**ALA Core Subject Analysis Committee**

**Subcommittee on Faceted Vocabularies**

*Report to SAC*

January 11, 2022

Summary of Activities since January 2021

**Membership Update:**

* One member (Colin Bitter) has resigned
* SSFV is in the process of selecting a new Chair to begin a two-year term in July 2022. Ideally, there will be sufficient overlap with outgoing Chair Casey Mullin to allow a smooth handoff.

**Retrospective Implementation Best Practices:**

After several years of work, SSFV is proud to announce the completion of the first version of a new resource entitled ***Retrospective Implementation of Library of Congress Faceted Vocabularies: Best Practices for Librarians and Programmers.***(Formerly referred to as a “toolkit”)This resource is modular in nature and subject to ongoing updates. As such, it is more of an integrating resource than a static document released in discrete versions (as our chronological best practices are).

The resource includes:

* A summary document: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1z26hElRDCxXaxum_Or36-Xg5DBNqv2xt0Mfy0sVCKV4/edit?usp=sharing>
* These modules
  + Genre/Form: mapping fixed field codes to 655, 385 fields
  + Genre/Form: mapping LCSH form subdivisions (and select topical subdivisions) to 655, 385, 386 fields
  + Genre/Form: mapping LCSH music form headings to 655 fields (not SSFV's own work, but a brief description of and links to MLA's work)
  + Medium of Performance: mapping LCSH music form headings to 382 fields (not SSFV's own work, but a brief description of and links to MLA's work)

All other planned modules have placeholders in the summary document. Two appendices contain links to resources for current implementation of faceted vocabularies, and a bibliography of literature on faceted and indexing, respectively.

What SSFV requests at this time: we would appreciate it if SAC would **review and approve**this initial public release of the best practices. (Of course, if there are any "showstopping" issues, SSFV will be happy to address them before release.) Future updates to the best practices will be dynamic, and perhaps SAC approval wouldn't be necessary for every single update, but rather just major milestones (e.g., new modules).

Publication plan: because of the modular, dynamic nature of this resource, perhaps publication in ALA IR (as a static PDF) isn't the best idea. We'd be happy to treat our suite of Google documents as the versions of record, but again feedback from SAC (and possibly Core leadership) on this point would be helpful.

**Task Group Updates**:

In order to facilitate concurrent work in multiple areas of focus, SSFV carries out much of its work in three task groups, each of which focuses on one or more bibliographic facets. All SSFV members serve on at least one task group.

1. Chronological Task Group (leader: Casey Mullin (Western Washington University))
   1. *Status report, January 2022*:
      1. *Best Practices for Recording Faceted Chronological Data in Bibliographic Records*, version 1.0 approved by SAC on June 11, 2021
         1. Posted on the ALA IR on October 4, 2021
2. Genre/Form Task Group (leader: Casey Mullin (Western Washington University))
   1. *Status report, January 2022:*
      1. The group engaged Robert Bremer (OCLC) to test a small sample of its LCSH subdivision and MARC code mappings. A test set of OCLC WorldCat records were enhanced using SSFV mapping specifications. Group members then analyzed test outputs; outcomes of this testing will allow the group to refine the mapping specifications. The group expects to engage in further testing.
   2. *Work plan for coming year:* possible projects to be undertaken
      1. Formulate LCGFT proposals based on gaps in LCSH form subdivision mappings
      2. Create faceted term mappings for LCSH literature headings (retro toolkit module)
         1. Overlap with demographic/geographic mapping work
      3. Review LC genre/form terms manual for ideas for possible supplemental SSFV best practices content
3. Demographic/Geographic Task Group (co-leaders: Lisa Cavalear (MARCIVE Inc.), Jen Olson (University of Hartford))
   1. *Status report, January 2022:*
      1. Continued work on spreadsheet of LCSH mappings to demographic terms (385, 386 fields) and geographic names (370 field).
   2. *Work plan for coming year:* 
      1. Continue work on LCSH demographic/geographic mappings
      2. Coordinate with Genre/form group where overlap exists (e.g., LCSH form subdivisions)
      3. Look at 370 semantics, including possibility of vocabulary for $i/$4 to specify nature of place (creation, setting, etc.)
      4. While developing the above, develop narratives that can be incorporated into the SSFV retrospective implementation toolkit, or published as separate white papers, etc.
      5. Compile list of lacunae in LCDGT
         1. Use LCSH demographic mappings to LCSH headings as a starting point
         2. Add additional terms/concepts as they emerge in ongoing work (whether or not they are already in LCSH)
         3. Possibly create Google form for community members to submit ideas

Respectfully submitted,

Casey Mullin, Chair