**ALCTS/CaMMS Subject Analysis Committee**

**Subcommittee on Faceted Vocabularies**

*Report to SAC*

June 14, 2019

Summary of Activities since ALA Midwinter 2019

**New Charge**: SSFV crafted a new charge, which reflects the ongoing nature of their work, and its broader scope. Whereas the previous subcommittee (Subcommittee on Genre-Form Implementation) was focused largely on vocabulary development (as well as attendant MARC format development to support new vocabularies), SSFV is concerned primarily with issues of cataloger training, best practices, and retrospective implementation around faceted vocabularies. SSFV is also scoped to address, as opportunities arise, matters of further faceted vocabulary development, as well as to seek opportunities to lobby developers of discovery systems for improvements to search, display and indexing of various bibliographic facets.

SAC approved the new SSFV charge in spring 2019, and it is now posted on the [public SSFV website](http://www.ala.org/alcts/mgrps/camms/cmtes/ats-ccssacfv).

**Membership and Term Lengths**: SSFV sought alignment of term length among its members. All SSFV members, including the Chair, now have terms ending June 2020. Current members will then be eligible for one additional two-year term. New members who begin in summer 2019 would then have two-year terms that are staggered with those of existing members, ensuring overlapping membership, which will aid in continuity of subcommittee work.

Kelley McGrath (University of Oregon), has been appointed as liaison from the Program for Cooperative Cataloging’s Policy Committee (PoCo). SSFV is grateful for her depth of expertise in faceted vocabularies, particularly around areas of discovery. In addition to serving a formal liaison role, Kelley has been participating fully in subcommittee work.

SSFV is currently seeking new members to serve a two-year term (2019-2021). Interested persons should contact Chair Casey Mullin ([casey@mullingroup.com](mailto:casey@mullingroup.com)). SSFV also requests assistance from SAC in recruiting new members (e.g., advice on which communication channels in which to make solicitations, etc.).

**Task Groups**: in order to facilitate concurrent work in multiple areas of focus, SSFV has constituted four task groups, each of which focuses on a particular bibliographic facet. All SSFV members serve on at least one task group.

1. Genre/Form Task Group (leader: Rosemary Groenwald (Mount Prospect Public Library))
   1. *Areas of focus for 2019-2020*:
      1. Create specifications for retrospective implementation of (primarily) genre/form terms in legacy bibliographic records
      2. Consider articulating exceptions to the principle of specificity for certain resources (e.g., assigning LCGFT Poetry as well as terms for more specific genres of poetry)
      3. Create best practices content to supplement the [LC Draft *Genre/Form Terms Manual*](https://www.loc.gov/aba/publications/FreeLCGFT/freelcgft.html).
   2. *Status report, June 2019*:
      1. The group has begun to evaluate the LCSH form subdivisions found in the *Subject Headings Manual* lists, H 1095-H 1200, and to map them into a spreadsheet that indicates what the correlating LCGFT terms would be. Mappings to appropriate demographic terms in 385 and 386 fields will also be determined, as applicable. Work on this first step expected to wrap up in June 2019.
      2. The immediate next step will involve reviewing a pre-existing spreadsheet that identifies what MARC fixed fields can be mapped to certain LCGFT terms and revising it as need be.
2. Demographic Task Group (leader: Rebecca Belford (Oberlin College))
   1. *Areas of focus for 2019-2020:* 
      1. Study ethical considerations of describing persons by various characteristics including gender, sexual orientation, religion, etc. Start with an environmental scan of current and recent work/thought on the matter.
      2. Reach out to ALA GLBT Roundtable and Social Responsibilities Roundtable, and potentially other groups, for input and possible collaboration.
      3. Draft white paper articulating issues with demographic metadata and possible best practice approaches.
      4. Collaborate with Genre/Form group on matters of retrospective implementation of demographic data (specifications for machine derivation, etc.), including for bibliographic and authority records.
   2. *Status report, June 2019*:
      1. The group has begun its environmental scan of sources that are germane to the ethics of demographic metadata, and has compiled an annotated bibliography. Sources include but are not limited to:
         1. Wikipedia guidelines for living persons and categorization of people
         2. The Report of the PCC Ad Hoc Task Group on Gender in Name Authority Records
         3. The recently-published book *Ethical questions in name authority control*
         4. Wikidata WikiProject Women
      2. The group will next proceed to study the list of sources and document its reactions and ideas that can inform best practice work in this area.
3. Geographic Task Group (leader: Lisa Cavalear (MARCIVE Inc.))
   1. *Areas of focus for 2019-2020*:
      * Draft best practices for using the 370 field to describe place of creation and setting
      * Collaborate with Genre/Form group on matters of retrospective implementation of geographic data (specifications for machine derivation, etc.)
   2. *Status report, June 2019*:
      1. The group studied MARC proposals and discussion papers pertaining to the new 370 field and related topics.
      2. The group compiled a list of use cases for the deployment of 370 field (particularly subfields $f and $g) in bibliographic records to identify places associated with works/expressions. These use cases also address concurrent use of the 386 field to describe the place of origin of persons associated with the works/expressions. In some cases, these places are coterminous, and in others they are not.
4. Chronological Task Group (leader: Casey Mullin (Western Washington University))
   1. *Areas of focus for 2019-2020*:
      1. Draft best practices for using the 046 and 388 fields to describe time period of creation, setting, etc. for certain categories of resources
      2. Review Adam Schiff’s proposal for a [Temporal Terms Vocabulary](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1q_oNk5zJY0s560Bb4ViQi9V7K6awn49i)
      3. Collaborate with Genre/Form group on matters of retrospective implementation of chronological data (specifications for machine derivation, etc.)
      4. Explore potential of 045 field as a source for deriving time period of creation data for the 046 field.
   2. *Status report, June 2019*:
      1. The group compiled use cases for describing time period of creation for works/expressions.
      2. The group drafted general (high-level) best practice content for the deployment of 046 and 388 fields in bibliographic records.

Respectfully submitted,

Casey Mullin