Subject Access for Art Works

Overview and the CONA Depicted Subject

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Part 1: Overview
Introduction

What is CONA?
Introduction to Depicted Subjects in CONA
What is CONA?

Enabling digital art history

- Currently in development, CONA compiles titles, attributions, depicted subjects, and other metadata about works of art, architecture, and cultural heritage, both extant and historical
- Metadata is gathered and linked from museum collections, special collections, archives, libraries, scholarly research, and many other sources
- CONA is multicultural and multilingual
- CONA is linked to images
- CONA is linked to the AAT, TGN, and ULAN
- Through this rich metadata and links, CONA may provide a powerful conduit for research and discovery for digital art history
What is CONA?

- CONA contains links to artists and patrons, style, dates, locations, studies and other related works, bibliography, and the subjects depicted in the works.
- CONA can merge information from various sources and contributors about a given architectural or movable work, whether data is contributed or linked.
  - Information from the repository of a work will be preferred (e.g., attribution), but other opinions and additional information of scholars could be included.
- CONA can facilitate linking between works, including works held in different repositories but having historical relationships (e.g., studies, disassembled manuscripts, etc.).
- CONA can provide a record for lost and destroyed works.
- CONA provides unique, persistent numeric identifiers for the work and all of its associated information, allowing disambiguation between similar works and authoritative identification of the work in a linked environment.
- CONA is considered authoritative because all information is derived from authoritative sources.
What is CONA?

- In the new realm of digital art history, CONA brings the three Getty vocabularies together as it focuses on the works themselves, whether built works or movable works, whether extant or historical.
- Even works that are destroyed, disassembled, or planned but not constructed may be included.
- For example, if an altarpiece or manuscript has been disassembled and the parts reside at multiple repositories, a CONA record may link all the pertinent information to virtually reconstruct the lost work from the dispersed pieces.
- Series of works and archival groups may be included. Multiples, such as prints, may be linked and described as separate states for research and discovery.
What is CONA?

- While the information provided by the repository or owner of the work is considered most authoritative in a CONA record
- Other scholarly opinions and historical information about the work may be included to reflect and link the full history and scholarly discussion about a given work over time
CONA in context enabling digital art history

- AAT = terms for generic concepts
  - (e.g., watercolors, amphora)
- TGN = names for administrative, physical places
  - (e.g., Los Angeles, Ottoman Empire, Bavarian Alps)
- ULAN = names for people, corporate bodies
  - (e.g., Christopher Wren, Altobelli & Molins)
- CONA = not only titles/names of art and architecture
  - (e.g., Mona Lisa, Empire State Building)
  - CONA links rich metadata for works to allow a conduit for research and discovery in the broader, ever expanding arena of digital art history

CONA contains or links information about art works
Is linked to the AAT, TGN, ULAN
Each record in AAT, TGN, ULAN, and CONA is identified by a unique, persistent numeric ID to allow consistency over time

http://www.getty.edu/research/tools/vocabularies/index.html
CONA, the Cultural Objects Name Authority®

Titles, attributions, styles, locations, other information for moveable works (paintings, sculpture, prints, drawings, photographs, ceramics, etc.) and architecture (buildings, bridges, etc.) (e.g., Hagia Sophia, Mona Lisa, Fantastic Landscape with a Pavilion).

Current totals: [in development]

- It includes works executed or designed (e.g., a built work for which only design drawings exist); extant or destroyed, lost
- It is linked to AAT, TGN, and ULAN; same core structure as these vocabularies
- CONA is a resource containing and linking to metadata about works
- It is mapped to or expressed as CDWA, CCO, LIDO, and CIDOC CRM
- CONA grows through contributions from repositories of art, the expert cataloging community, and the scholarly community
- Through rich metadata and links, it is hoped that CONA will provide a powerful conduit for research and discovery for digital art history and related disciplines
What is CONA?

What is a minimum record for contribution?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core elements</th>
<th>CONA ID 70000285</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Catalog Level</td>
<td>item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classification</td>
<td>paintings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work Type</td>
<td>painting (visual work)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>scroll (information artifact)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Scene of Early Spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creator</td>
<td>Guo Xi (Chinese painter, 1023 - ca.1085 CE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creation Date</td>
<td>1072 CE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject</td>
<td>landscape</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific</td>
<td>spring (season)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>trees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pinus (genus)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>streams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Location</td>
<td>National Palace Museum (Taipei, Taiwan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repository Number</td>
<td>000053N0000000000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dimensions</td>
<td>158.3 x 108.1 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mat &amp; Tech</td>
<td>painted scroll</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Index ink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>silk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>paper</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Instructions are available to contributors for defaults when core data is unavailable
- The CONA ID is supplied by CONA

What is a minimum record for contribution?

- CONA ID
- Catalog Level
- Classification
- Work Type
- Title
- Creator
- Creation Date
- Subject
- Current Location
- Dimensions
- Materials & Techniques

*Images may be under additional copyright
What is CONA? Subjects

CONA could fill a void, linking depicted subjects

- Titles are free text; cannot reliably indicate subject content
  - Linking to designated, controlled Subject terminology allows the variant terms and other information about the subject to be retrieved, regardless of how it is spelled in the title (e.g., Hercules, Heracles, Herakles, Ercole, Ἡρακλῆς, Херкул)
  - Allows research queries such as “return all works with the subject Irises that were Japanese and available in the Netherlands or France during the years when Vincent van Gogh was working”
  - The word “irises” is not necessarily in the Title

- CONA can provide access by depicted subjects
- Currently, a huge void in work records is subject access
What is CONA? Subjects

CONA could fill a void, linking depicted subjects

- What do end-users want? Subject access is among their top requirements
- Whereas libraries have a tradition of cataloging the subjects of works
- Many art museums typically do not index subject matter depicted in / represented by works
  - [sitters, places, events, iconographical themes, dedication of certain buildings, etc.]
  - In a survey conducted of American art museums’ data, of the core fields (agreed by consensus in CDWA, CCO, etc.), all museums included all core fields except the depicted subject [survey by OCLC (Online Computer Library Center, a nonprofit computer library service and research organization); core fields per CCO and CDWA (Categories for the Description of Works of Art)]

- CONA can provide access by depicted subjects
- Currently, a huge void in work records is subject access
What is CONA?

• CONA can provide subject terms
• To provide access through Depicted Subjects

Depicted Subjects

General
portraits
history and legend

Specific
Antietam National Battlefield
(Sharpsburg, Maryland, United States).
American Civil War (event).
Abraham Lincoln (American president
1809-1865).
John McClernand (American Union
General, 1812-1900).
Allan Pinkerton (American Secret
Service agent, detective, 1819-1884).
army camp.
tents (portable buildings).

