**ALA Core Metadata and Collections Section Subject Analysis Committee**

**Report from the Music Library Association (MLA)**

prepared for the SAC virtual meeting, Thursday, June 15, 2023

The Vocabularies Subcommittee (VS) of the Music Library Association’s Cataloging and Metadata Committee (CMC) conducts its work via task groups for LC vocabularies maintenance, MLA Best Practices for LCMPT and LCGFT updates, deriving faceted data from LCSH, Types of Composition list maintenance, and Thematic Indexes list maintenance. Much of the work is driven by request, and we encourage anyone with such requests or comments to submit them via our suggestion boxes on the [CMC FAQ](http://cmc.blog.musiclibraryassoc.org/frequently-asked-questions/) page. Suggestions, questions, and ideas for collaborative projects are also welcome.

# Meetings

The [Music Library Association](http://conferences.blog.musiclibraryassoc.org/) met March 1-5, 2023, in St. Louis, Missouri and virtually. Committee and interest group meetings, including that of the Vocabularies Subcommittee, occurred the following week. Summaries of cataloging and metadata-related program sessions will appear in a forthcoming issue of the [*Music Cataloging Bulletin*](https://mcb.armusicanthology.com/) (subscription). Reports from the four CMC business meetings will be linked in the 2023 MLA Reports section on the [CMC Reports page](http://cmc.blog.musiclibraryassoc.org/all-reports/).

[MOUG (Music OCLC Users Group)](https://musicoclcusers.org/) met virtually, February 10 & 17, 2023. Presentation slides from the meeting will be made available on the [MOUG website](https://musicoclcusers.org/meetings/meeting-presentations/) to registered attendees in due course following the meeting.

# Task Group Activities

## LC Vocabularies Maintenance

The LC Vocabularies Maintenance task group monitors LC tentative lists for music-related LCSH, LCGFT, LCMPT and LCDGT entries warranting attention. The group also works with the SACO Music Funnel Coordinator to vet proposals for new or revised LCMPT and LCGFT terms (including hierarchy adjustments), as well as any necessary revisions to related LCSH headings.

### Status of New or Revised Terms Vetted

LCGFT (LC Genre/Form)

* Approved by LC: Experimental music (new); Mixtapes (new)
* Tentative: Blackface minstrel shows (new); Blackface minstrel music (new); Minstrel music (revised); Minstrel shows (revised)
* Under LC review: Sampler albums (Sound recordings) (revised); Simplified editions (Music) (revised)
* In progress: Liturgical terms related to chant; Hymns scope notes

LCMPT (LC Medium of Performance)

* Approved by LC: song bells (new); xylophone (revised); actor (revised); speaker (revised)
* Under LC review: gralla (revised)
* In progress: viol ensemble

### LC Proposals and SACO Music Funnel

The [SACO Music Funnel](https://www.loc.gov/aba/pcc/saco/Music_Funnel.html) project promotes and facilitates the creation of medium of performance terms and subject authorities relating to the cataloging of notated music, musical sound or video recordings, and works about music. The scope includes new terms or changes for music-related terms for Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH), Medium of Performance Thesaurus for Music (LCMPT), Genre/Form Terms for Library and Archival Materials (LCGFT), and additions to the Library of Congress Classification (LCC). Catalogers wishing to submit a proposal are encouraged to do so through the SACO Music Funnel. Furter details and contact information for Funnel Coordinator Leonard Martin may be found on the [CMC’s SACO page](https://cmc.wp.musiclibraryassoc.org/saco-music-funnel/).

### Tracking Updates to Music Vocabularies

In addition to appearing on LC tentative/approved lists, new and revised music-related terms in LC and other controlled vocabularies appear in the [*Music Cataloging Bulletin*](https://www.musiclibraryassoc.org/page/musiccatbulletin). These include changes to Types of Compositions for Use with Authorized Access Points, the LCC schedule, LCMPT, and music related LCSH and LCGT. The MCB also features reports from various national meetings.

Updates on approved music-related SACO proposals that did not go through the Music Funnel may be submitted to the *Music Cataloging Bulletin* editor (Kirk-Evan Billet, [billet@jhu.edu](mailto:billet@jhu.edu)). Notice of music-related personal/corporate name changes are also welcome.

