MARC 21 655 FIELD AND "GENRE" TERMS FOR MUSIC
QUESTIONNAIRE

This questionnaire addresses libraries' use in cataloging of field 655 (Index Term–Genre/Form) of the MARC 21 Format for Bibliographic Data. Some of the questions address libraries' use of that field to provide access to musical compositions using form/genre/type/style terms from the Library of Congress Subject Headings that meet the libraries' criteria for assignment to field 655. Responses will be used in the preparation of a session on the use of genre and form terms for subject access in library catalogs to be given at the February 2006 conference of the Music Library Association (MLA) in Memphis, Tenn. This questionnaire and the conference session itself are jointly sponsored by MLA's Subject Access Subcommittee and Technical Services Round Table. The conference session will include a paper titled "The Use of Form and Genre Terms for Subject Access in the Field of Music" by Geraldine Ostrove, Library of Congress Cataloging Policy and Support Office, who prepared the questionnaire.

Though the session's planners are aware that many libraries use MARC field 655 for "genre" terms from a variety of controlled vocabularies, and that some libraries use the 655 for music terms from LCSH, so far we do not have empirical data to demonstrate the extent and nature of this use for music. While for the MLA session being planned none of the presentations will be for the sole purpose of reporting results of this questionnaire, the responses will provide useful background information and may subsequently lead to publication of new research findings in a currently active area of interest in the field of music librarianship.

Please answer the questionnaire if your library
       1) Presently uses the 655 field, whether or not for music
       2) Is considering using the 655 field, whether or not for music
       3) Has considered using the 655 field but has decided against it

Notice of this questionnaire is being posted only on MLA-L. If there are others in your library who don't subscribe to MLA-L who you think ought to respond on your library's behalf, kindly bring the questionnaire to their attention. A library or other institution may submit more than one response.

The questionnaire is available in two formats: as a PDF file to print out and fill in by hand <http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/655quest.pdf>, and as an MS-Word file that may be filled in online, saved, and returned by email <http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/655quest.doc>. Respondents are encouraged to send relevant accompanying documents such as in-house guides for catalogers, reference staff, and library users, images of OPAC interfaces, and MARC bibliographic and authority records. Responses and accompanying documents should be sent in time to be received no later than September 30, 2005 to:

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Cataloging and Support Office
Library of Congress
202-707-5828
fax: 202-707-6629
gost@loc.gov

Since mail sent to the Library of Congress through the United States Post Office may be subject to delay in order to be inspected for hazardous substances, it is preferable to send replies by fax or online. Attachments to email messages are acceptable. If regular mail is the only practical way to send certain documents, please use the email address above to obtain a private address to which they may be sent.

Owing to the nature of this inquiry, names of libraries who responded will be made known in public reports. However, specific answers to questions and quotations from accompanying documents will not be associated with the library that submitted them. Respondents will receive a tabulation of the responses.

QUESTIONNAIRE: MARC 21 AND "GENRE" TERMS FOR MUSIC
[PDF version]

<u>Please use a supplementary sheet for answers that exceed the space provided.</u>

This library's name and address: Date:

Person(s) responding to the questionnaire (name, title, library address, email address):

List of accompanying documents also submitted:

1. **This library's MARC 21 coding for "genre" terms**

    a. This library uses the **655** field for "genre" terms
        __ For the following disciplines other than music (indicate year begun for each):

        __ For the discipline of music (year begun: _____)

    b. This library was prompted to use the **655** field for the following reasons (check all that apply):
        __ The field was used in cataloging copy acquired from a utility

        __ Perceived need by <u>library users</u> of certain types of materials
            __ Cartographic materials

            __ Graphic materials

            __ Moving image materials

            __ Music

            __ Spoken records

            __ Other (please specify) _____

        __ Perceived need by <u>library staff</u> specializing in certain types of materials
            __ Cartographic materials

            __ Graphic materials

            __ Moving image materials

            __ Music

            __ Spoken records

            __ Other (please specify) _____

___ Perceived need by <u>library administration</u> regarding certain types of materials
    ___ Cartographic materials

    ___ Graphic materials

    ___ Moving image materials

    ___ Music

    ___ Spoken records

    ___ Other (please specify) _____

___ Perceived trend toward adoption of the 655 by various special interest cataloging communities (please indicate which ones) _____

___ The availability in this library's present library system of a suitable OPAC interface for the 655 field

___ The anticipated availability in the near future of a suitable OPAC 655 interface in this library's present system or in one it intends to change to

___ Other (please describe)

c. ___ This library uses the **650** field for "genre" terms in music.

d. If this library uses both the **655** and **650** fields, are the same terms assigned to both field tags?
    ___ yes
    ___ no
Please state the guidelines governing the library's practice.

e. This library is considering use of the 655 field
    ___ For the following disciplines other than music (indicate tentative year to begin for each)

    ___ For the <u>discipline of</u> music (tentative year to begin: _____)

f. This library has considered using the 655 field but decided (year: _____) against it for the following reasons:

2. **Subject heading vocabularies.** This library uses the following subject heading system(s), putting its terms in the following MARC 21 fields:

Term List	650	655
___ Library of Congress Subject Headings	___	___
___ American Theological Library Association Religion Database Genre Terms	___	___
___ Art and Architecture Thesaurus	___	___
___ Canadian Subject Headings	___	___
___ Guidelines on Subject Access to Individual Works of Fiction, Drama, Etc.	___	___
___ Medical Subject Headings	___	___

