddhism [Christianity, etc.]**.

Staff in PSD will cancel the multiple subdivisions from LCSH and create individual authority records for each valid, complete, heading string that was created based on a multiple subdivision. PSD wishes to be as comprehensive as possible when making authority records based on heading strings used in bibliographic records; OCLC Research is assisting in this effort by providing lists of the headings used in bibliographic records in OCLC.

The authority records generated by this project will be added to LCSH in batches beginning in the first quarter of 2019, and the records will be distributed through the MARC Distribution Service’s Subject-Authorities product. Subject-Authorities subscribers should expect that some weekly distributions may total over 1,000 records. More information, including interim instructions for catalogers using these subdivisions, is available at: <http://www.loc.gov/aba/cataloging/subject/multiplescancellationproject.html>.

### **Statistics in Summaries of Decisions**

Summaries of decisions explain why individual proposals for classification numbers, subject headings, genre/form terms, etc., that appeared on Tentative Lists were not accepted, and they occasionally also contain announcements related to subject cataloging and classification. Beginning with the Summary for October 2018, summaries of decisions now include statistics on the approximate number of proposals that were approved on the list, as well as the number that were not approved, not necessary, or marked resubmit.

### **Qualifiers in Subject Headings for Individual Kurd, Arab, and Berber Groups**

In LCSH, the general policy is to qualify headings for individual ethnic groups by the adjective for the continent, region, or country of the group, followed by the word people (e.g., **Aro (African people)**; **Chrau (Vietnamese people)**). Practice for Kurds, Arabs, and Berbers has been mixed, however, with some being qualified by (**[Arab, Berber, Kurdish] tribe**) and others by (**[Arab, Berber, Kurdish] people**). Going forward, all new headings of this type will be qualified according to the latter formulation.

Catalogers making proposals to edit existing headings for another reason (e.g., to add another UF reference) should also propose that the heading be revised if necessary to follow the new guidance. PSD

requests that catalogers *not* submit proposals *merely* to revise headings, and that they not purposely seek out headings to which other revisions can be proposed, solely to justify changing the heading. Instead, LC will undertake a project to systematically revise existing headings whose qualifiers include the word *tribe*.

### **Sexual Minorities**

The Tentative List for December 2018 included several proposals to change the hierarchy of headings that represent individual sexual and gender minorities. Those headings had been NTs of **Sexual minorities** and are now NTs of **Persons**. For an example of this, see the heading **Bisexuals**, which now has NT **Persons**. This action was undertaken to bring LCSH treatment of these groups into alignment with the way that other minority groups are treated in LCSH.

### **OTHER LC VOCABULARIES**

#### **Genre/Form Terms for Filmed and Televised Works**

Genre/form terms in the form **Filmed [...]** and **Televised [...]**, along with some others that were constructed in a similar style (e.g., **Filmed plays**; **Televised operas**; **Radio debates**), were approved during the early stages of the development of LCGFT because the base term (e.g., **Drama**; **Operas**; **Debates**) did not yet exist, and the terms were needed to catalog audio-visual materials. With the completion of the literature, music, and “general” projects, many of the terms are no longer necessary and were cancelled on Tentative List 12 (2018). Each of the 37 cancelled terms has been retained as a “former heading” UF to its replacement term(s). For example, **Filmed interviews** has been cancelled and is now a former heading UF to **Interviews** and **Nonfiction films**, which should be assigned instead.

Terms of this type that represent high-level collocation points (e.g., **Filmed performances**) remain valid for use, as do terms for which it is not possible to make a base term. As an example of the latter, **Filmed baseball games** is still valid because a baseball game is not a genre or a form.

#### **Scope Notes for the “Broadest Terms” in LCGFT**

Eleven “broadest terms” in LCGFT – the terms that represent the top level of a discipline, such as **Radio programs** and **Law materials** – were given scope notes indicating that they could be used only for collections “that are composed of multiple genres and/or forms to which more specific headings” cannot be applied. The scope notes essentially restated the principle of specificity, which is explained in instruction sheet J 110 of the draft manual for LCGFT. The notes were unnecessary and were removed on Tentative List 12 (2018).

#### **Moratorium on LCDGT Proposals**

*Library of Congress Demographic Group Terms* (LCDGT) is intended to describe the creators of, and contributors to, resources, and also the intended audience of resources. Terms may be assigned in bibliographic records and in authority records for works and expressions.

The moratorium on proposals for new and revised terms that was enacted in February 2018 is still in place while PSD thoroughly evaluates LCDGT’s structure and principles.