Context and background:

- What are the Getty Vocabularies? What was original mission? What are they used for?
Getty Vocabularies

- Compiled and maintained by the Vocabulary Program
- **Art & Architecture Thesaurus® (AAT)**
  - 34,000 ‘records’; 131,000 terms
- Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names® (TGN)
  - 912,000 ‘records’; 1,106,000 names
- Union List of Artist Names® (ULAN)
  - 120,000 ‘records’; 293,000 names
- Cultural Objects Name Authority™ (CONA)
  - in development, release date: 2011

- Documentation, cataloging, retrieval of Visual Arts & Architecture
- Are compiled resources (not comprehensive)
- Will grow by 10s of thousands, millions, with contributions
- May be licensed (collection management systems, others)

The compiled vocabularies are copyrighted by the Getty

- They are licensed to institutions and businesses
- They are implemented in The Museum System (TMS) and other information systems at the Getty and in the broader art information community
- Each of the vocabularies can also be accessed on line, refreshed biweekly
- Licensed files available in relational tables and XML UTF-8 format, updates available biweekly via APIs
History:

- The AAT, ULAN, and TGN were begun in the mid-1980s
- To meet the needs of the Getty and outside art museum, visual resources, archives, and art library communities for authoritative vocabularies to aid in the indexing and retrieval of art information
- Each was conceived and constructed differently, with the AAT originally located in Williamstown, Massachusetts
- Data structure, editorial rules, systems, management were united in 1995 in Los Angeles

Elements of a ULAN record:

- Linked to each artist record are names, related artists, sources for the data, and notes.
Elements of a ULAN record

**SCOPE:**
Artists, architects, craftsmen, major patrons (emperors, popes, etc.), firms, studios, repositories, unknown artist designations (e.g., unknown Celtic).
Elements of a TGN record

**names**
- Munich
- München
- Monaco
- München

**place**
- 7004333

**parent place**
- Germany
- Bavaria
- Oberbayern

**geographic coordinates**
- 48 08 N, 011 35 E

**note**
- Capital of Bavaria and the third-largest city in Germany; is situated on both sides of the Isar River, north of the Alps. Henry the Lion, duke of Bavaria, established it in 1157 as a mint and market for Benedictine monks from Tegernsee.

**dates**
- founded near an older settlement in 1157

**place types**
- inhabited place
- state capital

**bibliography**
Elements of a TGN record

SCOPE:
Cities, towns, villages, nations, empires, archaeological sites, deserted settlements, former states

Elements of an AAT record

concept
11329

names/terms
travertine
cobble
travertine marble
cobblestone
roachstone
lapis tiburtinus
Elements of an AAT record

**parent concept**
Materials Hierarchy
---------limestone
..........sinter
...............travertine

**scope note**
A dense, crystalline or microcrystalline limestone that was formed by the evaporation of river or spring waters. It is named after Tivoli (Tibur in Latin), Italy, where large deposits occur, and it is characterized by a light color and the ability to take a good polish. It is distinguished from *tufa* by being harder and stronger.

**names/terms**
travertine
travertine marble
travertine stone
roachstone
lapis tiburtinus

**related concepts**
tufa
onyx marble

**sources**
Sturgis, Russell, Dictionary of Architecture and Building; Roberts, Michael J., Construction Industry Thesaurus; American Geological Institute, Dictionary of Geological Terms; Encyclopaedia Britannica

---

Elements of an AAT record

**SCOPE:**
- Terms for cataloging art, architecture, archaeology, related disciplines
- Conceptually organized in a scheme that proceeds from abstract concepts to concrete, physical artifacts
- Facets are the top level of the AAT structure
- AAT is not organized by subject matter or discipline

**table:**
- Associated Concepts
- Physical Attributes
- Styles and Periods
- Agents
- Activities
- Materials
- Objects
Elements of a CONA record

titles/names
Irises
Les Iris
Piante di iris
Die Irises
Irysy
Irissen

work
800123

record is identified with a persistent unique numeric ID

- New Getty Vocabulary in development
- Cultural Objects Name Authority
- CONA

CONA
• The current three Getty vocabularies have the same core data model
• The same model will work for CONA

