

## ANSS Subject and Bibliographic Access Committee Cataloging Question – August, 2007

**Question:** What subject headings are used for visual anthropology and what form/genre headings are used?

**Answer:**

**Subject headings are used for works on or about visual anthropology.**

For works on visual anthropology in more than one form, the broader subject is used:

650 \_0 Visual anthropology.

For works on visual anthropology in one form, the more narrow subjects are used:

650 \_0 Motion pictures in ethnology.

650 \_0 Photography in ethnology.

650 \_0 Video recording in ethnology.

Also be aware that particular ethnic groups may be represented by subject headings as below:

650 \_0 Indigenous peoples in motion pictures.

650 \_0 Indians in motion pictures.

**Form and genre headings are used when the item in the catalog is rather than *about* something.**

Form/genre headings are designed to assist in retrieval by providing access points for the forms and genres of expressions. The intent of the use of these headings is to give access to the original expression not the manifestation, i.e., its physical carrier. So something originally released as a television program now available on DVD, would be an example of Ethnographic television programs, not an example of Ethnographic videos.

Library of Congress will soon be issuing authority records for genre headings. “The first issuance of these records is now being readied. *Library of Congress Subject Headings Weekly List 35, 2007* will include approximately 70 records for review at the CPSO [Library of Congress Cataloging Policy and Support Office] weekly editorial meeting to be held August 29, 2007. The authority records for the approved headings will subsequently be distributed by CDS [Library of Congress Cataloging Distribution Service] to its customers beginning September 11, 2007.”—CPSO website, viewed Aug. 15, 2007. The next phase of genre headings will be those for music, splitting up those things that are *about* a particular genre of music from those things that *are* a particular genre of music.

The following are valid LC subject headings (650), but can be used as form/genre headings (655).

655 \_0 Ethnographic films.

655 \_0 Ethnographic television programs.

655 \_0 Ethnographic videos.

655 \_0 Documentary films.  
655 \_0 Documentary television programs.  
655 \_0 Documentary videos.

655 \_0 Indian motion pictures. [proposed]

Other thesauri than Library of Congress Subject Headings can be used for form/genre terms. These are identified in the MARC record as: 655 \_7 [Genre/form heading]. |2 [thesauri code] The most frequent ones related to visual materials are:

- aat** Art & architecture thesaurus (Los Angeles, CA: Getty Research Institute, Getty Vocabulary Program)  
[http://www.getty.edu/research/conducting\\_research/vocabularies/aat/index.html](http://www.getty.edu/research/conducting_research/vocabularies/aat/index.html)
- amg** Audiovisual material glossary (Dublin, OH: Online Computer Library Center)
- bgtchm** Basic genre terms for cultural heritage materials  
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/techdocs/genre.html>
- fbg** Films by genre (Jefferson, NC: McFarland)
- gmGPC** Thesaurus for graphic materials: TGM II, Genre and physical characteristic terms (Washington, DC: Library of Congress, Cataloging Distribution Service)  
<http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/tgm2/>
- gsafd** Guidelines on subject access to individual works of fiction, drama, etc (Chicago: American Library Association)
- lctgm** Thesaurus for graphic materials: TGM I, Subject terms. (Washington, DC: Library of Congress, Cataloging Distribution Service)  
<http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/tgm1/>
- migfg** Moving image genre-form guide (Washington, DC: Library of Congress. MBRS)  
<http://www.loc.gov/rr/mopic/migintro.html>
- mim** Moving image materials: genre terms (Washington: Motion Picture Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division, Library of Congress)

Different online catalogs treat genre differently in the indexing so you may want to check with your cataloging and/or public services colleagues. Some catalogs have direct genre access, while others have keyword only access. If a user wants to retrieve both materials *about* a topic, such as ethnographic films, as well as materials that *are* ethnographic films, a keyword search should prove valuable.

For more information about the newly distributed form/genre authority records, visit:  
<http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpsoc/genre.html>.