Images may be under additional copyright.
CONA ID: 700008510  Class: drawings  Work Type: drawing
Title: Plan and Elevation of the façade of San Lorenzo
Creator: Aristotile da Sangallo after Michelangelo
Date: late 15th century
Measurements: 32.0 x 21.5 cm (12 1/2 x 8 3/8 inches)
Mat & Tech: pen and sepia ink
Location: Staatliche Graphische Sammlung (Munich, Germany) #33258.

**General**
- architecture

**Specific**
- San Lorenzo (built work, Florence, Italy)  
- church 
- façade  
- elevation  
- plan

**Depicted Subjects**
- CONA
- AAT

CONA can provide subject terms
To provide access through Depicted Subjects

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CONA ID: 700008511
Class: Asian art   sculpture   Work Type: sculpture
Title: Bodhisattva, probably Avalokiteshvara (Guanyin),
Creator: unknown Chinese
Culture: Northern Qi dynasty (550-577)
Date: ca. 550–560
Creation Location: Shanxi Province, China
Mat & Tech: sandstone with pigments
Dimensions: height 13 3/4 ft. (419.1 cm)
Current Location: Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York);
The Sackler Fund, 1965 (65.29.4).

• CONA can provide subject terms
• To provide access through Depicted Subjects

Depicted Subjects

General
religion and mythology
human figure(s)

Specific
bodhisattva . . . . . . AAT
Avalokiteshvara. CONA IA
Maitreya . . . . . . . . . CONA IA
compassion . . . . AAT
What is the CONA Iconography Authority?

- The IA includes proper names and other information for named events, themes and stories from religion/mythology, fictional characters, themes from literature, works of literature and performing arts, and fictional places.
- For subjects not described by AAT (generic terms), TGN (geographic names), ULAN (names of people and corporate body), or CONA works.
- The IA is linked to other iconography sources, e.g., LOC authorities or Iconclass.
The CONA Iconography Authority
Named events, religious/mythological iconography, fictional characters and places, themes from literature

- Includes the proper names of subjects not covered by other Getty vocabularies
- The CONA Iconography Authority (IA) is a module within CONA; over time, it could become a stand-alone authority through contributions
- Includes links to other sources, such as Iconclass and the US Library of Congress subject authorities
### Sample record

**ID:** 1000085

**Names:**
- Avalokiteshvara
- Avalokiteśvara
- अवलोकितेश्वर
- Kannon
- Guanyin
- Guānzìzài
- 觀自在
- 觀音
- 觀音菩薩

**AAT link:**
- bodhisattva
- Lotus (genus)
- Mahayana Buddhism
- Theravada Buddhism

**Associative Relationship:**
- associated with Krishna (Hindu iconography)

**Note:** The bodhisattva of infinite compassion and mercy; embodies the compassion of all Buddhas. This bodhisattva is variably depicted and portrayed in different cultures as either female or male...

**Contributors & sources**
- [VP] Encyclopedia Britannica Online (2002-)
- Bowker, Oxford Dictionary of World Religions (1997)
- Huntington, Art of Ancient India (1985)

**Iconclass:** no

**LC:** LC control no.: sh 85010492
Do repositories record subject?

- **Issue**: One of the primary ways by which users want to retrieve information and images of art is by subject content

- However, few repositories of art or of images record subject terms
  - How does the community overcome this problem?
  - We all recognize the problem; but there is no easy solution
Do repositories record subject?

- Repositories of objects would be best source of current data for objects; but do they index subject content?
- OCLC study in 2009
- Cataloging data from 9 art museums was analyzed for compatibility to CCO and CDWA
- See D-Lib Magazine for article on the project
Results of analysis show the percentages of records that have correctly included data for core CCO/CDWA fields

Most museums generally are compliant with most of the core fields

Some are missing data due to incorrect parsing (e.g., work type, role creator, which can be extrapolated and inserted globally in export)

Exception: Only one of the nine museums had subject indexing

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<td>16. Record Type</td>
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<td>100</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
However, subject may often be found in title or work type.

- but how to index it as subject?

- Automated parsing (matched against controlled subject lists) or entered by hand as subject?

- Combination of auto parsing and human editing would be best solution.

**Title:** *Modern Rome–Campo Vaccino*

CONA ID: 700008295  Work Type: painting  
Creator: Joseph Mallord William Turner (English, 1775–1851)  
Date: 1839  
Mat & Tech: oil on canvas  
Dimensions: 36 1/8 x 48 1/4 in. (unframed), 48 1/4 x 60 3/8 x 4 3/8 (framed)  
Current Repository: J. Paul Getty Museum (Los Angeles, California); 2015.6
▪ Using organizational categories for online data to extrapolate that subject = “cityscape”

▪ Example from Getty museum Web site; JPGM is a contributor to CONA

▪ We will try to map this category label to the controlled CCO/CDWA/CONA general subject terms to provide minimum subject access
• Works in art libraries & special collections often have subject access

• In this example, subject access is through the group, not item-level

Subjects: Li, Hongzhang, 1823-1901 -- Portraits.
Zuo, Zongtang, 1812-1886 -- Portraits.
Overseas Missionary Fellowship.
Tian Tan (Beijing, China).
Actors -- China.
Astronomical observatories -- China.
Consuls -- China.
Diplomatic and consular service, British -- Buildings.
Great Wall of China (China).
Ming Tombs (China).
Portraits, Chinese.
Buddhist priests -- China.
Buddhist temples -- China.
Temples, Confucian -- China.
Beijing (China) -- Description and travel.
Great Britain -- Diplomatic and consular service.
Hankou (Wuhan, China) -- Description and travel.
Juijiang (Jiangxi Sheng, China) -- Description and travel.
Lu Mountains (China) -- Description and travel.
Shanghai (China) -- Description and travel.
Suzhou Shi (Jiangsu Sheng, China) -- Description and travel.
Tianjin (China) -- Description and travel.
Yantai (Shandong Sheng, China) -- Description and travel.
Yihe Yuan (Beijing, China) -- Description and travel.

Work Type: photograph  CONA ID 700008639
Title: Portrait of Li Hongzhang in Tianjin  Date: 1878
Creator: Liang Shitai (also known as See Tay) (Chinese, active in Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Tianjin, 1870s–1880s)  Mat & Tech: albumen silver print
Location: Getty Research Institute, 2006.R.1.4
What Is Subject?
Description, Identification, Interpretation
What Is Subject?

- The subject matter of a work of art (sometimes referred to as its content)
- is the narrative, iconic, or non-objective meaning conveyed by a figurative or an abstract composition.
- It is what is depicted in and by a work of art.
- It also covers the function of an object or architecture that otherwise has no narrative content.

- In CONA (per CCO and CDWA) it is broadly defined
- “Core” information
- For all objects, even those that have no “subject” in the traditional sense
What Is Subject?

- The subject matter of a work of art (sometimes referred to as its content)
- is the narrative, iconic, or non-objective meaning conveyed by a figurative or an abstract composition.
- It is what is depicted in and by a work of art.
- It also covers the function of an object or architecture that otherwise has no narrative content.