Elements of a CONA record

titles/names
Irises
Les Iris
Piante di iris
Die Irises
Irysy
Irissen

creator
Vincent van Gogh
(Dutch, 1853-1890)

work type
painting

date
1889

work
800123

style
Post Impressionist

materials
oil on canvas, applied with brush and palette knife
measurements
71 x 93 cm (28 x 36 5/8 inches)

date
1889

subject
botanical
nature
irises
regeneration
soil

current location
Paul Getty Museum (Los Angeles, California, United States)

creation location
Saint Rémy de Provence (Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur, France)

notes
This work was painted when the artist was recuperating from a severe attack of mental illness; it depicts the garden at the asylum at Saint Rémy...

sources
Elements of a CONA record

SCOPE:
• Built works and
• Movable works (paintings, drawings, prints, rare books, sculpture, decorative arts, costume, etc.)
• Both extant and planned or lost

Development of the Conservation Thesaurus

The Getty Conservation Institute is embarking on the development of a conservation thesaurus to improve consistency in indexing the professional literature, enable users of AATA Online to perform vocabulary-assisted searches, and ultimately facilitate cataloguing and retrieval of conservation holdings. The GCI looks forward to working with members of the field throughout the course of the project.

Evaluation to date:
AATA terminology is a 70% match with existing AAT.
Conservation thesaurus would fit into the structure of the more generic AAT.

Linked at many points.

Would include brand names and other terms outside the scope of AAT.
simplified Entity Relationship Diagram for Getty Vocabularies

SUBJECT
MAIN TABLE
basic record information, unique ID, parent_key, record type, descriptive/scope note, flags

NAMES / TERMS
multiple names, one is flagged preferred; dates for names

• Terms also identified by an ID

• All three Getty vocabularies have a common structure

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Equivalence relationships between terms/names that are linked to the same concept ID

Hierarchical relationships between different concept IDs; each record is linked to its immediate parent

Associative relationships between different concept IDs; are reciprocal

ASSOCIATIVE RELATIONSHIPS
links between subjects, dates

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simplified Entity Relationship Diagram for Getty Vocabularies

SUBJECT
MAIN TABLE
basic record information, unique ID, parent_key, record type, descriptive/scope note, flags

NAMES / TERMS
multiple names, one is flagged preferred; dates for names

Coordinates (TGN)

Events (ULAN)

Biography (ULAN)

Revision History
editor name, action, date of action

PLACE TYPES/ROLES
(ULAN, TGN) multiple place types or roles, one is flagged preferred, dates

ASSOCIATIVE RELATIONSHIPS
links between subjects, dates

• TGN and ULAN additional tables

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Source controlled

Relationship Types controlled

Language controlled

Contributor controlled

Nationality controlled (ULAN)

Events controlled (ULAN)

Location controlled (ULAN)

Place Type / Role controlled (TGN, ULAN)

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• Controlled values identified by IDs, other shorter controlled lists in the DB simply list terminology (e.g., "preferred," "non-preferred").
• Publication and licensing
• Compliance with national and international standards

• The Getty vocabularies are used by various audiences
  • by catalogers or indexers who are describing works of art, archival materials, visual surrogates, or bibliographic materials
  • by researchers
  • by systems implementers creating search tools to enhance end-user access to online resources
• The Getty vocabularies are used by various audiences
  • by catalogers or indexers who are describing works of art, archival materials, visual surrogates, or bibliographic materials
  • by researchers
  • by systems implementers creating search tools to enhance end-user access to online resources

• There are over 200 licenses for the vocabularies, which may each represent a large number of users of a vendor’s system
• In addition, the online Web presentation of the vocabularies typically supports around 160,000 sessions by users each month
• Making the Getty vocabularies the most frequently used online resource at the Getty Research Institute, and among the most heavily accessed at the Getty as a whole

Vocab online usage 1st quarter FY2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>July-09</th>
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<th>Sept-09</th>
<th>TOTALS</th>
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<td>11,703</td>
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<td><strong>48,424</strong></td>
<td><strong>56,477</strong></td>
<td><strong>155,659</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vocabs’ usage in the context of other Getty wide pages

The Getty vocabularies comply with national and international standards for thesaurus construction.

