Session: Reviewing LCSH Tentative Monthly Lists
Charlene Morrison
Database Specialist II

Introduction of Speakers
Reviewing LCSH Tentative Monthly Lists

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OCLC Cataloging Community Meeting - June 17, 2020
ALCTS CaMMS Subject Analysis Committee (SAC)

- Charge: “To study problems and recommend patterns, methods, and tools for optimizing subject and genre/form access to information resources .... Also to provide a liaison for those areas of interest between CaMMS and ... organizations that have an interest in and concern for these systems, tools, and activities.”

- Committee: Ten members, two interns, 15 liaisons (including Library of Congress)

- ALA Midwinter Meeting 2020: Committee brainstormed ways to increase our engagement with the community
ALCTS CaMMS Subject Analysis Committee (SAC)

- Identified a benefit from having members review the Library of Congress tentative lists of subject headings
  - Subject heading proposals can be in any area; we have liaisons who are engaged in various domains (e.g., art, law, music, etc.)
  - LC staff are very busy, may not have expertise in every area, have many proposals to review
  - As a committee, we can use this to advocate for change or to emphasize the importance of proposed terms
LCSH Subject Proposal Process

- Proposal created by cataloger (usually in ClassWeb)
- Proposals compiled into Tentative Monthly List
- Open period for comments from librarians and the public
- Editorial meeting for Tentative Monthly List
- Summary of Decisions from editorial meeting published
- Approved Monthly List published

https://www.loc.gov/aba/cataloging/subject/lcsh-process.html
Tentative Monthly Lists

https://classweb.org/tentative-subjects/

- Tentative lists show the proposed term, use-for terms, related and broader terms, and scope notes. Citations are not shown.
- If a term is not clear from the list, that can be an indication it needs to be revised!
- Email for comments at the top of list: jayo@loc.gov (Janis Young)
LCSH Subject Proposal Process

Summary of Decisions

https://www.loc.gov/aba/pcc/saco/cpsoed/cpsoeditorial.html

- Monthly editorial meeting where each tentative list is discussed and comments considered
- Decisions for each proposal:
  - Approved
  - Not approved
  - Not necessary
  - Resubmit
  - Withdrawn
LCSH Subject Proposal Process

Approved Monthly Lists
https://www.loc.gov/aba/cataloging/subject/weeklylists/

- Tentative proposals that were approved in the monthly editorial meeting
- Link at top for Summary of Decisions listing tentative proposals that were not approved
Evaluating Subject Proposals

- LC’s Subject Heading Manual provides instructions for all aspects of subject heading proposals, including their evaluation (H 204)

- Some guidelines for considering proposals:
  - Is the concept already represented in LCSH?
  - Does the proposed heading reflect the terminology commonly used to refer to the concept, according to the sources consulted?
  - Is the proposed heading clear and unambiguous? Does it employ neutral terminology?
  - Does the proposed heading conform to patterns and precedents in LCSH with respect to wording, form, and style, and to guidelines provided in the SHM?
  - Is a scope note necessary to help catalogers and users understand the meaning of the proposed heading?
  - Are the citations clear, and understandable and do they support the choice of the heading and references and the scope note?
Example #1 (List 2003)

Tentative Heading [sp2019103619]
150 Temporary Emigration
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Comment from SAC

Should this be added as BT to Foreign workers (sh 85003502)?
Example #1 (List 2003)

Tentative Heading [sp2019103619] 150 Temporary Emigration

Editorial Decision
The topic of temporary immigration may be handled by the assignment of two terms Emigration and immigration and Temporary workers. The proposal was not approved.

Comment from SAC
Should this be added as BT to Foreign workers (sh 85003502)?
Example #2 (List 2003)

Tentative Heading [sp20200000188]
150 Cheomseongdae
Example #2 (List 2003)

**Tentative Heading** [sp20200000188]

150 Cheomseongdae

**Comment from SAC**

Shouldn’t an observatory be established in the NACO authority file rather than LCSH per H405?
Example #2 (List 2003)

Tentative Heading [sp20200000188]
150 Cheomseongdae

Editorial Decision
The work being cataloged is about an ancient astronomical observatory. Observatories should be established in the Name Authority File per H 405. The proposal was not approved.

Comment from SAC
Shouldn’t an observatory be established in the NACO authority file rather than LCSH per H405?
Example #3 (List 2003)

Tentative Heading [sp2019103488]

150 Post-truth
I am not sure that “Post-truth” is useful. This tactic has always existed, but has not always been called this. In a similar vein to us subsuming the negative of something under the positive (e.g., works about pie being bad are entered under Pies), I think this should just be a reference under “Truthfulness and falsehood.”
Example #3 (List 2003)

Tentative Heading [sp2019103488]
150 Post-truth

Editorial Decision
Post-truth was added as a UF on the heading Truthfulness and falsehood. The proposal was not approved.