- Using fields specifically dedicated to subject assures that subject matter is consistently recorded and indexed in the same place using the same conventions for every object represented in the database.
What Is Subject?

You are probably accustomed to thinking of subject in these ways:

But these may also be “subject”:

- Representational, narrative
  - Tells a story
- Representational, not a story
  - Portraits, landscapes, still lifes, genre scenes, architectural drawings, allegories
- Nonrepresentational
  - Abstract
  - Decoration
  - Function
  - Implied themes or attributes
General Subject and Specific Subject

- General subject in CONA is drawn from an extensible controlled list, suggested in CDWA and CCO
- Specific subject is controlled by authorities: ULAN, AAT, TGN, CONA, Iconography Authority
- Minimum requirement for CONA is one general subject term, although a default “undetermined” is available if absolutely necessary
- Additional subject terms would allow better retrieval on subject, within the parameters of specificity and exhaustivity set by your project (= basic-access indexing for CONA editors)
- Do not index trivial features in the composition, only significant ones
### Extensible list of General Subjects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advertising &amp; Commercial</th>
<th>Allegory</th>
<th>Animal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apparel</td>
<td>Architecture</td>
<td>Botanical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cartographic</td>
<td>Ceremonial Object</td>
<td>Cityscape</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Didactic &amp; Propaganda</td>
<td>Funerary Art</td>
<td>Genre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History &amp; Legend</td>
<td>Human Figure</td>
<td>Interior Architecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape</td>
<td>Literary Theme</td>
<td>Machine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military</td>
<td>Mixed Motif</td>
<td>Nonrepresentational Art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object (Utilitarian)</td>
<td>Performance</td>
<td>Portrait</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion and Mythology</td>
<td>Seascape</td>
<td>Still Life</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CONA ID 700008606 Class: sculpture
*Work Type: statue
*Title: Guanyin
*Creator Display: unknown Chinese
*Current Location*: Museum of Fine Arts (Boston, Massachusetts, USA) 20.590

General Subject and Specific Subject

**General Subject:**
- religion and mythology [General ID 31801]

**Specific Subject:**
- man (male human) [AAT 300025928]
- Guanyin [CONA IA 1000085]
- compassion [AAT 300393159]

A Bodhisattva is one who has attained enlightenment, but chooses to remain among humankind to help others achieve it ...
General Subject and Specific Subject

CONA ID 70008607 Catalog Level: item  Class: prints
Work Type: engraving
Title: Capital and base of a column (Vitruvius II)
Creator: Hans Beham
Creation Date: 1543 Qualifier: publication
Current Location: Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki

General Subject: architecture [General ID 30105]

Specific Subject:
- column (architectural element) [AAT 300001571]
- capital (column component) [AAT 300001662]
- base (object component) [AAT 300001656]
- acanthus (motif) [AAT 300164902]

Description, identification, interpretation
What the work is “of” and “about”
Architectural drawings, prints
Description, identification, interpretation
What the work is “of” and “about”
still lifes = fruit, flowers, objects

General Subject and Specific Subject

General Subject: • still life
Specific Subject:
- vase
- apples
- grapes (genus)
- table
- basket
- cloth

CONA ID 700002134 Class*: paintings Work Type*: painting
Title*: Still life with flowers and fruit
Creator/Role*: Claude Monet
Current Location*: J. Paul Getty Museum (Los Angeles, CA), 83.PA.215
Creator: [link] unknown Monet, Claude
Creation Date*: 1869
Mat & Tech: Oil on canvas
Descriptive Note: Although painted in his studio, this still life shows the influence of the outdoor experiments that Claude Monet undertook in the summer and fall of 1869, while he was living in different spots in and around the city of Argenteuil. In the depiction, the tablecloth, sketchy in the apples, and short and dense in the flower petals.
General Subject and Specific Subject

Description, identification, interpretation
• What the work is “of” and “about”
• Common iconographical themes, stories and characters
• Portraits, history & legend, events, geographic places

General Subject:
portraits  history and legend

Specific Subject:
• Battle of Antietam
  (American Civil War)
• United States Army
• president
• war
• Allan Pinkerton
  (American detective, 1819-1884)
• John McClemand
  (American Union
  General, 1812-1900)
• Sharpsburg
  (Maryland, USA)
• tent
• army camp
• stovepipe hat
• campstool
• soldier
• officer
• Abraham Lincoln
  (American president,
  1809-1865)
**General Subject and Specific Subject**

**General Subject:**
- landscape
- allegory

**Specific Subject:**
- bridge
- longing
- irises
- journeying
- love
- Ise Monogatari (Japanese literature)

- Description, identification, interpretation
- What the work is “of” and “about”
- Common iconographical themes, stories and characters
- Allegory, symbolism (e.g., life’s journey)
General Subject and Specific Subject

CONA ID 700000158  Class:  · Roman architecture  
Work Type:  · temple  · rotunda  · church  
Title/Name: Pantheon  Title Type: preferred  
Title/Name: Santa Maria ad Martyres  Title Type: alternate  
Title/Name: Santa Maria Rotunda  Title Type: alternate  
Creator Display: unknown Roman, for the Emperor Hadrian  
*Current Location: Rome (Italy)  
*Role: architect  
*Role: patron  
*Creation Date Display: begun in 27 BCE, completely rebuilt 118/119-125/128  
Culture: Roman  
*Dimensions: dome: 43 m (interior diameter and height) (141 feet); oculus: 8.9 m (diameter)  
Extent: dome,  
Value: 43  
Unit:m  
Type: height  |  
Value: 43  
Unit:m  
Type: diameter  ||  
Extent: oculus  
Value: 8.9  
Unit:m  
Type:diameter  
Material [links]:  · concrete  · stone  · brick  · concrete  · aggregate  
Technique [links]:  ·  
rotunda  
Description: The Pantheon was dedicated to the seven planetary gods in 128 CE. It was consecrated as a church in the early seventh century. It is the major surviving example of Roman concrete-vaulted architecture. It is composed of a domed rotunda attached to a columned entrance portico. Now free-standing, it was originally the focal point of a long, porticoed forecourt.

