Isness vs. Aboutness

Development and Implementation of LC Genre/Form Terms

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Isness vs. Aboutness

TEXT of the constitution

Work ABOUT the constitution
Midwinter 2006

LC announced form/genre project at ALA

First areas to be developed:

- motion pictures
- television programs
- videos
The Beginning

**September 2006**
Classification and Subject Cataloging Policy
Advisory Working Group formed to advise the
AALL’s representative to ALA’s Subject
Analysis Committee

**October 2006**
Genre/Form chosen as first issue for the
Working Group to tackle
The Beginning

July 2008
Law project officially included in LC genre/form development timeline for 2008-2012

Implementation date set for mid 2010
3 Phases of the Project

Phase I: evaluation of terms in William Benemann’s 
*Genre Terms for Law Materials: a thesaurus* (GTLM)
3 Phases of the Project

Phase II: expansion of GTLM

- free floating subdivisions
- glossaries of legal terms
- Indian and tribal law
- K form tables
- legal dictionaries
Phase III: in July 2008, an eight-member editorial group was formed. Its charge was to:

- eliminate redundancies
- form relationships
- determine scopes
- add examples
Phase III: Where Do We Start?
Phase III: Sorting

Legislative
Judicial
Quasi Judicial
Intergovernmental
international
Legal instruments
Legal finding aids
General works
Reference
Miscellaneous
Phase III: Scope & Syndetic Structure

Legislative histories

Scope note: This heading is used as a genre/form heading for compilations of texts (committee hearings, reports, debates, etc.) that document the process of enacting a particular law or a group of laws.

Example: Seidman’s legislative history of federal income tax laws

BT Law materials

RT Legislative materials

NT Legislative bills
Policy Questions

The law project began in the early days of LCGFT development, when many policies were not yet in place.

July 2009: law group & PSD meet in DC
Policy Questions: DC Meeting

- harmonizing LCGFT* and LCSH**
  - LCGFT: “Legislative bills”
  - LCSH: “Bills, Legislative”

- cross referencing LCGFT and LCSH
  - no connection between thesauri
  - LCGFT: “Court decisions and opinions”
  - LCSH: “Law reports, digests, etc.”

* Library of Congress Genre/Form Terms for library and Archival Materials
** Library of Congress Subject Headings
Policy Questions: DC Meeting

- “form” aspect in LCSH scope notes
  - “Constitutional amendments” — *Here are entered collections of texts of constitutional amendments, texts of individual constitutional amendments, and works about constitutional amendments and the amending process.*

- form-only LCSH
  - “Constitutions”; “Law reviews”
Policy Questions: DC Meeting

- LCSH $v$
  - continue to use ("—Cases"; "—Digests")

- archival materials
  - included in LCGFT ("Wills"; "Contracts")

- formats
  - not included in LCGFT (CD-ROMs; electronic books)
Principles

As the project progressed, certain principles began to formulate

- LCGFT is a true thesaurus
- terms should be specific but not too narrow
- terms should reflect current usage
- terms should work across legal systems
“LCGFT is a true thesaurus”

LCSH was built from the bottom up
- cross-references were added at a later date

LCGFT is built from the top down
- has syndetic structure
- is hierarchical, with broad ‘bucket’ terms
Law ‘Bucket’

Law Materials
Law ‘Bucket’ = “Law materials”

Genre/Form Search: Structured subject heading

Law materials

This heading is used as a genre/form heading for collections of law materials that are composed of multiple genres and/or forms to which more specific headings such as Law reviews or Municipal ordinances cannot be applied.

NT Administrative decisions
Administrative regulations
Attorneys general's opinions
Bar journals
Casebooks
Citators
Claims
Codes (Jewish law)
Codices (Law)
Commentaries (Civil law systems)
Concordats
Consilia
Constitutional convention materials
“Terms should be specific but not too narrow”

■ when applying subject headings and classification numbers, we strive for a high level of specificity

■ but slicing and dicing the collection too finely with highly specific genre/form terms works against efficient collocation
“Terms should be specific but not too narrow”

“Legislative materials” is used for congressional/legislative hearings, digests, documents, journals, proceedings, proposals, reports, resolutions, and more …
“Terms should be specific but not too narrow”

“Dictionaries”
not
“Law dictionaries”
“Terms should be specific but not too narrow”

But we did include:

“Commentaries (Civil law systems)”

[Under discussion. May be changed to “Commentaries (Law)”]
“Terms should be specific but not too narrow”

A compromise: we added “Hornbooks (Law)” but not “Nutshells (Law)”…

![Books](image1.png)
“Terms should be specific but not too narrow”

... since you can’t establish everything
“Terms should be specific but not too narrow”

Rare terms:
“Indulgences”
“Custumals”
“Remonstrances”

but not “Codicils”
“Terms should reflect current usage”

We spoke to reference librarians; consulted LCSH, legal literature, Black’s Law Dictionary; and searched Google & Wikipedia to ensure use of current terminology, meaning, and scope

- “Delegated legislation” (LCSH)
- “Administrative regulations”
“Terms should work across legal systems”

We tried to avoid, when possible, U.S.-centric terms

- **legislative not congressional**
  - “Legislative bills”
  - “Legislative speeches”
Special Challenge: Codes and Compiled statutes

Civil law system: codes are statements of concepts and principles enacted by the legislature, or groups of acts adopted as a whole and enacted as a single statute.