Comment from SAC
I am not sure that “Post-truth” is useful. This tactic has always existed, but has not always been called this. In a similar vein to us subsuming the negative of something under the positive (e.g., works about pie being bad are entered under Pies), I think this should just be a reference under “Truthfulness and falsehood.”
Example #4 (List 2004)

Tentative Heading [sp2020000550]

150 Nomophobia
450 UF No Mobile Phone Phobia
450 UF Nomofobia
550 BT Anxiety
550 BT Phobias
680 Here are entered works on fear of separation from a cell phone
Example #4 (List 2004)

Tentative Heading [sp2020000550]
150 Nomophobia
450 UF No Mobile Phone Phobia
450 UF Nomofobia
550 BT Anxiety
550 BT Phobias
680 Here are entered works on fear of separation from a cell phone

Comment from SAC
Should the first 450 be No mobile phone phobia (i.e., not capitalized)? A period is needed at the end of the scope note.
Example #4 (List 2004)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tentative Heading [sp2020000550]</th>
<th>Approved Heading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>150 Nomophobia</td>
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</tr>
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<td>450 UF No mobile phone phobia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>450 UF Nomofobia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>550 BT Anxiety</td>
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<tr>
<td>550 BT Phobias</td>
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Comment from SAC

Should the first 450 be No mobile phone phobia (i.e., not capitalized)? A period is needed at the end of the scope note.
Example #5 (List 2004)

**Tentative Heading** [sp2020000278]

151 Phewa Lake Watershed (Nepal)
451 UF Phewa Watershed (Nepal)
550 BT Watersheds--Nepal
680 Here are entered works on the area drained by Phewa Lake, Nepal.
667 This heading is not valid for use as a geographic subdivision.
Example #5 (List 2004)

Tentative Heading [sp2020000278]
151 Phewa Lake Watershed (Nepal)
451 UF Phewa Watershed (Nepal)
550 BT Watersheds--Nepal
680 Here are entered works on the area drained by Phewa Lake, Nepal.
667 This heading is not valid for use as a geographic subdivision.

Comment from SAC
I don’t think LC makes a scope note in this situation. And the 667 is not correct, this heading is valid as a geographic subdivision and a 781 is needed.
Example #5 (List 2004)

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</table>

Comment from SAC

I don’t think LC makes a scope note in this situation. And the 667 is not correct, this heading is valid as a geographic subdivision and a 781 is needed.
What We’ve Learned

● LC does not give feedback on comments submitted or acknowledge receipt of comments

● We requested comment from LC on our work so far:
  ○ The comments did not necessarily lead to different decisions
  ○ Comments that agreed with their thoughts on proposals can be useful to assume consensus
  ○ Comments can provide language for editorial decisions summary
What We’ve Learned

- Reviewing the tentative subject lists does not take very long
- If more people review the proposals, more potential issues will be found
- Each member who provides feedback notices different things: formatting issues, inconsistent references, capitalization, punctuation, etc.
- Most comments have been structural rather than questioning the term itself
- Although so far we have not been taking an advocacy position on various terms, some of our feedback is more subjective and that conveys what catalogers may think of terms

- Anyone can review and comment on these lists!!!
Links

SACO - Subject Authority Cooperative Program homepage:  
https://www.loc.gov/aba/pcc/saco/

Process for Adding and Revising LCSH:  
https://www.loc.gov/aba/cataloging/subject/lcsh-process.html

SHM instruction sheet H 204, Evaluating Subject Proposals:  
https://www.loc.gov/aba/publications/FreeSHM/H0204.pdf

LCSH Tentative Monthly Lists: https://classweb.org/tentative-subjects/

Summary of Decisions from the Monthly Editorial Meetings:  
https://www.loc.gov/aba/pcc/saco/cpsoed/cpsoeditorial.html

LCSH Approved Monthly Lists: https://classweb.org/approved-subjects/
Submit questions in Chat. Send chat to “All Participants”
Trivia time!

• WebEx polling will begin
• Please answer swiftly
Trivia #1

In OCLC’s FY20 through May, how many records were processed by Member Merge Participants?

• 481 million (a.k.a. all WorldCat bib records)
• 25 thousand
• 50 thousand
• All of them
Trivia #1

In OCLC’s FY20 through May, how many records were processed by Member Merge Participants?

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OCLC Cataloging Community Meeting

17 June 2020