General Subject:  · architecture  · structure  
Specific Subject:  · worship  
· planetary gods (Greek and Roman mythology)  
· Queen of Martyrs (Virgin Mary)
```
CONA ID 700008608  Catalog Level: item
• Class: •sculpture  •costume  •African art  *Work Type: •mask
*Title: Mask
*Creator Display: unknown Chokwe
Current Location: National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution (Washington, DC, USA)
*Creation Date: 20th century                  :
Current Discovery Location: Democratic Republic of the Congo
Creation Location: Angola
Start: 1900
End: 1999
Style: Muzamba style
Culture: Chokwe
*Dimensions: 39.1 cm (height) (15 3/8 inches)
•Value: 39.1
Unit: cm
Type: height
*Mat & Tech: and Techniques: wood, raffia, metal, and kaolin
Description: Collected in Democratic Republic of the Congo; probably from Angola. In Chokwe villages masks are worn by men in dances to invoke ancestral spirits, to represent spirits found in nature, or to represent men and women or wild animals in a narrative story.

General Subject:
•religion and mythology
•apparel
•human figure
•ceremonial object

Specific Subject:
•face
```
General Subject and Specific Subject

CONA ID 700006921
Classification: antiquities  Work Type: amphora
Title: Panathenaic Prize Amphora with Lid
Creator: attributed to the Painter of the Wedding Procession; signed by Nikodemos
Location: J. Paul Getty Museum (Los Angeles, California, USA)

**General Subject:**
- religion & mythology  *Extent:* general
- object (utilitarian)  *Extent:* general
- ceremonial object  *Extent:* general

**Specific Subject:**
- Athena Promachos (Greek iconography)  *Extent:* side A
- woman  *Extent:* side A
- Nike  *Extent:* side B
- Victor  *Extent:* side B
- competition  *Extent:* side B
- women  *Extent:* side B
- prize  *Extent:* side B

• Use of Extent
• Different parts of the work have different subjects
General Subject and Specific Subject

CONA ID 700008609
Class*: textiles
Work Type*: carpet
Title*: Carpet
Creator/Role*: Savonnerie Manufactory
Current Location*: J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles; 70.DC.63
Creation-Date*: about 1666
Creation-Place: Paris
Mat & Tech: wool and linen
Descriptive Note: Strewn with flowers, vessels filled with fruit and flowers, and large acanthus leaf scrolls, the design of this large carpet centers around a prominent sunflower, the symbol of the Sun King Louis XIV. Images of Chinese blue-and-white porcelain bowls decorate the border; imported in large quantities to France through European trading companies, Asian porcelain was avidly collected by the French king and his court...

General Subject: object (utilitarian)
Specific Subject:
sunflower  fruit
acanthus leaf  flowers
scrolls  Louis XIV (French king, 1638-1715)
General Subject and Specific Subject

General Subject: history & legend
Specific:
• military
• Delaware River (United States)
• Battle of Trenton (American Revolutionary War)
• George Washington (American general and president, 1732-1799)
• river
• troops
• winter
• boat

• Subject may be historical events
What if there is no subject?

Depicted Subject

*General Subject: object (utilitarian) musical

- General Subject should be included, even if there is no figurative or narrative content
- Objects of cultural heritage, e.g., musical instruments, textiles, ceramics, furniture, numismatics, stained glass, tools, artifacts
What if there is no subject?

Depicted Subject

General Subject: nonrepresentational art
Specific Subject: square line

- General Subject should be included, even if there is no figurative or narrative content
- Nonrepresentational art
- May include design elements, motifs
What if there is no subject?

Depicted Subject

**General Subject:**
- nonrepresentational art
- human figure

**Specific Subject:**
- motion
- female nude
- space
- striding

- General Subject should be included, even if there is no figurative or narrative content
- Nonrepresentational art
- May include design elements, motifs

CONA ID 70000009 Catalog Level: item Class: sculpture Modern art
*Work Type: sculpture
*Title: Unique Forms of Continuity in Space
Title: Abstract Bronze Sculpture Title Type: descriptive
*Creator Display: Umberto Boccioni, (Italian, 18821916_)
*Current Location: Museum of Modern Art (New York, New York, USA)
**Depicted Subject**

- **Subject of the painting is a reference to a literary work**
- **Although the visual work itself is not part of a textual work**
- **Dante’s *La Vita Nuova***

**General Subject:** human figures  literary theme  
**Specific Subject:**

- bridge
- flirting
- river
- pigeons
- Ponte Vecchio (Florence, Italy)
- Ponte Santa Trinità (Florence, Italy)
- Arno River (Tuscany, Italy)
- *La Vita Nuova* (Dante Alighieri, 1295)
- Dante Alighieri (Italian poet, 1265-1321)
- Beatrice Portinari (Florentine, 1266–1290)
- Monna Vanna (Florentine, 13th century)
- Eleanor Butcher (British, 1844-1894)
- Milly Hughes (British, 19th century)
- Kitty Lushington (British, 1867-1922)
Description: Isidore, the patron saint of farmers and protector of crops, was a farm laborer employed by a wealthy landowner near Madrid in the early twelfth century. According to legend, Isidore spent so many hours in prayer that he was in danger of falling behind with his farming chores. As a reward for his exceptional piety, divine intervention dispatched an angel to help Isidore finish his plowing on schedule. This miraculous event is the subject of an eighteenth-century New Mexican devotional sculpture, or bulto. The most important figure in a bulto's composition was typically represented as the largest, sacred hierarchy triumphing over naturalism. This is why Isidore towers above the angel, who in turn outranks the oxen, surpassing them in scale. Bultos such as this one were placed in both homes and churches to help enlist a saint's intercession on behalf of a prayerful supplicant. This sculpture of Saint Isidore is attributed to a Franciscan friar, Fray Andrés Garcia. Unfortunately, the face of Saint Isidore has been repainted at least once or twice, and a conclusive attribution is not possible. The Franciscans established missions in New Mexico, the northern frontier of Spanish America, which was first settled at the end of the sixteenth century. Fray Andrés Garcia was a Franciscan friar born in la Puebla de los Angeles, Mexico.

Related Work:

- Bulto. Fray Andrés Garcia. 18th century; Location Unknown

General Subject: • religion and mythology
• another art work

Specific Subject:
• oxen
• human figures
• bulto
• St. Isadore
• farming
• plow
• Andrés Garcia, Bulto

Relationship Type: depicts
Related Work: CONA ID 700008613
Bulto; Fray Andrés Garcia; 18th century; Location Unknown
When one work is depicted in another work
The other work may be linked in Depicted Subject (preferred practice)
And as a Related Work (optional); recommended when one work is a work in its own right, but it also documents the other work

**Title/Name:** The Eiffel Tower: State of the Construction

*Creator Display:* photographer: Louis-Emile Durandelle (French, 1832-1923)

*Current Location:* J. Paul Getty Museum (Los Angeles, California, USA); 87.XM.121.16

*Role*: photographer: Durandelle, Louis-Emile

*Creation Date*: photographed 23 November 1888

*Subject*: Eiffel Tower

*Measuresments*: 17 x 13 3/4 inches

*Mat & Tech*: albumen print

**Title/Name:** Eiffel Tower

*Creator Display:* architect: Gustave Eiffel (French, 1832-1923)

*Current Location:* Paris (France)

*Measuresments*: height: 300 m (984 feet)

**Work Type:** albumen print

**Work Type:** observation tower

Depicted Subject or Associative Relationship?
Deoded Subject or Associative Relationship?

