Policy statement on genre thesauri to use and accept in the local catalog

Introduction
Generally, genre terms are used by the cataloger to describe the physical characteristics or class of material of an item. For example, a book bound in leather and stamped in gold would not be given a subject heading about leather bindings. However, in order to give access to the physical characteristics of an item, the cataloger may use genre headings. Also, catalogers may use genre terms to describe what conceptual subset of a larger set an item belongs to. For example, the film *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy* might broadly be described as drama, but is better described with the genre term “Spy films.”

Genre headings are used in a MARC 655 field. The first indicator is either blank or has a value of “0”. In local use, genre headings will always have a blank first indicator. If subdivisions are used, the coding is modified as noted below (655_7 |2AFU).

The second indicator describes which thesaurus the term in the 655 came from. The only two second indicators allowed in the local catalog are
- 0 Library of Congress subject heading used as a genre heading (see below)
- 7 Source is specified in subfield ‡2

At this time, catalogers are coding genres as 655_7 |2AFU for terms that are variant from LCSH practice or subdivided LCGFT terms.

It is the cataloger’s responsibility to either confirm appropriate terms in existing records by checking the thesauri listed below, or, to check the appropriate thesauri before adding a genre term to a record.

Thesauri allowed in the local catalog

Use of Library of Congress Subject Headings as Genre Terms
Some Library of Congress subject headings may be used as genre headings in the local catalog, but only if they are authorized, as described here, from the Library of Congress’ FAQ on genre terms:

If the scope note says that the heading is used for works of a given type, then it can be used in a 655 field. If the scope note says that a heading is used for works about (or on) a given topic, then it cannot be assigned to a 655 field. If there is no scope note, then the cataloger should use his or her best judgment.

For example, the scope note on Short stories reads:
*Here are entered collections of stories. Works on the short story as a literary form and on the art of short story writing are entered under Short story.*

The heading Short stories can therefore be used assigned in a 655 field:
655 #0 $a Short stories.
On the other hand, the scope note for Interactive art says:

*Here are entered works on art that requires or invites viewer participation, or that provides the elements from which the viewer creates a work of art.*

Since this scope note specifies that the heading is for works on art, not the works of art themselves, this heading cannot be assigned in a 655 field.

**Locally created headings and subdivisions**

At this time, the only approved headings and subdivisions are from the list of approved thesauri, below. Only valid subdivisions should be used, sourced from the same thesaurus as the main heading.

**List of approved thesauri in order of preference for use:**

1. **lcgft** - Library of Congress genre/form terms for library and archival materials
   (Washington, DC: Library of Congress, Cataloging Distribution Service)
   a. (in Classification Web) [http://classificationweb.net/min/minaret?app=Auth&amp;table=2&amp;menu=/Menu/&amp;mod=Search](http://classificationweb.net/min/minaret?app=Auth&table=2&menu=/Menu/&mod=Search)
2. Subdivisions not permitted; local exceptions must be documented and coded appropriately (655 7 |2 AFU)

2. **lcmspt** - Library of Congress Medium of Performance Thesaurus
   a. (Draft) [http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/medprf_lcmpt.pdf](http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/medprf_lcmpt.pdf)
   b. Subdivisions not mentioned in this draft.
4. **gsafd** - Guidelines on subject access to individual works of fiction, drama, etc.
   (Chicago: American Library Association)
   b. GSAFD Guidelines do not discuss separate implementation in 655.
   a. [http://www.rbms.info/committees/bibliographic_standards/controlled_vocularies/binding/alphabetical_list.htm](http://www.rbms.info/committees/bibliographic_standards/controlled_vocularies/binding/alphabetical_list.htm)
   b. [http://www.rbms.info/committees/bibliographic_standards/controlled_vocularies/introductions/BindingIntro.htm](http://www.rbms.info/committees/bibliographic_standards/controlled_vocularies/introductions/BindingIntro.htm) - instructions, including subdivisions
b.  http://www.rbms.info/committees/bibliographic_standards/controlled_vocabularies/introductions/GenreIntro.htm - instructions, including subdivisions

7.  **rbpap** - Paper terms: a thesaurus for use in rare book and special collections cataloging (Chicago: Association of College and Research Libraries, ALA) [used for printing terms.]
   b.  http://www.rbms.info/committees/bibliographic_standards/controlled_vocabularies/introductions/PaperIntro.htm - instructions, including subdivisions

   b.  http://www.rbms.info/committees/bibliographic_standards/controlled_vocabularies/introductions/PrintIntro.htm - instructions, including subdivisions

   b.  http://www.rbms.info/committees/bibliographic_standards/controlled_vocabularies/introductions/ProvenanceIntro.htm - instructions, including subdivisions

    b.  http://www.rbms.info/committees/bibliographic_standards/controlled_vocabularies/introductions/PrintIntro.htm - instructions, including subdivisions

11. **rbtyp** - Type evidence: a thesaurus for use in rare book and special collections cataloging (Chicago: Association of College and Research Libraries, ALA) [used for printing terms.]
    b.  http://www.rbms.info/committees/bibliographic_standards/controlled_vocabularies/introductions/TypeIntro.htm - instructions, including subdivisions

12. **nogl** - Newspaper genre list [online only] (Seattle, WA: University of Washington, Library Microform and Newspaper Collections)
    b.  Subdivisions rarely used, instructions given under the genre heading.
Note - Crystal Bridges has chosen to use the Getty Vocabularies in their records. However, these vocabularies are not approved for use by the University Libraries.

Creation and importing of authority records for genre terms

If the genre/form term being used in a record comes from LCGFT, confirm that an authority record for that term exists in the local authority file, which can be searched in Sierra using the code “q”. If the term is not in the local file, import the authority record from OCLC, which can be searched using the tag “ge:”. When exporting a record from OCLC, make sure to use a 949 field with the command *atab=agénre.