

# 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.
4. Consider the feasibility of a worldwide **survey** of genre/form 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.

# 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. ✓
4. Consider the feasibility of a worldwide **survey** of genre/form 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.

# Worldwide survey



1

“

*“to examine and analyse  
cataloguing practices  
concerning genre/form terms  
and the use of genre/form  
vocabularies in national  
libraries worldwide”.*

## Features

### 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)

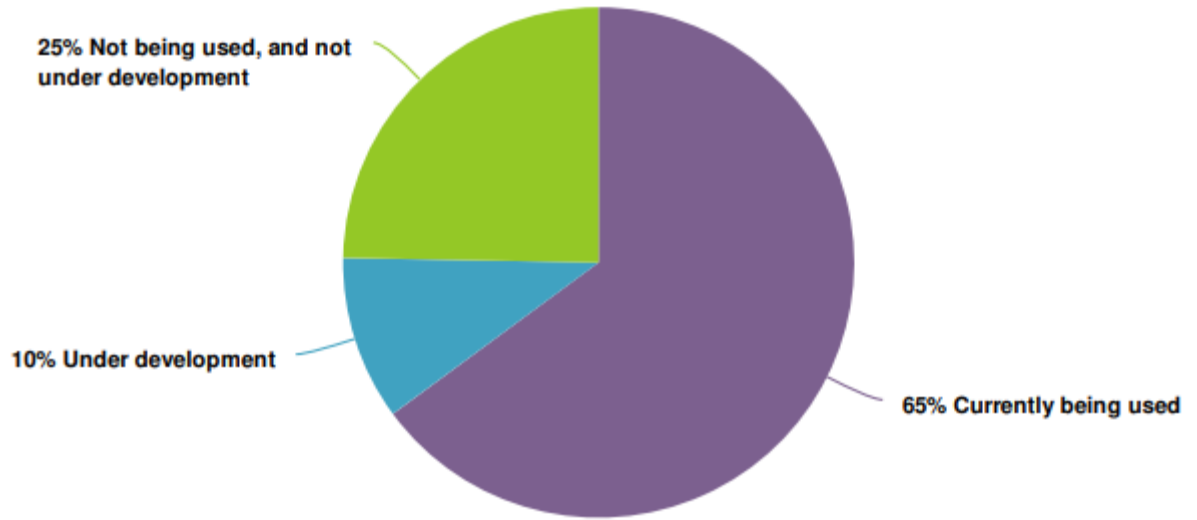


## Features

- 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?

## Main results

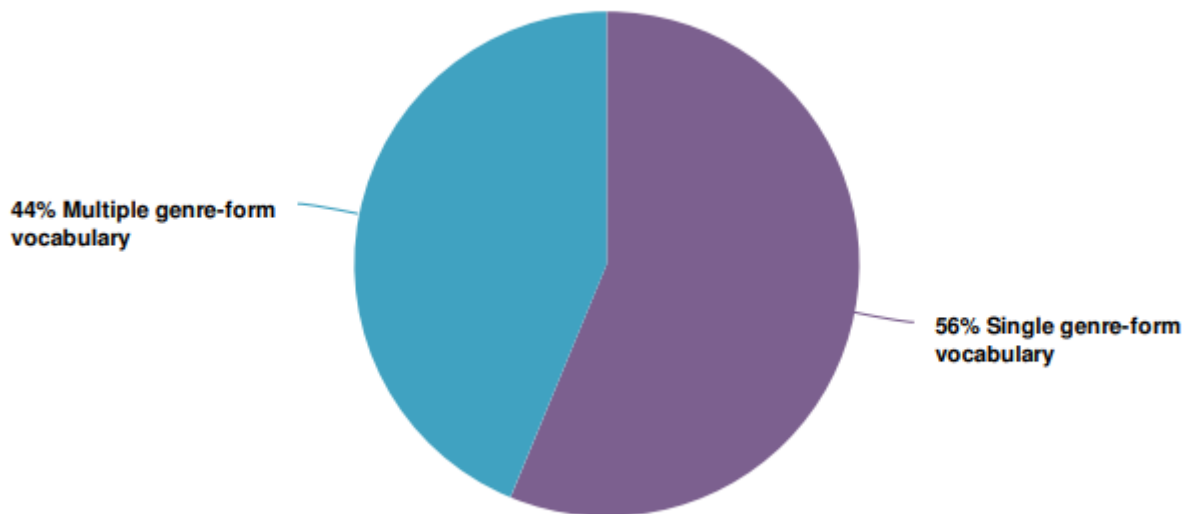
Does your library currently use genre/form terms in its cataloging, or is it planning to use them in the future?



