

**Report of the Law Genre/Form Editorial Group
Cataloging and Classification Committee
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Shortly before the 2009 AALL meeting in DC, the Law Genre/Form Editorial Group released for comments a draft of Genre/Form Terms for Law Materials. While in DC, several members of the editorial group met with members of the Library of Congress Policy and Standards Division (PSD) and others from the Law Library of Congress to discuss both specific terms in the thesaurus and broader policy issues.

After reviewing the comments from the law community and from PSD, the editorial group went back to the drawing board and made the necessary revisions. The resulting draft, available at <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/tssis/committees/cataloging/classification/genreterms/genreformterms200910finaldraft.pdf>, was approved by the AALL Cataloging & Classification Committee in October 2009 and was sent to PSD.

Since then, there have been two major rounds of comments between PSD and the AALL editorial group. Most of the discussion focused on the reference structure of specific terms, e.g., should the relationship between Court decisions and opinions and Year books (English law reports) be associative (RT – Related Terms) or hierarchical (BT/NT – Broader Term/Narrower Term)? Other discussions focused on the scope of terms, e.g., limiting the previously broad scope of Commentaries (Law) to civil law systems. Decisions regarding Jewish law terms were deferred to the LC Hebraica cataloging team that is working on a list of terms in cooperation with the Jewish Theological Seminary and the Association of Jewish Libraries.

At this point, PSD and the AALL editorial group are in agreement on the vast majority of issues, so the law genre/form terms are likely to be established as 155 authority records in the very near future.

The next challenge would be the implementation of genre/form terms. Since they would be useless as limiters in our OPACs if we don't apply them retrospectively, the next step would be to develop strategies for identifying the relevant records for each genre/form term. A task group made of cataloging sleuths will be created soon – please see this as the first official call for volunteers.

After the AALL meeting in Denver, the editorial group plans to submit a proposal for a program on the development and implementation of law genre/form terms for AALL 2011 in Philadelphia.