The Getty Vocabularies: Project to Publish as Linked Open Data

Status of the project
Linked Open Data (LOD) has the potential to transform the way research is conducted and create a truly global research community. The data is described semantically following linked data principles using the Resource Description Framework (RDF) format. This format enables direct access and use of Vocabulary data by computer applications.

As of February 2014, the AAT is published to the LOD cloud under the ODC_BY 1.0 license. Explore the AAT data at our SPARQL endpoint: http://vocab.getty.edu/. Plans are in place to publish the other Getty vocabularies as LOD on the following dates: TGN in July 2014, ULAN in January 2015, and CONA in July 2015. The sequence was chosen to take advantage of the way the vocabularies are connected: AAT is linked to itself; TGN pulls from AAT; ULAN from AAT and TGN; and CONA from all three. We also intend to publish LOD versions of our lookup lists (e.g., languages, roles, nationalities, place types, and bibliographic sources).

Working with the community
We have established an open community and continue to compile a contact list of interested parties: if you are interested in participating, please send your contact information to vocabLOD@getty.edu.

What are the Getty vocabularies?
The AAT, ULAN, TGN, and CONA are structured vocabularies that comply with national and international standards for thesaurus construction. They contain multilingual terminology and other linked data for art, architecture, conservation, archaeology, and other cultural heritage. The Getty vocabularies grow largely through contributions from the user community.

AAT, the Art & Architecture Thesaurus®, includes generic terms for work types, roles, materials, styles, cultures, techniques (e.g., oil paint, amphora, orthographic drawings, sintering, Early Renaissance, Buddhism).

ULAN, the Union List of Artist Names®, includes artists, architects, firms, studios, repositories, patrons, sitters, both named and anonymous (e.g., Christopher Wren, Master of Barberino, Altobelli & Molins, Gallerie degli Uffizi).

TGN, the Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names®, includes cities, nations, empires, archaeological sites, and physical features (e.g., Los Angeles, Herculaneum, Ottoman Empire, Volcán Popocatépetl).

CONA, the Cultural Objects Name Authority®, is a new vocabulary now available for contributions. It contains a growing number of authority records for movable works (museum objects) and architecture (e.g., Mona Lisa, Empire State Building).