- Subject of a work is another art work
- If the referenced work is not actually depicted in the first work, do not link as related works (Associative Relationship); record only as Depicted Subject

CONA ID 700008615 Catalog Level (cont.): item • Class (cont.): print
Work Type: painting
*Title/Name: Mona Lisa
*Creator Display: Jean-Michel Basquiat
*Creation Date*: 1983
Current Location: Collection Ambrous T. Young, The Estate of Jean-Michel Basquiat

*Measurements:* 169.5 x 154.5 cm
*Mat & Tech: and Techniques:* acrylic and oil stick on canvas

Description: This work seems to be Basquiat's answer to Warhol's Dollar Bill and Mona Lisa paintings. Basquiat usually paints large fields of color by applying broad brush strokes with acrylic paint, while drawing and writing in oil stick. This pattern applies to the orange top part of this painting. The portrait at center, however, has hair, skin and parts of the bust filled-in with repeated oil stick lines. Leonardo's Mona Lisa seems to grow into the dollar note at top, obscuring what would be the face of George Washington. Art and money are two different currencies, even different worlds, which can be converted only with difficulty. The uncompromising and urgent way the artist spent the money he made is legend. In this painting he lets us know that although he loved money his ultimate faith lay in art.

*Source:* Museo d’Arte Modena [online] (2000-)

General Subject: •human figure •satire
Specific Subject:
•Mona Lisa (Leonardo da Vinci, Louvre)
•dollar •valuation •profit •greed
Description, Identification, Interpretation

Depicted Subject

**General Subject**  •  landscape  *Type:* description

**Specific Subject**
- hunters  *Type:* description
- autumn  *Type:* description
- dawn  *Type:* description
- Hudson River (United States)  *Type:* identification
- Storm King Mountain (Orange county, New York, USA)  *Type:* identification
- peace  *Type:* interpretation
- harmony  *Type:* interpretation
- nature  *Type:* interpretation

**Work Type:** painting

*Title:* Autumn: On the Hudson River

*Creator Display:* Jasper Francis Cropsey (American painter, 1823-1900)

*Current Location:* National Gallery of Art (Washington, DC, USA)

*Creation Location:* London (England)

*Role:* painter

*Creation Date Display:* 1860

*Measurements:* 151.8 x 274.9 cm  (59 3/4 x 108 1/4 inches)

*Material:* oil paint

*Canvas:* oil on canvas

*Technique:* painting

Description: This monumental view of the Hudson River Valley was painted from memory in the artist's London studio. Cropsey adopted a high vantage point, looking southeast toward the Storm King Mountain and beyond. In the distance, the green of the Storm King Mountain is seen through the haze of autumn, and the river reflects the golden yellow of the foliage and the blue of the sky. In the foreground, provided by the meandering tributary, there are signs of man's peaceful coexistence with nature.

Description Source: National Gallery of Art online. (accessed 29 July 2009)
Specificity and Exhaustivity

Depicted Subject

- As with any other data, do not guess when identifying Subject; only verified identification
- Broad and accurate is better than specific but incorrect
- e.g., “butterfly” is better than incorrectly labeling it “Blue Morpho”

**General Subject:**
- animal
- botanical

**Specific Subject:**
- pomegranate (Punica granatum)
- Blue Morpho (Morpho menelaus)
- Banded Sphinx Moth (Eumorph fasciatus)

CONA ID 700008616 Catalog Level: item
Class: prints and drawings  Work Type: print
Title: Pomegranate with Blue Morpho Butterflies
Creator: Maria Sibylla Merian
Creation Date: ca. 1705
Current Location: The Royal Collection (London, England)

In this case, the repository has identified the species in the title and elsewhere
Specificity and Exhaustivity

Depicted Subject

**General Subject:**
religion and mythology    allegory

**Specific Subject:**
description
men    women    peacock    dog
apple tree

identification
Judgment of Paris (Greek mythology)
contest
Trojan War (Greek legends)
Aphrodite (Greek goddess)
Athena (Greek goddess)
Hera (Greek goddess)

interpretation
victory of love over war
beauty
love
marriage

• Specificity: Index identified or interpreted subjects as specifically as possible given authoritative information
• Exhaustivity: Index only significant aspects of the subject or prominent visual features; only one term, General Subject, is required

CONA ID 700008551
Class: paintings
Work Type: painting
Title: Judgement of the Goddesses
Creator: Peter Paul Rubens
Depicted Subject

CONA ID 70000215  Catalog Level: item  Class: paintings
Work Type: painting
Title: Magdaleine Pinceloup de la Grange
Creator Display: Jean-Baptiste Perroneau (French painter, ca. 1715-1783)
*Current Location: J. Paul Getty Museum (Los Angeles, California, USA)
ID: 84.PA.664* Role [cont.]: painter     : Perroneau, Jean-Baptiste*Creation Date: 1747   [cont.]:  Start: 1747   End: 1747*Subjects: [link to Personal/Corp. Name Authority]Pinceloup de la Grange, Magdaleine (French aristocrat, 18th century)[link to Concept Authority]: portraitdomestic cat (animal)*Measurements: 65 x 54 cm (25 5/8 x 21 3/8 inches)
[controlled]   Value: 65  Unit: cm  Type: height
Value: 54  Unit: cm  Type: width*Mat & Tech: and Techniques: oil on canvas
oil paint    canvas
Description: The sitter was from the provincial French region of Orléans, but the artist imbued her with Parisian... she holds is known as a "Chartreux cat," descriptions of which first appeared in 18th-century France. While at this time valued as a companion animal, it was primarily bred for its fur.

Note Source: J. Paul Getty Museum online. (accessed 10 February 2009)
Related Work: Relationship type [cont.]: pendant of
[link to work]: Charles-François Pinceloup de la Grange, Jean-Baptiste Perroneau, painting, 1747, 84.PA.664
General Subject: portrait
Specific Subject: • Pinceloup de la Grange, Magdaleine (French aristocrat, 18th century) • Felis domesticus (species)

AAT ID 300265960
Terms
• Felis domesticus (species)
• domestic cat (species)
• house cat (species)
• Felis catus (species)

ULAN ID 500312828
Names
• Pinceloup de la Grange, Magdaleine
• Parseval, Magdaleine

• Link to ULAN for all people and corporate bodies who are the subject of the work
• Link to AAT for all generic terms that are the subjects of the work, including species
• For subjects that are geographic places, link to TGN
• For subjects that are architecture or other works, link to another CONA record
Controlled by AAT, ULAN, TGN, CONA, and CONA IA

Depicted Subject

CONA: ID 700008633  Class.: manuscripts maps
Work Type: cityscape   map
Title: Map of Constantinople
Title: Karte von Konstantinopel
Creator: Cristoforo Buondelmonti
Date: 1422
Current Location: Bibliothèque nationale de France

General Subject: cityscape   architecture
Specific Subject:
- Constantinople (inhabited place)
- Hagia Sophia (built work)

part of:
Liber insularum archipelagi   CONA 700008634

TGN ID 7002473
Names
- Istanbul
- Constantinople
- Konstantinopel

CONA ID 70000141
Terms
- Hagia Sophia
- Ayasofya
- Αγία Σοφία
- Sancta Sophia

- Link to AAT for all generic terms that are the subjects of the work, including species
- For subjects that are geographic places, link to TGN
- For subjects that are architecture or other works, link to another CONA record
The CONA Iconography Authority contains records for subjects not in the AAT, ULAN, TGN, or CONA.