Common law system: codes are often topically arranged statutes and may be called “compiled statutes”, “revised statutes”, or “codes”.
Proposals included:

- “Codes” and “Complied statutes”
- “Codes (Civil law)” and “Codes (Common law)”
- “Codes (Civil law)” and “Codes and compiled statutes (Common law)”
- “Codes and compiled statutes” for both systems

But what about a civil law code that was enacted as a single statute?

Should catalogers assign “Codes” or “Statutes”?
... and then someone suggested

“Statutes and codes”
“Statutes and codes”

Genre/Form Search: Structured subject heading

Statutes and codes

This heading is used as a genre/form heading for texts of individual laws as well as codes and compilations of laws passed by a legislature. Laws enacted by a legislature during a particular session or sessions are entered under Session laws.

UF Acts, Legislative
  Amendments, Legislative
  Codes and statutes
  Compiled legislation
  Compiled statutes
  Consolidated laws
  Directives (European Union)
  Enactments
  Laws
  Laws, Consolidated
  Legislation, Compiled
  Legislative acts
  Legislative amendments
  Revised statutes
  Statutes, Compiled
Special Challenge: Treatises

- “Treatises”: monographs and integrating resources which deal with a single branch of the law in a comprehensive way (*proposed scope note*)
- or “Legal treatises”?
- or omit?

*Corporate Law in Canada: The Governing Principles* 3rd Edition
Bruce Welling
“Treatises”

in the mind of the beholder? or of the publisher?
Further Developments

- July 2009: draft of *Genre/Form Terms for Law Materials* released for comments
- Law Editorial Group goes back to the drawing board
- October 2009: revised draft approved by AALL Cataloging & Classification Committee
- Law Editorial Group and PSD fine-tune terms to ensure good fit with LCGFT
In October 2010, LC officially announced the incorporation of the law genre/form terms into LCGFT
The End ... and a New Beginning

LCGFT implementation

- new material
- retrospective
Genre/Form Terms – Think FACETS

Electronic books (602)
Congress (473)
Reference (185)
Biography (151)
Case studies (139)

2. The moral dimensions of human rights
   Author: Wellman, Carl.
   Published: 2011.

   Published: c2011.

4. Rainforest warriors : human rights on trial
   Author: Price, Richard, 1941-
LCGFT Cannot be Subdivided

SAC Subcommittee on Genre/Form implementation

- working on recommendations for LC on treatment of “facets” or “aspects” associated with genre/form terms

- aspects include jurisdiction, language, class of creator, intended audience, etc.
LCSH “Form” Headings

Will LCSH legal “form” headings be cancelled? (“Law reviews”; “Constitutions”)

- LCSH can be subdivided geographically
- LCGFT cannot be subdivided

- LC will not cancel “form” LCSH **UNTIL**
  genre/form terms can be **associated with jurisdiction**
LCSH “Form” Headings

In the meantime, apply both LCSH “form” headings and LCGFT terms:

245 10 $a United States Supreme Court reports.
650 #0 $a Law reports, digests, etc. $z United States.
655 #7 $a Court decisions and opinions. $2 lcgft
Multiple Concepts

Apply more than one term to express more than one concept:

245 00 $a Digest of decisions of the National Labor Relations Board.

655 #7 $a Administrative decisions. $2 lcgft
655 #7 $a Law digests. $2 lcgft
New Term Needed?

SACO is now open for law genre/form proposals.

The Law SACO Funnel Project is being set up. Subject headings and genre/form terms can soon be submitted via the funnel.
Retrospective Implementation

WHY BOTHER?

Genre/form terms are less useful to users if search results are limited to recently-cataloged material.
Law Genre/Form Implementation Project

- AALL group is working with Ed O’Neill, Senior Research Scientist at OCLC, to enhance WorldCat records:
  - create subset of law-related WorldCat records
  - develop strategies for identifying relevant bibs
  - retrospectively apply terms
  - prepare crosswalk between OCLC numbers and genre/form terms
Law Genre/Form Implementation Project

Finding clues in bibs for identifying specific genres or forms

A look at “Law reviews”
Law Reviews: Clues

008 010516c19149999nyu||\p|og\\\0\\\0eng\d
(008/25=’g’ – Entire Work=Legal articles)

050 14$aK6$b.O728
(or any LCCN between K1-30)

245 10$aFordham law review
(or ‘law journal’ or ‘revista jurídica’, etc.)

650 \0$aLaw reviews$zNew York (State)

710 2\$aFordham University.$bSchool of Law.
(or ‘academy’ or ‘faculty’, etc.)
(or ‘derecho’ or ‘droit’, etc.)
Law Reviews: Strategies

- 650 has “law reviews”
  (but scope limited to non-topical law reviews)

- [008/25=g OR 050 has K1-30 OR 245 has (“law review” OR “law journal” OR “revista jurídica”, etc.)]
AND
- [710 has (university OR school OR academy OR faculty, etc.) AND (law OR derecho OR droit, etc.)]
Local Decisions

- Index separately or with subject headings
- Retrospective implementation

**Option #1:** merge terms into local records using crosswalk between OCLC numbers and G/F terms

**Option #2:** run individual strategies locally

**Option #3:** not apply terms retrospectively
Problems? Suggestions?

- law genre/form terms – work in progress
- Law Genre/Form Editorial Group still active
- send questions and suggestions to:
  - ymandelstam@law.fordham.edu
  - rr2205@columbia.edu
“Drawing by Yeu Wei Yee, made ca. 1980 after his wife had explained to him the difference between a topical subject heading and a genre/form heading.”
(from Martha Yee’s website)