The IFLA Genre/Form Working Group, 2013–2022: a History

Ricardo Santos
National Library of Spain
Genre/Form Working Group Co–chair

Fascinating Facets Webinar, May 19th
Founding and membership

- Proposed in WLIC 2013 Singapore. Formally established in 2014
- Reports to the Subject Analysis and Access Section
- From 2015, co-Chaired by the Cataloguing Section

website: https://www.ifla.org/g/subject-analysis-and-access/ifla-genre-form-working-group/
Chairs

George Prager (founder)
Chair: 2013 - 2017

Ana Stevanović
Chair: 2017 - 2020

Richard Sapon-White
Chair: 2021 -

Ricardo Santos
Co-Chair: 2015 -
Initial goals

- Taken from the old website:

1. Decide on a **name** for the working group.
2. Make a **recommendation** on the place of genre/form within IFLA.
3. **Monitor** and provide information about developments relating to genre/form within the ICP, FRBR family of models, and RDA, as well as any other significant national and international developments.
5. Consider the feasibility of a project to create **links** between equivalent terms in the various genre/form vocabularies.
6. Consider the feasibility of creating a **best practices** document for use of genre/form vocabularies.
7. Develop a list of **resources** relating to genre/form initiatives worldwide, and make this list publicly available on the IFLA website.
8. Publicize the activities of the IFLA Genre/Form Working Group. Encourage and develop **programs** on genre/form to be presented at future IFLA Conferences.
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8. Publicize the activities of the IFLA Genre/Form Working Group. Encourage and develop **programs** on genre/form to be presented at future IFLA Conferences.
Worldwide survey
“to examine and analyse cataloguing practices concerning genre/form terms and the use of genre/form vocabularies in national libraries worldwide”.
Section 1 – general questions
(key question – 5: Does your library currently use genre/form terms in its cataloging, or is it planning to use them in the future?)

Section 2 (already using)  Section 5 (planning to develop)

Section 3 (one)  Section 4 (multiple)

Section 6 (other vocabularies)
Section 7 (other means of expressing genre/form)
Section 8 (benefits & hurdles)
Features

- Conducted in February-April 2017: presented at Metadata Reports session in WLIC in Wroclaw.
- 87 questions, split in a general section and different tracks, depending of answers
- Target: national libraries or agencies
- 77 respondents from all over the world, with many degrees of G/F implementation
- Main questions: Are library using G/F? For what resources? Means to express G/F? Benefits/hurdles?
Does your library currently use genre/form terms in its cataloging, or is it planning to use them in the future?
Main results

Does your library currently use genre/form terms in its cataloging, or is it planning to use them in the future?

If yes, one or multiple vocabs?

- 44% Multiple genre-form vocabulary
- 56% Single genre-form vocabulary

72% developed own vocabulary
Main results

- Subjects covered by G/F

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>80.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>73.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion</td>
<td>69.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>69.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motion pictures, radio and television programs</td>
<td>69.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art and Architecture</td>
<td>65.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General terms</td>
<td>84.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Other results

- Most of respondents are not considering adding G/F retrospectively to legacy data
- Other means to express G/F other than G/F vocabs: subject headings; form subdivisions, coded values.
- Benefits perceived: richer user experience: faceting, best identification and selection
Collective bibliography
Description

- **Compilation of references and vocabularies related to Genre/Form [2018-].**

  - Continuing bibliography of basic references and resources on Genre/Form, in any language, related to any aspect of the G/F world: general overviews, methodological approaches, projects descriptions.

  - Compilation of G/F related vocabularies, thesauri, and lists, online or physical, in any language, related to genre/form aspects.
Features

**OPEN**
Initially assembled by section members, but it’s now open to the wider community

**ONGOING**
No end date planned

**MULTILINGUAL**
Submissions are welcomed in all languages
Submissions via Google Forms

- Genre/Form resources
Submissions via Google Forms

- Genre/Form resources

- Genre/Form bibliographical references
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Language</th>
<th>URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resource Name</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Language</td>
<td>URL</td>
<td>Additional Information</td>
<td></td>
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<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
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<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>OLAC Video Game Vocabulary</td>
<td>Video games</td>
<td>English</td>
<td><a href="https://www.olacinc.org/olac-video-game-vocabulary">https://www.olacinc.org/olac-video-game-vocabulary</a></td>
<td>&quot;The OLAC video game genre vocabulary includes sixty-six genre terms, each with a scope note to help librarians choose the correct term when cataloging video games. The vocabulary is fully cross-referenced and includes authoritative sources to corroborate the usage of the genre term as applied to video games. The list of the sixty-six OLAC authorized video game genre vocabulary terms, guidelines for their use, as well as the related MARC authority records for the terms can be found on OLAC’s website.&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RBMS Controlled Vocabularies: Binding Terms</td>
<td>&quot;Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of the Book&quot; bindings; Binding evidence; Rare Books and Special Binding Terms</td>
<td>English</td>
<td><a href="http://rbms.info/vocabularies/binding/alphabetical_list.htm">http://rbms.info/vocabularies/binding/alphabetical_list.htm</a></td>
<td>&quot;From the introduction document: &quot;&quot;The present list presents terms for the description of bookbindings and includes descriptors relating to techniques for binding construction,&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Outreach and webinars
Thanks to all the Chairs and members

And let’s have another ten years