The CONA IA includes records for named events, religious/mythological iconography, fictional characters and places, themes from literature.

CONA ID 70000012
Class: Precolombian art
Work Type: vessel
Title: Vessel with Mythological Scene
Creator Display: unknown Maya
Current Location: Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, New York, USA) ID: 1978.412.206

Role: artist
Creation Date: 8th century
Start: 0700
End: 0799

Subject display: Scene in the realm of the Lords of Death, with Baby Jaguar and a skeleton

Creation Location: Petén Department (Guatemala)

Measurements: height: 14 cm (5 ½ inches)

Mat & Tech: terracotta vase painting

Description: Straight-sided ceramic vessels with painted decoration comprising complex scenes were common in eighth-century Maya art. The "codex-style" painting depicts a scene in the realm of the Lords of Death, where a dancing figure holds a long-handled axe and a handstone. On a monster-head altar lies Baby Jaguar, a deity figure, and beside the altar is a dancing, a skeletal death figure. The meaning has been variously interpreted as depicting either sacrifice or celebration.

Note: Metropolitan Museum of Art on line
General Subject: religion and mythology
Specific Subject: Xibalba (Maya iconography) skeleton underworld death ax altar Baby Jaguar (Mayan king) celebration

AAT ID 300191778
Terms
skeleton [English]
beendergestel [Dutch]
esqueleto [Spanish]
squelette [Italian]
骨架 [Chinese]

ULAN ID 500329587
Names
Unen Bahlam
Baby Jaguar

CONA IA ID 1000045
Names
Xibalba
Place of Fear
Part 2: Subject in More Detail
Subject Analysis and Indexing

More on Description, Identification, Interpretation
Analyzing the subject

- Three levels of analysis
  - **Objective description**
  - **Identification** of named subject
  - **Interpretation** of the meaning or theme

Loosely based on method prescribed by Erwin Panofsky

- Editors: Never index beyond what is provided by the contributor or evident in the associated documentation
- Your goal is minimal indexing and basic-access indexing
Title: Adoration of the Magi
Creator: Mantegna; Italian;
Date: 1495-1505     Mat & Tech: distemper on linen
Dimensions: sight size: 19 1/8 x 25 7/8 inches
Location: J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles. 85.PA.417

General Subject: religion and mythology

Specific Subject:
- woman
- baby
- men
- vessels
- porcelain
- coins

Three levels of analysis
- Objective description
- Identification of named subject
- Interpretation of meaning or theme
General Subject: religion and mythology

Specific Subject:
- Adoration of the Magi
- Mary
- Jesus
- Joseph
- Magi
- Melchior
- Caspar
- Balthasar
- gifts
- gold
- frankincense
- myrrh

Identification

Three levels of analysis
- Objective description
- Identification of named subject
- Interpretation of meaning or theme

Title: Adoration of the Magi  Creator: Mantegna; Italian;
Date: 1495-1505   Mat & Tech: distemper on linen
Dimensions: sight size: 19 1/8 x 25 7/8 inches
Location: J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles. 85.PA.417
General Subject: religion and mythology

Specific Subject:
- Epiphany
- races
- Ages of Man
- globalism
- king
- deity
- death
- low-relief

- Three levels of analysis
  - Objective description
  - Identification of named subject
  - Interpretation of meaning or theme

Title: Adoration of the Magi  Creator: Mantegna; Italian;
Date: 1495-1505  Mat & Tech: distemper on linen
Dimensions: sight size: 19 1/8 x 25 7/8 inches
Location: J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles. 85.PA.417
May be used as a systematic method for analysis, even if the three levels are not labeled.
Three levels of analysis

- Description
  - Identification
  - Interpretation

CONA ID 700008641 Class.: Manuscripts  Work
Type: folio
Creator: unknown Franco-Flemish
Role: illuminator
Current Location: J. Paul Getty Museum (Los Angeles, California, USA)
Repository Number: 83.MR.173.72
Culture: Franco-Flemish
Place Created: Thérouanne ?, France (formerly known as the Abbey of St. John-at-Thérouanne)
Repository Number: ObjectID: 5459

General Subject:
- animal
- religion and mythology
- literary theme
- allegory

Specific Subject:
Pelecanus (genus)
- blood
- feeding

Hugh of Fouilloy, *De Avibus*
Psalms: 102:6
Holy Eucharist
Resurrection of Christ

**Issue:** But if you do not label indexing type, *identification* and *interpretation*, you cannot reliably distinguish a portrayal of the religious/mythological event “Resurrection” from this allegory for the “Resurrection”

- If this distinction is important to your project, label it
- For CONA, normally it is okay overall if it is not labeled, as users can figure it out in retrieval lists
CONA Work: Depicted Subject fields

Links to General Subject extensible list and Specific Subject links to CONA, ULAN, TGN, AAT, and CONA

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<th>Other Displays</th>
<th>Events</th>
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References to Iconclass, Library of Congress Authorities, or other published authorities are possible

Detail of Work Record
CONA ID 700000178
The CONA Iconography Authority contains records for subjects not in the AAT, ULAN, TGN, or CONA. The CONA IA includes records for named events, religious/mythological iconography, fictional characters and places, themes from literature. It includes variant names, sources, hierarchical and associative relationships; links to AAT, TGN, ULAN, and CONA.

**Detail of CONA IA record**

**IA ID 1000021**

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**Language Code**

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<td>English</td>
<td>N</td>
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<td>Spanish</td>
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**Source**

- Encyclopedia Britannica Online (2002)
The CONA Iconography Authority contains records for subjects not in the AAT, ULAN, TGN, or CONA. The CONA IA includes records for named events, religious/mythological iconography, fictional characters and places, themes from literature. It includes variant names, sources, hierarchical and associative relationships; links to AAT, TGN, ULAN, and CONA.