We are active in the standards-building communities

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Rules and issues for constructing and using controlled vocabularies are laid out in this book, to be published in March 2010.

Thesaurus

- Thesaurus: A semantic network of unique concepts
- Thesauri may be monolingual or multilingual
- Thesauri may have the following three relationships:
  - Equivalence Relationships
  - Hierarchical Relationships
  - Associative Relationships

- stirrup cups
- coaching glasses
- hunting glasses

- sturzbechers
- Sturzbecher
- storgeizers

- rhyta
- rhyton
- rhytons
- heta
- rheos
- rheon
- riton
Thesaurus: A semantic network of unique concepts

- Thesauri may be monolingual or multilingual
- Thesauri may have the following three relationships:
  - Equivalence Relationships
  - Hierarchical Relationships
  - Associative Relationships

- Equivalence relationships: The relationships between synonymous terms or names for the same concept, typically distinguishing preferred terms (descriptors) and variants

- Hierarchical relationships: Broader and narrower (parent/child) relationships between concepts; hierarchical relationships are generally either whole/part or genus/species; may be polyhierarchical, meaning that each child may be linked to multiple parents

- Associative relationships: Objects facilitating or being influenced by other objects within the same category

**Equivalence Relationships**
- The relationships between synonymous terms or names for the same concept, typically distinguishing preferred terms (descriptors) and variants

**Hierarchical Relationships**
- Broader and narrower (parent/child) relationships between concepts; hierarchical relationships are generally either whole/part or genus/species; may be polyhierarchical, meaning that each child may be linked to multiple parents

**Associative Relationships**
- Objects facilitating or being influenced by other objects within the same category

**Objects Facet**
- Furnishings and Equipment
- Containers
- <culinary containers>
- <vessels for serving / consuming food>
- ...
**Thesauri**

- Thesaurus: A semantic network of unique concepts
- Thesauri may be monolingual or multilingual
- Thesauri may have the following three relationships:
  - Equivalence Relationships: Relationships between concepts that are closely related conceptually, but the relationship is not hierarchical because it is not part/whole or genus/species.
  - Hierarchical Relationships: Concept relationships that are part of a whole or genus to species.
  - Associative Relationships: The relationships between concepts that are conceptually related, but not part of a whole or genus to species.

**Stirrup Cups**
- Coaching glasses
- Hunting glasses

**Sturzbechers**
- Sturzbecher
- Stortebekers

**Rhyta**
- Rhyton
- Rhytons
- Rheo
- Rheons
- Ritón
- Sturzbecher

---

**3. Editorial Rules, continued**

**3.3.2.5.1 Minimum requirements**

- It is required to record at least one term - the preferred term, which is the word or phrase used most often in scholarly literature to refer to the concept. Excluded are proper names of persons, organizations, geographic places, named subjects, and named events.

  - **Warrant:** You must find the preferred term in at least three authoritative sources. See Sources for Terms below.

  - List as many variant or alternate terms as have at least one legitimate source. It is not required to add variant terms; however, you should consult sources to gather alternate terms as time and editorial priorities allow.

**3.3.2.5.2 Alphabet and diacritics**

- **Roman alphabet**

  - Use the Roman alphabet to record all terms.

  - **Transliterations**
    - For terms in a language that is not written in the Roman alphabet (e.g., Greek or Chinese), record the vernacular term that has been transliterated into the Roman alphabet. For the preferred term, you should ideally use a source that has a transliteration derived by applying pertinent ISO standards.

