



Subject Access to Art Works

Overview Using the Getty Vocabularies

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Preface

- This presentation contains basic information about indexing subject matter depicted in or referenced in art works
- Further reading: [Intro to Art Image Access](#)
- For a focus on the CONA example, see [CONA and Subject Access](#)
- For full rules, re. Subject indexing,
• see the [CONA Editorial Guidelines: Subject](#)

Part 1: Overview



Introduction

Introduction to Depicted Subjects

The importance of recording 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 CDWA and CCO (Categories for the Description of Works of Art)]



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 museums or image repositories record subject terms (although libraries and archives do)
 - How does the community overcome this problem?
 - We all recognize the problem; but there is no easy solution

Do repositories record subject?

D-Lib Magazine

March/April 2010
Volume 16, Number 3/4
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Museum Data Exchange: Learning How to Share

Günter Waibel, Ralph LeVan, Bruce Washburn
OCLC Online Computer Library Center
{waibelg, levan, bruce_washburn}@oclc.org

doi:10.1045/march2010-waibel

[Printer-friendly Version](#)

Abstract

The Museum Data Exchange, a project funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, brought together museum community. The project created tools to extract CDWA Lite XML records out of collections harvested 900K records from participating museums and analyzed them for standards conformance lessons learned in harvesting museum data; findings from the data analysis; and the state of data sharing and its applications in the museum community. Museum participants were the Cleveland Museum of Art; Harvard Art Museum; Metropolitan Museum of Art; Minneapolis Institute of Arts; National Gallery of Art; National Gallery of Canada; Princeton University Art Museum; Victoria & Albert Museum and Yale University Art Gallery.

- Repositories of objects would be best source of current data for objects; but do they index subject content?
- OCLC study: Cataloging data from 9 art museums was analyzed for compatibility to CDWA and CCO
- See D-Lib Magazine for article on the project

1. Work Type	0	86	86.5	89	82.5	85	78	100	86.5
2. Title	95.5	91.5	95.5	98	95.5	95.5	95.5	95.5	95.5
3. Display Creator	100	100	84	96	62	100	64	0	63.5
4. Name Creator	100	99	95.5	100	100	95	95	97	87.5
5. Nationality Creator	94	100	100	92.5	100	90.5	91.5	95.5	92.5
6. Vital Dates Creator	90	100	86.5	77.5	95	0	100	0	86.5
7 Role Creator	0	75	100	90	80	95	90	0	85
8. Display Measurements	100	100	100	91	100	100	100	100	77.5
9. Display Materials	100	100	100	95.5	100	100	100	100	100
10. Display Creation Date	100	91	100	95.5	100	95.5	100	100	82
11-12. Dates Concatenated (Earliest & Latest)	99	91	95.5	95.5	99	100	95	100	80
13. Location Name	100	99	77.5	100	100	80	99	80	97.5
14 WorkID	100	100	100	100	100	0	100	91	100
15. Subject Term	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	92.5	0
17. Record Type	0	100	30	100	100	100	100	0	100