## LCMPT/LCGFT Best Practices Maintenance

I am pleased to report the release of MLA Best Practices for Using LCMPT version 1.5 (March 1, 2023). The updated version includes some organizational and style changes, minor updates to the introduction, hierarchy, and MARC coding sections, as well as new and revised examples throughout. Revisions include updated guidance for use of the terms “singer” and “voice,” and “visuals” and “multimedia.” The section “Number of hands” in the previous version has been revised to “More than one simultaneous performer/Number of hands.” New sections include guidance for vocal range and gender, one player/multiple instruments, and using the terms orchestra, chamber orchestra, and instrumental ensemble.

An update to MLA Best Practices for Using LCGFT for Music Resources is also underway, and active revision will begin in June. Suggested revisions and additions are currently being compiled to inform the process.

Current MLA best practices as well as superseded versions for historical interest may be found at <https://cmc.wp.musiclibraryassoc.org/mla-best-practices/>. If you have questions, suggestions, or issues you would like us to address, please send them via our [BP suggestion box](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScQtOA5sDU_hL0qffuW8YshOuTFnq85dzoIvQs3frrY6XzuCw/viewform).

## Deriving Faceted Music Terms and the OCLC Music Toolkit

The Music OCLC Toolkit generates faceted data fields (mainly 348, 382 and 655) from existing LCSH and other fields. The public version is available at Gary Strawn’s [Northwestern downloads page](https://files.library.northwestern.edu/public/Music382/), and a feedback/error report form may be found on the [CMC FAQ](http://cmc.blog.musiclibraryassoc.org/frequently-asked-questions/) page. Work of the task group involves two separate but related efforts: 1) Continued optimization of the OCLC Music Toolkit, for use with Connexion Client, and 2) Platform-neutral term mappings, maintenance, and theoretical considerations. A project to retrospectively update mappings of terms added to LCGFT and LCMPT from 2018 through 2021 has recently been completed, and the task group is now working on mappings for 2022 terms.

## Types of Composition List Maintenance

## The Vocabularies Subcommittee manages the list of Types of Composition for use in Authorized Access Points for Music. The [Types manual](https://cmc.wp.musiclibraryassoc.org/types-of-composition-for-use-in-authorized-access-points-for-music-a-manual-for-use-with-rda/) and [Types list](https://cmc.wp.musiclibraryassoc.org/types-of-composition-for-use-in-authorized-access-points-for-music-complete-list/) are available on the CMC website. The Types list relies on warrant (work described) and cataloger suggestions, and we are always happy to field questions and accept proposals.

In addition to the regular work of vetting individual terms for the list, an extended project to add plural forms of non-preferred/variant type terms to the list is underway and is nearing completion.

## Thematic Indexes List Maintenance Used in Library of Congress NACO Authority Files

The Vocabularies Subcommittee serves as a managing and vetting body for Thematic Indexes Used in Library of Congress NACO Authority Files (MLATI) and the corresponding codes usable in MARC 383 $d with $2 mlati. The [MLATI list](https://cmc.wp.musiclibraryassoc.org/thematic-indexes-used-in-library-of-congress-naco-authority-files/) is on the CMC website. As with the Types of Composition list, the MLATI list relies on warrant (work described) and cataloger suggestions

Since the last report, revised or new thematic index entries have been added for the following composers:

* [Wilhelm Friedemann Bach](https://cmc.wp.musiclibraryassoc.org/thematic-index/bach-wilhelm-friedemann-1710-1784/) (Wollny)
* [Johann Christoph Mann](https://cmc.wp.musiclibraryassoc.org/thematic-index/mann-johann-christoph-1726-1782/) (Three indexes: Fischer, Pollack and Rudolf)
* [Luigi Tomasini](https://cmc.wp.musiclibraryassoc.org/thematic-index/tomasini-luigi-1741-1808/) (Korčak)

## Survey on LCSH, LCMPT & LCGFT Usage

The ad hoc task group for crafting an online survey about LC music vocabularies for music has completed the survey, and it is in the final stages of approval necessary before distribution. The survey focuses on usage of LC Subject Headings, LC Medium of Performance headings, and LC Genre/Form headings in bibliographic records for notated and performed music (i.e., scores and recordings).

Respectfully submitted,

Janelle West, MLA representative to SAC

May 30, 2023