  - **Diacritics**
    - Use the appropriate diacritic signs that are in the font used for the text.
• Rules are updated or changed based on new situations or changing standards

• Staff meetings as required, often for training on new task

• Newsletter online, to alert outside contributors of changes in rules

LC Control Number: a 79018152

- Based on best practice, as agreed by consensus of major art institutions, plus ISO & NISO
- Rules are in almost all cases consistent with AACR2 (where applicable)

ULAN names

Moore, Henry (preferred, index, LC)
Henry Moore (display)
Moore, Henry Spencer
Patronymics and place name

Bartolo di Fredi (preferred, display)
Bartolo di Fredi Cini
Bartolo, di Fredi (LC)
Bartolo di Fredi Pattilore
Bartolo di Maestro Fredi
Bartalus magistri Fredi
Bartolo Senese

- Where preferred name differs, the LC name can still be pulled out because it is flagged
- Rules are consistent with CDWA, CCO, which was published by ALA for the art information audience
- Contributors' bulk loads, local rules may be an issue


Subject: Identify geographic place, event (if any), named persons (if any), ethnic group or culture (if applicable)

Decision Trees

Is information is in Object Folder and has it been initialed by curator

If NO, is there an inscription stating the information?

If YES, enter in Subject field

- Sample decision tree

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Subject: Identify geographic place, event (if any), named persons (if any), ethnic group or culture (if applicable)

Decision Trees

Is information is in Object Folder and has it been initialed by curator

If NO, is there an inscription stating the information?

If YES, enter in Subject field

If NO, compare subject to others in the series or to other related material. Can you make a certain identification?

If YES, enter in Subject field

If NO, enter "probably" or more general subject

Sample decision tree

• Sample decision tree

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Examples of rules: Display biography

American miniaturist, active 1860s

Native American craftsman, 18th century

French printmaker, 1645/1648-1721

Roman sculptor, 1st century BCE

- Use "active" if life dates are unknown
- May list century (e.g., 18th century) (no superscript)
- For decades, do not use apostrophe (not "1860's")
- Use slash for "between"
- Use BCE and CE (not BC and AD)

Indexing nationality

DISPLAY BIOGRAPHY:
American photographer, 1894-1985, born in Hungary

NATIONALITY:
Hungarian
American

- "Nationality" = The nationality, culture, or ethnic group associated with the person or corporate body (e.g., Nigerian, Celtic, Native American)
- May have multiple nationalities
- Not necessarily legal citizenship
Indexing life dates

Display Biography: French architect, baptized 1598, died 1666
Birth Date: 1597  Death Date: 1666

Display Biography: Persian king and patron, reigned 522-486 BCE
Birth Date: -550  Death Date: -486

Display Biography: German painter, master in 1315, died 1344
Birth Date: 1270  Death Date: 1344

Display Biography: British architectural firm, founded 1768, dissolved 1833
Birth Date: 1768  Death Date: 1833

Display Biography: French miniaturist, 14th century
Birth Date: 1300  Death Date: 1399

Display Biography: Florentine architect, 1300/1310-1362
Birth Date: 1300  Death Date: 1362

Be sure to state only what is known in Display
- e.g., don’t state a birth date in display if only the date of Baptism is known

Rules for sources

- Required to list sources.
- For preferred term (descriptor), prefer the most authoritative, up-to-date source available. Sources of information in the AAT record may include the following in this order of preference:

  - Standard general reference sources
    - major authoritative dictionaries of the English language, including Webster’s, Random House, American Heritage, and the Oxford English Dictionary (for the OED, be aware that words may be spelled differently in American English).
    - encyclopedia
    - dictionaries in languages other than English
    - LC Authorized Headings
  - Other authoritative sources
    - other authoritative thesauri and controlled vocabularies
    - textbooks, such as Gardner and Janson
  - Other material on pertinent topics
    - books, journal articles, and newspaper articles
    - archives, historical documents, and other original sources (for historical terms only)
  - Other sources
    - databases of contributors
    - articles or databases on museum or university Web sites

When sources disagree?
Prefer the most recent, most authoritative source.