__ Newspaper Genre Terms   ___   ___
__ Rare Books and Manuscripts Thesauri   ___   ___
__ Répertoire des vedettes-matière   ___   ___
__ Thesaurus of Graphic Materials   ___   ___
__ Other (please specify)_____   ___   ___

3. **Selection of terms for the 655 field**

   a. Eligible terms from the vocabulary list(s) checked in question 2. above
      __ Headings
      __ Subdivisions
         __ Topical
         __ Geographic
         __ Chronological
         __ Form

   b. Who (by position title) selected or selects the music terms for the 655 field?

   c. What are the criteria for the selection and omission of music terms for the 655 field?

   d. Has this library introduced a "top term" concept that enables all the music terms eligible for or
       used in the 655 field to be so identified?
      __ yes
      __ no

      1) If "yes," please describe.

      2) If "yes," is there a list that is made known and available to end-users of the OPAC?
         __ yes
         __ no
       If "yes," please describe.

4. **Definitions for 655 field headings**

   a. What does this library call the music terms in the 655 field? (Check all that apply)

      __ genre terms
      __ form/genre terms
      __ form terms
      __ other (please specify) _____

   b. What is the scope or the official definition of the term(s) in question 3.a that enables the library to
       decide which LCSH terms in the field of music can be assigned to the 655 field?

c. Does this library also use the 650_0 (LCSH) field for certain terms **for musical works** (i.e., as distinct from LCSH topical terms in the field of music)?

    __ yes
    __ no

    1) If "yes," what are these music terms called?

    2) If "yes," how is the group of music materials defined to which the 650 field is assigned?

d. To assist end users in distinguishing between terms for musical works in the 650_0 (LCSH) field and terms for musical works the 655 field, how does this library describe the difference?

e. Does this library assign headings strings such as the following to the 655 field? If "yes," please provide sample MARC 21 records.

```
610 20 $a Catholic Church $v Hymns.                          ___ yes ___ no

600 10 $a Catullus, Gaius Valerius $v Musical settings.      ___ yes ___ no

650 _0 $a Smoking $v Songs and music.                        ___ yes ___ no

650 _0 $a Iroquois Indians $v Music.                         ___ yes ___ no

650 _0 $a Clarinet $v Studies and exercises.                 ___ yes ___ no

600 10 $a Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus, $d 1756-1791. $v Thematic catalogs.
                                                             ___ yes ___ no

650 _0 $a Double bass music $v Bibliography.                 ___ yes ___ no

650 _0 $a Music rehearsals.                                  ___ yes ___ no
```

f. When a 655-type term needs one or more subdivisions that render the heading topical (e.g., subdivisions such as $x History and criticism or $v Bibliography) what MARC 21 bibliographic field(s) is assigned?

5. Authority records for 655 terms

a. This library acquires authority records from a vendor
    __ For LCSH terms
    __ For other terms
Please send sample records.

b. This library creates 155 field authority records for terms used in the 655 field
    __ For LCSH terms
    __ For other terms

Please send sample records.

c. If maintenance of the authority records is done outside the library, who established this library's profile?
___ The library
___ The vendor
Please send a copy of the profile.

d. If there are no authority records, what maintenance (addition, deletion, modification of terms and codes) is performed on the 655 fields in bibliographic records?

6. Assignment of terms

a. To what carriers of music are 655 terms assigned? (Check all that apply.)
___ Musical notation
___ Sound recordings
___ Moving images
___ Remote electronic resources consisting of ___notation ___ sound ___ sound with visuals

b. To what categories of musical performances are 655 terms assigned? (Check all that apply.)
___ performances with sound only (whatever the carrier)
___ sound with visuals of an event or production
___ works performed in concerts
___ staged dramatic works
___ ethnomusicological works
___ field recordings
___ studio recordings
___ other (please specify) _____
___ performances not primarily music where the music is considered by the library to be important
___ public events and ceremonies
___ broadcasts
___ advertisements
___ other (please specify) _____

7. Interface and technological issues

a. How is the 655 field indexed in the library's online system? (Check all that apply.)
___ subject block (6XX), left-anchored
___ subject block (6XX), keyword
___ form/genre term
___ field tag number
___ other (please specify) _____

b. Where is information about searching the 655 field presented to end users? (Check all that apply.)
___ Library home page
___ Music library home page
___ Paper instructions posted or handed out inside the library
___ Other (please specify) _____

c. If there is a search option for the terms found in the 655 field, how is it introduced in the OPAC?

d. Are there separate directions in the OPAC for searching musical works in the 655 field?
    __ yes
    __ no

    If "yes," please send a copy.

e. Please comment on the ability to search in field 655 terms in the field of music other than those for forms, types, styles, etc., of music, such as subdivisions like –Scores and parts; –Thematic catalogs; –Librettos; –Stories, plots, etc.; terms for activities, such as Music rehearsals; or terms for circumstances, such as Live sound recordings.

f. Were there technological problems associated with implementing use of the 655 field in your library system?
    __ yes
    __ no
    If "yes," please describe them briefly.

g. In your experience, do music users understand the distinction between 650 terms and 655 terms as searchable in your OPAC?
    __ yes
    __ no
    Please comment further on your answer.

Thank you very much for responding.