- 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

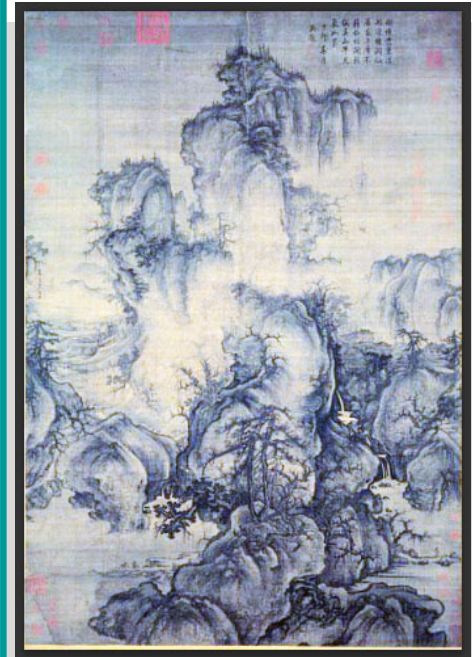
Minimal *core* work record

- **Subject** in context with other core fields in a work record

Core elements

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

[CONA ID 70000285]
Catalog Level **item**
Classification **paintings**
Work Type **painting** (visual work)
scroll (information artifact)
Title **Scene of Early Spring**
宋郭熙早春圖 軸
Creator **Guo Xi** (Chinese painter, 1023 - ca.1085 CE)
Creation Date **1072 CE**
General Subject **landscapes**
Specific | **spring** (season) | **trees** | **Pinus**
(genus) | **streams**
Current Location **National Palace Museum (Taipei, Taiwan)** Repository Number **000053N000000000**
Dimensions **158.3 x 108.1 cm**
Mat & Tech **painting scroll** Index **ink | silk | paper**



The importance of recording depicted subjects

- **Issue:** Why a Subject field? Doesn't the Title describe the Subject?

- **Resolution:** No, not necessarily.

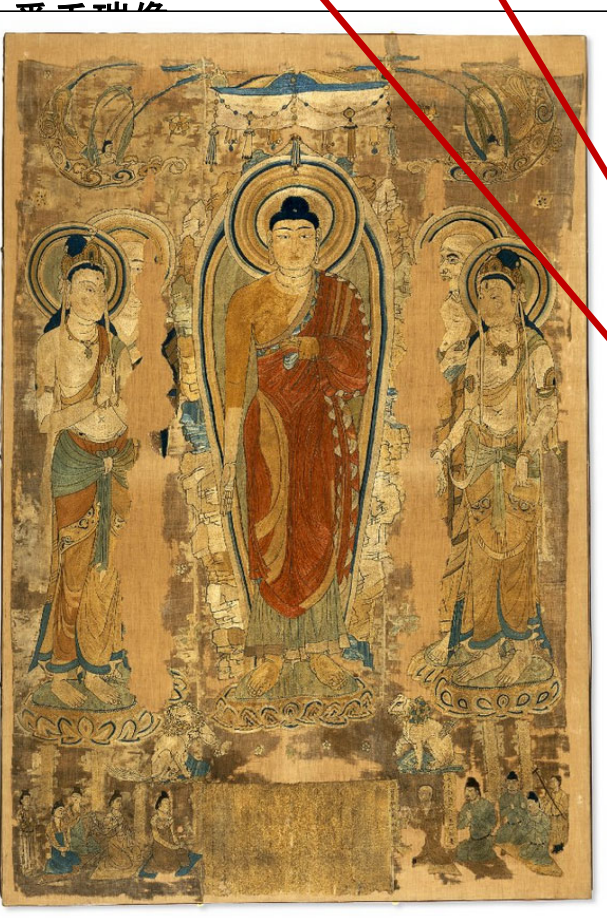
Titles cannot reliably indicate subject content

And if title does include reference to subject, titles are free text so information in the title must be indexed

- 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 on complex information, such as
select all works where subject = Hercules [IA_1000042]
and where artist was German and work was created in Italy
and date between 1400-1600

Catalog level: item Classification: textiles Work Type: embroidery

Titles: Śākyamuni preaching on the Vulture Peak Miraculous Image of Liangzhou (Fanhe Buddha)



h, England, United King...;
ang, Gansu Province.

- Śākyamuni Buddha
IA 500372531
- preaching
AAT 300379717
- Vulture Peak (mountain,
Bihār state, India)
TGN 8697570

- **Issue:** Can subject be captured from existing data?
- In the Title?
- **Resolution:** 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
- Decisions must be made with homographs, uncertainty in mapping
Which "Vulture Peak"?
Add
Buddha Preaching (Buddhist theme)
[IA 1001358]
- What are the names of the other figures?
- What is "**General Subject**"?