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Rules for interpreting sources

**Entry in all caps**

**Must interpret for entry to AAT**

- **Tenebrismo**

---

**Webster's unabridged, p. 2355**

Main Entry: tene·brism
Pronunciation: 'te-nē-'bris-əm
Function: noun
Usage: often capitalized
Etymology: Latin tenebrae darkness
   - a style of painting especially associated with the Italian painter Caravaggio and his followers in which most of the figures are engulfed in shadow but some are dramatically illuminated by a concentrated beam of light usually from an identifiable source
- **tene·brist** /-bris-t/ noun or adjective, often capitalized

- Rarely a term may be capitalized
- In this case, make a variant name in caps
tenebrism (preferred)
Tenebrism (UF)
tenebrist (AD)
Manager sets priorities based on GRI priorities (currently non-Western, multilingual)
- Balanced with what is practical and efficient
- Reports outlining work to be done maintained and passed out by one designated editor

Work on multiple projects simultaneously, although focus mainly on one

Main editorial work concerns processing contributions, smaller percentage of work involves adding brand new records

Work flow = large contributions, followed by months or years of processing

Non-Getty contributors are advised that incomplete or incorrectly formatted records will not be processed in timely manner

We accept only expert contributors, thus fact-checking not normally done by us

---

Reports for quality control

- Run by ITS team for data consistency, diacritics, etc.
- Run by editors to check daily quotas
- Run by editors to periodically check for various problems (e.g., duplicates)
- Manager checks periodically does spot checks to find problems and issues
Workflow and quality control

- Three editors work full-time on processing contributions
- Currently have over 120,000 records in processing phase
- Will be over 5,000,000 when NGA/NIMA is loaded
- Editors must reach quota each week
- When task is repetitive, they also have time for more interesting Vocab work

Workflow and quality control

- Priority is to process online contributions
- Set priorities for bulk loaded records (e.g., Avery)
- Editors have quotas, 10 to 500 records per week, depending upon the amount of research required for the particular task
- Every year spend 2 months preparing data for the annual licensed files release
Workflow and quality control

- Estimate quotas necessary to meet goal
- Flexibility
  - e.g., if number of records completed is 100 per week, 20 per day per cataloger
  - average = three records per hour
  - rely on average over the week, a worker could spend 2 minutes on some records and 2 hours on others
  - as long as they were all accurate and followed the guidelines and he or she did the required number for the particular time period

Most common problems and issues
- Managing time
- Training, due to complex material
- Mistakes often result from going too fast, not asking questions
- What constitutes an acceptable basic record ("core" fields)
- How to choose or prioritize which records/items should have fuller records
  - e.g., most important subjects should have the fullest records
Workflow and quality control

- Can check database stats, individual records
- Weekly reports on tasks done
- Monthly reports outlining records finished, who did how many records

Vocabulary records edited in VCS during 1st quarter FY10

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>July (14 days)</th>
<th>Aug (14 days)</th>
<th>Sept (14 days)</th>
<th>Totals</th>
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<td>AAT citations</td>
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<td>165</td>
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<td>2523</td>
<td>4015</td>
<td>3645</td>
<td>10183</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- Contributions, training

- The Getty vocabularies are compiled in large part from contributions from the user community, including various Getty projects and qualified outside institutions.
- Institutions may make contributions in bulk in our prescribed XML format or via an online form.
- Bulk contributions can range from a few thousand to several million records.
- In the CART group convened by Murtha, we are investigating how to get a new bulk contribution from GRI Library, last done 12 years ago.
- Also how to flag links to artists in Bib records.
Editorial manuals and training materials available online

Bulk loads: Mapping from one database to the Vocabulary databases
Or institutions may make contributions in bulk in our prescribed XML format.

- Bulk contributions can range from a few thousand to several million records.

### Contributors to Vocabularies

- Vocabulary Program conducts training workshops at the Getty and conferences.
- Small staff means contributors’ should be trained.
- Social, but controlled, so that the result remains authoritative.
- Workshops also on how to index (specificity, exhaustivity, etc.).
Contributors to Vocabularies

Partial list of upcoming contributions

• Getty contributions
• Spanish, Chinese, German, Dutch, Italian, French
• 10,000 Repositories from VRA
• 90,000 artists from Grove Art
• 5,000,000 place names from NGA/NIMA

Currently being processed

• Avery Index, Witt Library Courtauld London
• Multilingual, multi-cultural, Asian, African, Native American and Pre-Columbian, archaeological sites

• Processing data, editing, reports
Contributions to our vocabularies are vetted, managed, edited, augmented, merged with existing data, placed into hierarchies and other relationships, and published by the Getty Vocabulary Program.

