Genre/Form Terms

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This is an abbreviated overview. For further information see:
- *Instructions for the 655 field:* http://www.loc.gov/marc/bibliographic/bd655.html
- *Instructions for using LCGFT:* https://www.loc.gov/aba/publications/FreeLCGFT/freelcgft.html
- *The list of Library of Congress Genre/Form Terms:* https://www.loc.gov/aba/publications/FreeLCGFT/GENRE-FORM.pdf
- *The list of OLAC Video Game Genre Terms:* https://cornerstone.lib.mnsu.edu/olac-publications/22/
- *The Homosaurus vocabulary, which includes genre terms:* https://homosaurus.org/

655 Genre/Form field designates what an item **is**, as opposed to Subject Headings that designate what an item is **about**. (See "More Detail" section at end.)

Standard lists of terms must be used in a 655. The preferred source is LCGFT. Please include LCGFT headings when cataloging, and replace GSAFD terms in bib records.

Both OLAC VGGT and Homosaurus terms are valid in Minerva. Because there is a lag time in uploading our authority records, you may need to seek validation from the sites listed above.

655 Indicators and Subfields

The first indicator is normally blank. The second indicator is for the source of the term:
- _7 = Source is specified in subfield $2. These include LCGFT and OLAC VGGT vocabularies. This is the preferred form for indicating genre/form terms.
- _0 = Library of Congress Subject Headings: The subject added entry conforms to and is appropriate for use in the Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) and the Name authority files.
- _1 = LC subject headings for children's literature: The subject added entry 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 added entry conforms to the NLM (National Library of Medicine) authority files.

Examples

- 655 _7 Romance fiction.$2lcgft
- 655 _7 Historical fiction.$2lcgft
- 655 _7 Simulation video games.$2olacvggt
- 655 _0 Young adult fiction.   (LC subject heading used as genre term)
- 655 _0 Board books.   (LC subject heading used as form term)

Note that LC subject headings may be used as genre or form terms if an equivalent term does not appear in LCGFT

Both the subject heading "650_0 Large type books." and the genre/form term "655_7 Large print books.$2lcgft" are valid. But "$vLarge type books" should not be used as a subdivision after a subject heading.

More Detail

From the MARC 21 Bibliographic instructions for the 655 field:

- A *genre term* designates the style or technique of the intellectual content of textual materials or, for graphic materials, aspects such as vantage point, intended purpose, characteristics of the creator, publication status, or method of representation.
- A *form term* designates historically and functionally specific kinds of materials distinguished by their physical character, the subject of their intellectual content, or the order of information within them.
- *Physical characteristic* terms designate historically and functionally specific kinds of materials as distinguished by an examination of their physical character, subject of their intellectual content, or the order of information with them.