## Main results

If yes, one or multiple vocabs?








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



72% developed own vocabulary

# Main results

- Subjects covered by G/F

Literature		80.8%
Music		73.1%
Religion		69.2%
Law		69.2%
Motion pictures, radio and television programs		69.2%
Art and Architecture		65.4%
General terms		84.6%

## 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



2

# 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

## Genre/Form Resources

Please use this form to submit information on authoritative vocabularies, thesauri, and lists, whether online or in physical form, of genre/form terms. They can be general in scope or focused on a specific subject or discipline and can be in any language.

 ricardouc3m@gmail.com (no compartidos) [Cambiar de cuenta](#) 

\*Obligatorio

Name of resource \*

Tu respuesta

Creator/Issuing Organization \*

Tu respuesta

Publication date/Edition (for printed resources)



Tu respuesta

# Submissions via Google Forms

- Genre/Form resources
- Genre/Form bibliographical references

## Genre/Form References

Please use this form to submit bibliographic references to books, slides, web pages, journal articles and other documents about Genre/Form vocabularies. These may include research articles, surveys, basic guides and best practices and may be online or in print form.

 ricardouc3m@gmail.com (no compartidos) [Cambiar de cuenta](#) 

*\*Obligatorio*

Title \*

Tu respuesta

Authors

Tu respuesta

Genre/Form: Introduction and its relationship to FRBR	Robert M. Maxwell (2007)	Report for CCS Subject Access Committee, American Library Association		General	English	<a href="http://www.ala.org/alcts/sites/ala.org.alcts/files/content/events/pastala/annual/07/maxwell_qfpaper.doc">http://www.ala.org/alcts/sites/ala.org.alcts/files/content/events/pastala/annual/07/maxwell_qfpaper.doc</a>
The Music Genre/Form Project: History, Accomplishments, and Future Directions	Iseminger, Beth	<i>Directions in Music Cataloging</i> , ed. Peter H. Lisius and Richard Griscom (Middleton, WI: Music Library Association and A-R Editions, 2012), 63–77	Book		English	
Faceted Search	Tunkelang, Daniel	<i>Synthesis Lectures on Information Concepts, Retrieval, and Services</i> 1 (1): 1-80 (2009)	Journal article		English	
Design Recommendations for Hierarchical Faceted Search Interfaces	Heast, Marti	Paper presented at the SIGIR 2006 Workshop on Faceted Search, Seattle, Washington. 10	Paper		English	<a href="http://flamenco.berkeley.edu/papers/faceted-workshop06.pdf">http://flamenco.berkeley.edu/papers/faceted-workshop06.pdf</a>

OLAC Video Game Vocabulary	OLAC (Online Audio visual catalogers)	Video games	English	<a href="https://www.olacinc.org/olac-video-game-vocabulary">https://www.olacinc.org/olac-video-game-vocabulary</a>	"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."
RBMS Controlled Vocabularies: Binding Terms	"Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of the	Binding terms; Binding evidence; Rare Books and Special	English	<a href="http://rbms.info/vocabularies/binding/alphabetical_list.htm">http://rbms.info/vocabularies/binding/alphabetical_list.htm</a>	"From the introduction document: ""The present list presents terms for the description of bookbindings and includes descriptors relating to techniques for binding construction,

Outreach and webinars

TODAY !!!!!

3



Thanks to all the  
Chairs and  
members

And let's have  
another ten years