### Iconography Authority

**Associative relationships in I.A., also links to AAT, TGN, and ULAN**

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<td>Uma</td>
<td>1000022</td>
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**Hierarchical relationships**

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Detail of CONA IA record IA ID 1000021
General Subject

- General Depicted Subject chosen from controlled list in CONA
### General Subject

- An extensible list
- New terms are added if necessary based on contributions

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<td>31951</td>
<td>another art work</td>
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</table>
CONA allows you to list Indexing Type and Subject Extent, if applicable and supported by incoming data

[Editors: Generally, do not take time for this]
Subjects from ULAN

- ULAN is used to record artist and repository of the CONA object

- But is also linked to Depicted Subject, in order to control names of any person or corporate body that is a subject of the work
CONA ID 700000138 Work Type: sculpture
Title: Bust of Jacob van Reygersberg
Creator: Rombout Verhulst  Date: 1671
Mat & Tech: marble; height: 24 3/4 inches
Location: J. Paul Getty Museum (Los Angeles, California); 84.SA.743

• Subjects that are historical people (vs. fictional) are controlled by ULAN

• **Issue:** Scope of ULAN was originally artists, architectural firms, repositories
  • Facet for non-artists has been added in ULAN, to record patrons and sitters, etc.; legacy ULAN had already included many patrons, rulers, etc., so precedent existed
Subjects from TGN

- TGN is used to record the geographic location of a work in CONA
- But is also linked to Depicted Subject, to control names of any existing or historical place depicted in the work
Title: Boy Viewing Mount Fuji
CONA ID: 700008643  Work Type: painting
Creator: Katsushika Hokusai, (Japanese, 1760-1849)
Date: 1839, Edo period
Mat & Tech: ink and color on silk
Dimensions: height: 127.0 width: 69.2 cm
Location: Freer Sackler Museums, Smithsonian Institution; Washington (DC); Gift of Charles Lang Freer; F1898.110

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<tr>
<th>Depicted Label</th>
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<th>TGN ID</th>
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<td>Fuji, Mount (Ch$01ubu, Nihon, Asia, World, Top of the</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1107685</td>
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</table>

- Physical features (e.g., mountains) and administrative places (e.g., cities, empires) are controlled by TGN
Subjects from AAT

- AAT is used to record the work type, materials, style, etc. of a work in CONA
- But is also linked to Depicted Subject, to control generic terms describing the subject
- AAT and all of the Getty vocabularies are thesauri; the variant terms and hierarchical links may be used in retrieval of the works
Terms in other languages and hierarchy of “Nature” in the AAT may be used to retrieve van Gogh’s Irises in CONA.
• **Issue:** Are required generic subject terms (i.e., non-proper names) within scope of AAT?
• Yes. The scope of AAT allows generic terms for subject access
• For example, physical activities

- cruising
- driving
- embracing
- fainting
- gambling
- games
- gymnastics
- kneeling
- walking

- This is an example of how adding works to CONA requires adding new terms/names to AAT, TGN, and ULAN, as well as to the CONA IA
Subjects from the CONA Iconography Authority

- The CONA Iconography Authority (IA), contains names/terms and other information for iconography and other subject terminology not contained in the other linked vocabularies.
- The IA includes proper names for events, religion/mythology, fictional characters, named animals, themes from literature, and fictional places.
- E.g., mythological and fictional places (e.g., Xibalba), characters (e.g., Zeus), the names of specific events, (e.g., American Civil War), or iconographic themes (e.g., the Adoration of the Magi).
• CONA Iconography Authority is a thesaurus in structure
• Includes equivalence, hierarchical, and associative relationships
• Links to AAT, ULAN, TGN, other CONA IA records
- Includes basic searching capabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Iconography Id</th>
<th>Pref Term</th>
<th>Matching Term</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1000045Xibalb$00a</td>
<td>Xibalb$00a</td>
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</table>
• In CONA IA, links are made to ULAN and other vocabs.

Herod Antipas in ULAN is linked to John the Baptist in CONA IA
### Iconography Id: 1000085
### Iconography Parent: 1000065
### Iconography Type: Religion/Mythology
### Descriptive Note:
The bodhisattva of infinite compassion and mercy, possibly the supreme exemplifier of the bodhisattva's resolve to postponed self-emancipation, helped every being on earth achieve emancipation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Language Code</th>
<th>Source</th>
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<tr>
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<td>觀音菩薩</td>
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</table>

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Subject may be another art work in CONA

- CONA Depicted Subject fields link to other CONA records
- (separately from Associative Relationships, which are also links between CONA records)
Subject for this photograph of the Eiffel Tower under construction is the built work, Eiffel Tower.
• Variant names for the built work can now be used to retrieve the record for the photograph through the link.
Subjects from other sources

- CONA allows references to other sources of subject, such as Iconclass or LC subject headings
- For contributors who are already using these sources for subject indexing
- These references are in the Depicted Subject of the Work record (not in the CONA IA)
### Iconclass

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<th>Outside Iconography</th>
<th>Culture/Style</th>
<th>Other Displays</th>
<th>Events</th>
<th>Subject Contribs/Sources</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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### LC subject headings

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<td>Little Bighorn, Battle of the, Mont., 1876</td>
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Issues in Subject Analysis and Indexing

Problems and solutions
Subjects in which authority?

• **Issue:** Where to place subjects that conceptually could belong to multiple vocabularies/authorities? Examples:

  • What if a place is known in literature, but exact location is unknown?
    • TGN = “lost settlement”
    • but a mythical place is in CONA Iconography Authority

  • What if a person is probably historical, but a large legend and iconography surrounds the person?
    • John the Baptist in CONA IA “Christian iconography”
    • but Herod Antipas in ULAN non-artists as a ruler
CONA ID: 700008510  Class: drawings
Work Type: drawing
Title: Plan and Elevation of the façade of San Lorenzo
Creator: Aristotile da Sangallo after Michelangelo
Location: Staatliche Graphische Sammlung (Munich, Germany) #33258.
Date: late 15th-century.

**General Subject:** architecture

**Specific Subject:**
- San Lorenzo (Florence, Italy) (built work)
- church
- façade
- elevation
- plan

**Issue:** This façade was never constructed. Link to built work?

**Issue:** As a design drawing, link also as an Associative Relationship to the actual built work?

- Combine a link to the CONA record with links to AAT and other vocabularies for thorough indexing of subject
- Use Subject to record method of representation and purpose for architectural drawings
Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres; Study for the Dress and the Hands of Madame Moitessier; 1851; graphite on tracing paper, squared in black chalk; 13 15/16 x 6 5/8 inches; J. Paul Getty Museum (Los Angeles, California); 91.GG.79

Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres; Madame Moitessier; 1851; Samuel H. Kress Collection, National Gallery of Art (Washington, DC); 1946.7.18

**Issue:** In this case, the painting is not the Subject of the drawing
The drawing is part of the creative process in creating the painting, thus linked as a Related Work
The Subject of both the drawing and the painting is Madame Moitessier

**Linked as Related Works (Associative Rel.)**
For non-narrative works

- Works without narrative subject content should also have subject term
- General subject term could be, for example, “architecture” or “object (utilitarian),” extrapolated from object type
General Subject may be “architecture”
Specific Subject is not required
• Dedication of a church or temple may be indexed in Subject
• E.g., “Holy Wisdom”

for Hagia Sophia
Is there a subject?

**General Subject:** object (utilitarian)

**Specific Subject:**
- Earth
- geography
- cartography

- Subject for furniture and decorative arts
- function of musical instruments, textiles, ceramics, furniture, numismatics, stained glass, tools, artifacts
- what is it “of” or “about”
Is there a subject?