Batch loading of data
From various systems or from online forms
In our prescribed format

VCS: Processing Data
Searching, Merging
Editing/adding info
Moving/adding links

Exporting Data
Reports for
set level
Release format
web, csv, tab files

VCS: Processing Data
Searching
Merging (auto or manual)
Editing/adding info
Moving/adding links
Editors edit or create new records

Controlled values or free text fields

Free text fields, bio; controlled place name, role, nationality
What do we do?

- Loading, tracking who contributed what, editing, quality control, ‘moving,’ merging, un-moving, un-merging

- General vetting, to be sure incoming record meets our standards
What do we do?

• Merging records: for multiple records contributed for the same person; automated if possible in the load

Automatic merging in load process; these would probably now be auto-merged in our improved loader, because "Dutch" and "Netherlandish" are matches for merge, provided all other criteria match.

Name: Del Duca, Giacomo
Biography: Italian sculptor and architect, ca. 1520-1604
ULAN ID: 10373

Name: Jacopo Siciliano
Biography: Sicilian architect, active in Rome, ca. 1520-1601
ULAN ID: 13784

• Some matches can only be caught by hand
• “Giacomo del Duca” is same person as “Jacopo Siciliano”
• Records were “merged” by hand into a single record
• Some matches can only be handled by hand
  • “Giacomo del Duca” is same person as “Jacopo Siciliano”
  • Records were “merged” by hand into a single record

Names: Del Duca, Giacomo (pref)
Jacopo Siciliano
Biography: Italian sculptor and architect, ca. 1520-1604, born in Sicily, active in Rome
ULAN ID: 500016281

If near-synonyms and generic postings are in a single record, we make several records of one:
gramophones are a type of phonograph
What do we do?

- Building hierarchies
- Determining parent, inserting or moving branches

Hierarchical timeline:
- Roman (style or period)
- Republican
- Late Republican
- Imperial (Roman)
- Early Imperial
- Augustan
- Julio-Claudian
- Tiberian
- Flavian
- Trajanic
- Hadrianic
- Antonine
- Severan
- Late Antique
- Tetrarchic
- Constantinian

Europe
- Polska
- Dolnoslaskie
- Kujawsko-Pomorskie
- Lodzkie
- Malopolskie
- Mazowieckie
- Lubelskie
- Lubuskie
- Opolskie
- Podkarpackie
- Podlaskie
- Pomorskie

Hierarchy may change over time
- Former voidovships
- Biala Podlaska
- Bialystok
- Bielsko

Campaigns to correct issues
- Update a nation's administrative units


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**Preferred name / term changes**

Names:

- Congo (C,V)
- République démocratique du Congo (C,V)
- Congo, république démocratique du (C,V)
- Democratic Republic of the Congo (C,V)
- Zaïre (H,V)
- République du Zaïre (H,V)
- Zaïre (H,V)
- Republic of Zaïre (H,V)............ used 1971-1997
- Kongo, Republik (H,V)
- Belgisch Congo (H,V)............... 1908-1960
- Congo Belge (H,V)
- Belgo Congo (H,O)............... 1908-1960
- Belgian Congo (H,O).............. 1885-1908

- Former preferred name was “Zaire”
- Changed to “Congo”

- New records from Avery Index have been loaded, awaiting processing
- “temp.parent” distinguishes them, flagged “candidate”
• Reports generated after a data load, to find typical problems

• Here, records that may need to be merged, but birth dates didn’t match for auto-merging
• Report has gathered names containing parentheses
• Contributed data contains parenthetical words, cannot be automatically parsed

- Editor corrects value in the Name field,
- If he or she has time, indexes roles and locus of activity in correct fields
• For the location of this firm, place name is chosen from controlled list
• List generated and updated from TGN

• In addition to standard pre-written reports, ad hoc reports may be written on the data tables
• Here to find empty scope notes in AAT
• Results of empty scope notes
• Flag a set to edit, they will be brought up in successive order in main editorial screen
For more information, please contact

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