Cat. Level: item Class. paintings

Work Type: painting

Title: La Surprise

Artist/Maker: Jean-Antoine Watteau (French













- surprise
AAT 300417323

- **Issue:** Can subject be captured from existing data?
- In the Title?
- **Resolution:** Subject may often be found in title or work type

- Titles will not always contain useful information about the subject
- Decisions must be made by human editors
- E.g., "surprise" should be indexed, but it does not describe the subject adequately

Example from Getty Museum Web site
May be surmised that these depict “cityscapes”

Cityscapes 1 - 10 of 62 objects displayed chronologically [Next ▶](#)

Romulus & Remus French, about 1390 1st Mstr, Bible hist		Trojan War French, about 1390 1st Mstr, Bible hist	
Jerusalem French, about 1415 Unknown		Pope Sergius' Dream Netherlandish, 1430s Weyden	
Alexander Fights Flemish, about 1470 M Jardin vertueuse		View of Walled City German, 1485 - 1500 Mstr of Strache Altr	
Holy Family Netherlandish, about 1520s Orley		Mucius Scaevola German, about 1530 Bocksdorfer	
Mountain Landscape German, 1554-1555 Lautensack		Arno with Fishermen Flemish, about 1578 Stradanus	

- **Issue:** Can subject be captured from existing data?
- **Resolution:** Yes, make a first pass using various automated resources
But final indexing will require human vetting
- Using organizational categories for online data, e.g., to extrapolate that subject = “cityscape”
- Using other metadata in the work record
- **New:** Using image-matching to find subject metadata on a similar work is being investigated

