**ALCTS/CaMMS Subject Analysis Committee**

**Subcommittee on Faceted Vocabularies**

*Report to SAC*

January 15, 2020

Summary of Activities since ALA Annual 2019

**New Members:** SSFV welcomed the following new members to its ranks in July 2019. They will serve 2-year terms, through June 2021:

* Netanel Ganin, Library of Congress
* Jane Greenberg, Drexel University College of Computing & Informatics
* Adam Schiff, University of Washington

**Task Group Updates**: 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) (through December 2019); Casey Mullin (Western Washington University) (since January 2020))
   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, January 2020*:
      1. The group has completed drafts of two mapping spreadsheets:
         1. LCSH form subdivisions (and select topical subdivisions) to LCGFT equivalents as well as demographic term equivalents as applicable
         2. MARC fixed field codes to LCGFT equivalents
      2. Immediate next steps
         1. Continue to polish formatting and presentation of detail in spreadsheets
         2. Study LCSH form subdivisions that do not have direct faceted term equivalents; on a case by case basis, determine “compromise” mappings, new LCGFT terms to be proposed, etc.
         3. Draft white paper to accompany the mapping spreadsheets that articulates various considerations in retrospective implementation efforts (using Music Library Association’s algorithm and Gary Strawn’s OCLC Music Toolkit as models)
2. Demographic Task Group (leader: Rebecca Belford (Oberlin College) (through July 2019); Netanel Ganin (Library of Congress) (since August 2019))
   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, January 2020*:
      1. The group continues 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
         5. Relevant journal articles
      2. Since Annual 2019, the group has taken on mapping LCDGT terms to equivalent LCSH headings, and is now finalizing mappings for the last few terms requiring extra attention/study.
      3. The group has also begun looking at additional vocabularies beyond LCDGT which can be used for demographic description; few of them are available to download which poses a problem
      4. Two group members (Ganin and Belford) serve on the Cataloging Ethics Steering Committee, Authority Work Working Group
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, January 2020*:
      1. The group is in the early stages of designing a simple algorithm/macro that would allow catalogers to generate 370 fields (specifically, subfields $c and $f) based on information from the $z geographic subfields within 6XX headings. Gary Strawn’s OCLC Music Toolkit will serve as a model.
      2. The group is also studying the deployment of certain 6XX $z subdivisions to generate demographic terms in 386 fields; for example, if $z=Canada, then generate 386=Canadians. The suitability of adding such demographic terms is a major consideration, and will vary based on situation.
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, January 2020*:
      1. The group has completed an initial rough draft of a comprehensive best practices document for encoding faceted chronological data in 046 and 388 fields in bibliographic records
      2. Over the coming few months, the group will synthesize section drafts written by individual authors into a single unified document, then seek feedback from the full SSFV, then submit the document to SAC for approval for broader dissemination
      3. The group has raised several issues which we expect will not be resolved in the first version of the best practices, and may result in one or more MAC discussion papers or proposals. These include:
         1. The need to encode dates of expression distinctly from dates of work; both types of dates may apply in the same record
         2. The need to encode dates of aggregating work distinctly from date of aggregated works; both types of dates may apply in the same record
         3. Use cases where a work has multiple creation “events” that may need to be encoded distinctly, for example, a moving image work that is created/completed years before its theatrical release

**Summary of SAC Actions to be Requested Through June 2020**

1. Review of genre/form mapping spreadsheets and accompanying white paper, and approval for broader community feedback
2. Review of faceted chronological data best practices document, and approval for broader community feedback
3. Process guidance for dissemination of SAC-approved SSFV documentation (hosting location? communication mechanisms?)
4. Re-appointment of existing SSFV members whose terms expire in June 2020 and who wish to renew for an additional 2 years
5. As needed, appointment of new SSFV members for 2-year terms beginning July 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Casey Mullin