

655 Genre Heading Practice

Genre 655 links:

- [Form and genre terms used by the Rare Book Team in MARC Field 655 \(rbgenr\)](#)
- [Genre/form code and term source codes](#)
- [Genre lcsh/lcgt \(A-Z\)](#)
- [Genre lcsh/lcgt \(categorized\)](#)
- [Guidelines for the usage of moving image LC genre/form headings draft 2010](#)
- [Rare Book and Manuscripts Section \(RBMS\) controlled vocabularies](#)

NCSU catalogers should be using genre headings in 655 to describe the following materials: streaming media, films, videos, science fiction, and SCRC materials with book plates, binders' marks, inscriptions, and particular bindings. Use a second indicator value of *7* to flag the heading as coming from a thesaurus other than LCSH, MeSH, NAL, or RVM, naming the particular thesaurus in |2, thus:

- [655 _0 Streaming video.](#)
- [655 _7 Historical television programs.|2lcgt](#)
- [655 _7 Broadside|zEngland|y17th century.|2rbgenr](#)

While for other schemes, we will continue to follow this practice, for LCSH we can identify the thesaurus in the 2nd indicator position, just as we do currently for 650. Thus, for the LCSH "Feature films" the heading would be:

- [655 _0 Feature films|zIndia.](#)

Note that we NO LONGER USE 655 for either "Electronic books." or "Electronic journals." Catalog searches for these materials will use the format facet for E-books and E-Journals.

Second indicator values for 655 are defined as for 650:

- **0** - Library of Congress Subject Headings

The subject index term conforms to and is appropriate for use in the Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH).

- **1** - LC subject headings for children's literature

The subject index term conforms to the "AC Subject Headings" section of the LCSH and is appropriate for use in the LC Annotated Card Program.

- **2** - Medical Subject Headings

The subject index term conforms to the NLM subject authority file.

- **3** - National Agricultural Library subject authority file

The subject added entry conforms to the NAL subject authority file.

- **4** - Source not specified

The subject index term conforms to a controlled list that cannot be identified by another defined value or by a code in subfield \$2.

- **5** - Canadian Subject Headings

The subject index term conforms to and is appropriate for use in the Canadian Subject Headings that is maintained by the National Library of Canada.</p>

- **6** - Répertoire de vedettes-matière

The subject index term conforms to and is appropriate for use in the Répertoire de vedettes-matière.

- **7** - Source specified in subfield \$2

Note that if you are cataloging a feature film or sci-fi title, the proper use of the LCSH "Feature films" or "Science fiction" is in a 655 rather than a 650, since this heading describes what the item is (its genre), not what it is about (its subject).

Use of the genre heading "Foreign films" should generally be avoided. The scope note for this subject heading reads "Here are entered works on motion pictures produced by foreign film companies. When the heading is subdivided by place, the subdivision refers to the locality where the films are available or viewed. Works on motion pictures produced by film companies in a specific country and available or viewed in another country or countries are entered under the heading Motion pictures qualified by the country of origin, e.g. Motion pictures, American. Works on motion pictures in a foreign language produced for the export market are entered under the heading Foreign language films." Thus foreign films available here, like the Hindi films, would be "Foreign films--United States", not a terribly useful heading, or "Motion pictures, Indian". Please stick to the geographically subdivided heading "Feature films" to express the nationality of the film.

Collections has, from time to time, asked us to identify works with available closed-captioning for the hearing impaired. While this is often identified in a language or other note, use of the lcgt genre heading "Video recordings for the hearing impaired" is a useful means for bringing these together, so please use this where appropriate while retaining the more specific note.