- Subject should be included even if there is no figurative or narrative content
- What is it “of” or “about”
- Nonrepresentational art
- Specific Subject is not required; in this case, the repository notes it as ‘interior’ as subject, indicating purpose, of sorts

**General Subject:**
nonrepresentational art

**Specific Subject:**
interior
**General Subject:**
- botanical
- literary theme

**Specific Subject:**
- herbal (reference source)
- De medicina ex animalibus, Sextus Placitus of Papyra (active ca. 370 CE)
- Stachys (genus)
- remedy

**Inscriptions:** Discussion of the plant betony (vetonica, genus Stachys), which according to the text, has a wide variety of uses, including curing nightmares, sore eyes, toothaches, stomachaches, nosebleeds, and constipation.
Is there a subject?

**General Subject:**
performance

**Specific Subject:**
- men
- Vietnam War
- death
- remorse

- Performance art also has Subject
- Objects, props, people, function, as well as the meaning or symbolism of the performance
Specificity and Exhaustivity

What are they?

- Refers to the precision and quantity of terms applied to a particular element
  
  *Specificity* refers to the degree of precision or *granularity* used (e.g., *campanile* rather *tower*)
  
  *Exhaustivity* refers to the degree of depth and breadth that the cataloger uses, often expressed by using a larger number of index terms or a more detailed description

- The greater the level of specificity and exhaustivity in catalog records, the more valuable the records will be
- however, practical considerations often limit this

- Issue: Is it useful to index every item in the scene? If not, where do you draw the limit?
Specificity and Exhaustivity

How many terms are required?

- For CONA, one subject term is required, a general subject designation
  - although it is strongly encouraged to include specific subject terms too
- As a last resort, “undetermined” may be sometimes allowed in if no subject can be extrapolated
Specificity and Exhaustivity

Cater your approach
• Consider the characteristics of the collection
• Available human resources, time, available technology
• Needs of end-users in retrieval
• Accommodate expert and non-expert alike
• Indexing every minor object in a work is not helpful
  • Establish rules regarding the number of terms to assign and method of analyzing
    • description - identification - interpretation
    • major elements to minor ones, etc.
    • foreground to background, top to bottom

Why index “sparver bed”? True, not important to the iconography; but a) it is such an excellent depiction of this type of Medieval bed in use, that it may be of interest to furniture historians, and b) it is an important (not trivial) element of the composition.

CONA ID 700008646 Work Type: painting
Title: Death and the Miser
Creator: Hieronymus Bosch (Netherlandish, ca. 1450-1516)
Current Location: National Gallery of Art (Washington), Samuel H. Kress Collection, 1952.5.33
Date: ca. 1485/1490
Medium & Tech: oil on panel
Dimensions: .930 x .310 m (36 5/8 x 12 3/16 inches)
General Subject: literary theme
Specific Subject: • skeleton
• death • man • miser • angel
• devils • sparver bed • deathbed
• Death and the Miser • greed
Specificity and Exhaustivity

CONA ID 70000859 Record Type: collection
Class: photographs   European art
Work Type: albumen prints
Title: Views of Paris and Environs and the Exposition Universelle
Current Location Getty Research Institute, Research Library, Special Collections (Los Angeles, California, USA)    ID: 93-F101

**General Subject:**
- architecture   - various subjects

**Specific Subject:**
- views   - Paris (France)
- International Exposition of 1889 (Paris, France)   - Versailles Palace (Versailles, France)
- Parc de Saint-Cloud (Paris, France)   - Parc du Champ de Mars (Paris, France)   - travel

- For a collection or group
- General Subject includes *various subjects*
- For Specific Subject, either record subjects of all or the most important works in the group
- In addition, or instead, if there will be item-level records, include subjects for items in works for individual works
What if subject is unknown or uncertain?

- As with all indexing, better to be accurate and broad than incorrect and specific
- May index multiple subjects if scholarly opinion is divided
- If authoritative opinion on the subject content has changed over time, list current and historical to allow retrieval
Subject is unknown or uncertain

- Do not guess
- Broad and accurate is better than specific but incorrect
- e.g., do not identify the abstract animals as “squirrels” unless you are certain due to authoritative sources

CONA ID 700000118
Work Type: mola Title: Kuni Mola
Creator: unknown Kuni
Date: ca. 1922
Location: National Museum of the American Indian

General Subject: · apparel · animals
Specific Subject: · squirrels (animals) · tree · branches · cages · Usgwinni mor · nature · dreams · creation myth · Tree of Life (Baluwala legend, Kuna culture iconography) · Olouaipipilele · Sun-God · tree · cutting down (felling)
Subject is unknown or uncertain

Cona ID 70000851  Work Type: sculpture
Title: Bodhisattva, probably Avalokiteshvara (Guanyin)
Current Location: Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York); The Sackler Fund, 1965 (65.29.4).

General Subject:
- religion and mythology
- human figure(s)

Specific Subject:
- bodhisattva
- Avalokiteshvara
- Maitreya
- compassion

- When subject is uncertain due to scholarly debate, list multiple possibilities (Avalokiteshvara or Maitreya)
- Descriptive Note field may be used to explain the controversy
Former Subjects

General Subject: portrait
Specific Subject:
Francesco Guardi (Italian nobleman, born 1514)
Cosimo I de' Medici (Grand duke of Tuscany and patron of the arts, 1519-1574)
halberdier
nobleman

A work may have former subject designations
Index all
How to index subject of the work at hand

- Subject of the work at hand (vs. subject as a topic as represented in the Iconography Authority)

  - **Issue:** In the Work record, do you need to include specific topics related to the subject, if those specific topics are already part of the authority record?

  - **Recommendation:** Yes. For the work at hand, index those aspects of the subject that are apparent or important

  - Particularly where those terms represent aspects of the subject that are unusual or particular for the work at hand
- **Issue:** Not all aspects of a subject topic are necessarily portrayed in every work having that subject.
- E.g., Adoration of the Magi, cast of characters, animals, allegorical themes.
• Are the three ages of man portrayed in this work? **Yes**

• Are the three races of man portrayed? **No**

Other important iconography:
* Jerusalem = Siena;
* Journey of the Magi at top
* Both kings and astrologers with Phrygian caps;

* unbeliever rustic groom contrasted with believers Magi and retinue
This later painting has both three ages of man and the three races of man.
This one also has both three ages of man and the three races of man

Structure of the stable (new Church) built upon ancient ruins (the old order, Pagans)
This one also has both three ages of man and the three races of man.
Notably no animals, no other elements of the story other than the figures.
Close-up view is reference to a Roman relief.
This one has Adoration and Journey of Magi

Animals not just ox, ass, horses, and camels, but a peacock (symbol of eternal life via incorruptable flesh)
Balthazar, Gaspar, Melchior are characters in Western art, but not in all Christian art

Syrian Christians’ names for the Magi are Larvandad, Gushnasaph, and Hormisdas

Are you sure of which characters these are?

If not, better to index Adoration of the Magi as a Specific Subject, do not name the Magi unless you are certain, based on authoritative sources.