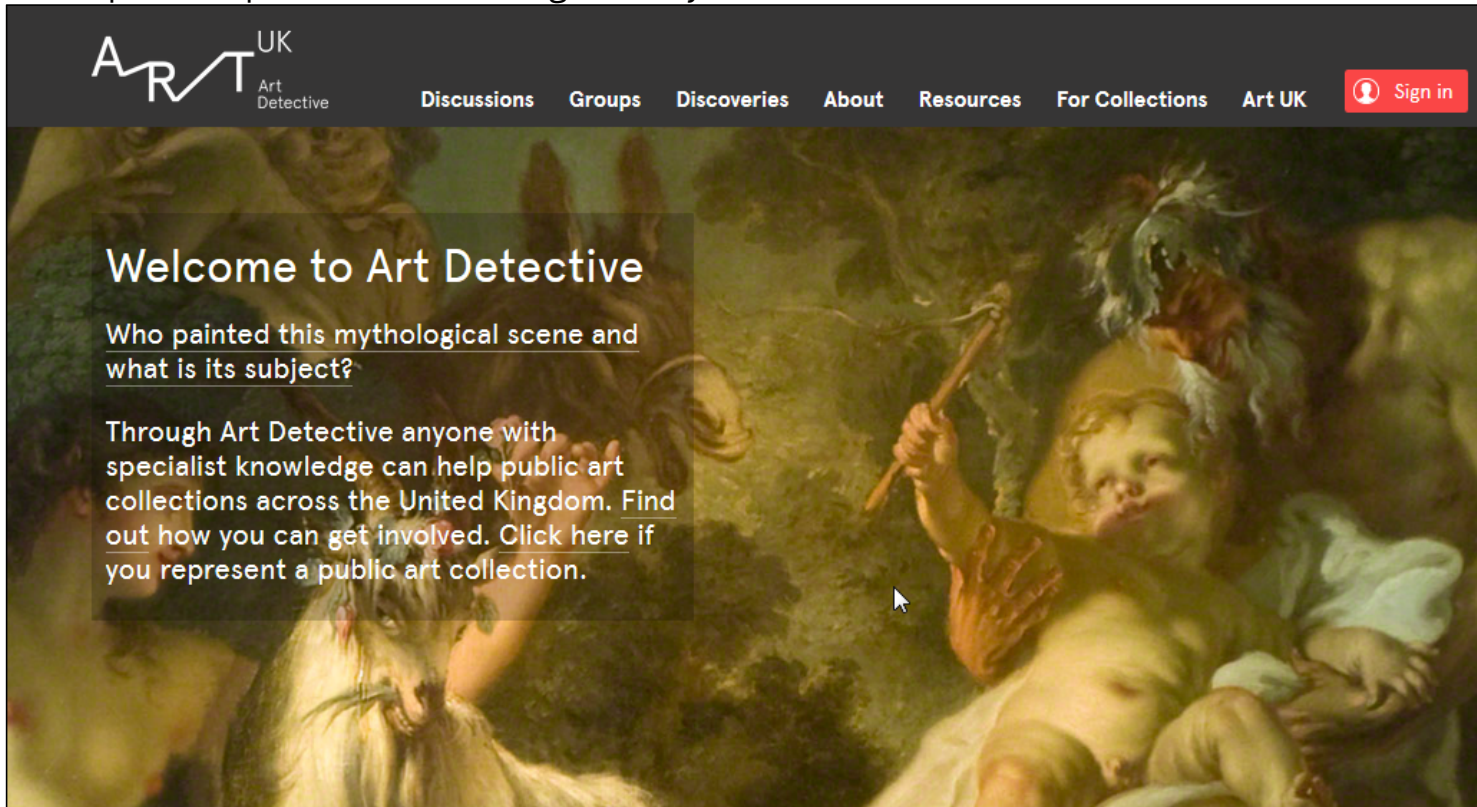


Subjects: [Li, Hongzhang, 1823-1901 --Portraits.](#)
[Zuo, Zongtang, 1812-1885 --Portraits.](#)
[Overseas Missionary Fellowship.](#)
[Tian Tan \(Beijing, China\)](#)
[Actors --China.](#)
[Astronomical observatories --China.](#)
[Consuls --China.](#)
[Diplomatic and consular service, British --Buildings.](#)
[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.](#)
[Jiujiang \(Jiangxi Sheng, China\) --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.](#)

- **Issue:** Can subject be captured from existing data?
- Works in art libraries & special collections often have subject access
- However, as in this example, subject access is often through the group, not item-level

Cat Level: item Class.: photographs Work Type: photograph
 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

Example of expert-crowd-sourcing for subject



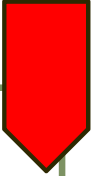
ART UK
Art Detective

Discussions Groups Discoveries About Resources For Collections Art UK Sign in

Welcome to Art Detective

Who painted this mythological scene and what is its subject?

Through Art Detective anyone with specialist knowledge can help public art collections across the United Kingdom. Find out how you can get involved. [Click here](#) if you represent a public art collection.

- 
- **Issue:** Crowd sourcing for subject indexing?
 - **Resolution:** Use specialist participants, as in the example
 - At minimum, use responsible participants who have undergone training and have a set of instructions
 - Include a method of checking the results by a centralized entity or experts in both content and indexing

The importance of recording depicted subjects

- As an example of a data model for object information, this presentation uses CONA, which is an implementation of CDWA and CCO
- Methodologies for indexing subject matter are described
- This presentation discusses the Getty Vocabularies as tools to index and provide access to subject matter
- This presentation assumes both General Subject and Specific Subject are available to the cataloger, as advised in CDWA and CCO; however, if you have only one repeatable Subject field, you may still use these guidelines, extrapolating for your simpler data structure

<http://www.getty.edu/research/tools/vocabularies/index.html>

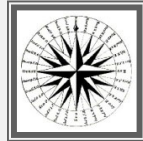
What are the Getty Vocabularies?

Enabling digital art history

Five resources for cataloging, research, and discovery of art and architecture information, compliant with international standards for thesaurus construction and based on CDWA and CCO; multilingual and multicultural; released



- **AAT, the Art & Architecture Thesaurus®** includes generic terms, relationships, sources, and notes for work types, roles, materials, styles, cultures, and techniques
(*e.g., amphora, oil paint, olieverf, peintures à l'huile, acetolysis, 玉器, Jadekünste, sintering, orthographic drawings, Olmeca, Rinascimento, Buddhism, watercolors, asa-no-ha-toji*)



- **TGN, the Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names®** includes names, relationships, and coordinates for current and historical cities, nations, empires, archaeological sites, lost settlements, and physical features; through LOD, TGN may be linked to GIS and maps
(*e.g., Diospolis, Acalán, Ottoman Empire, Mogao, Ch'ien-fu-tung, Ganges River, गंगा नदी*)



- **ULAN, the Union List of Artist Names®** includes names, relationships, notes, sources, and biographical information for artists, architects, firms, studios, repositories, patrons, sitters, and other individuals and corporate bodies, both named and anonymous
(*e.g., Mark Rothko, Cai Xiang, 葵囊, Crevole Master, Altobelli & Molins, Rajaraja Museum*)



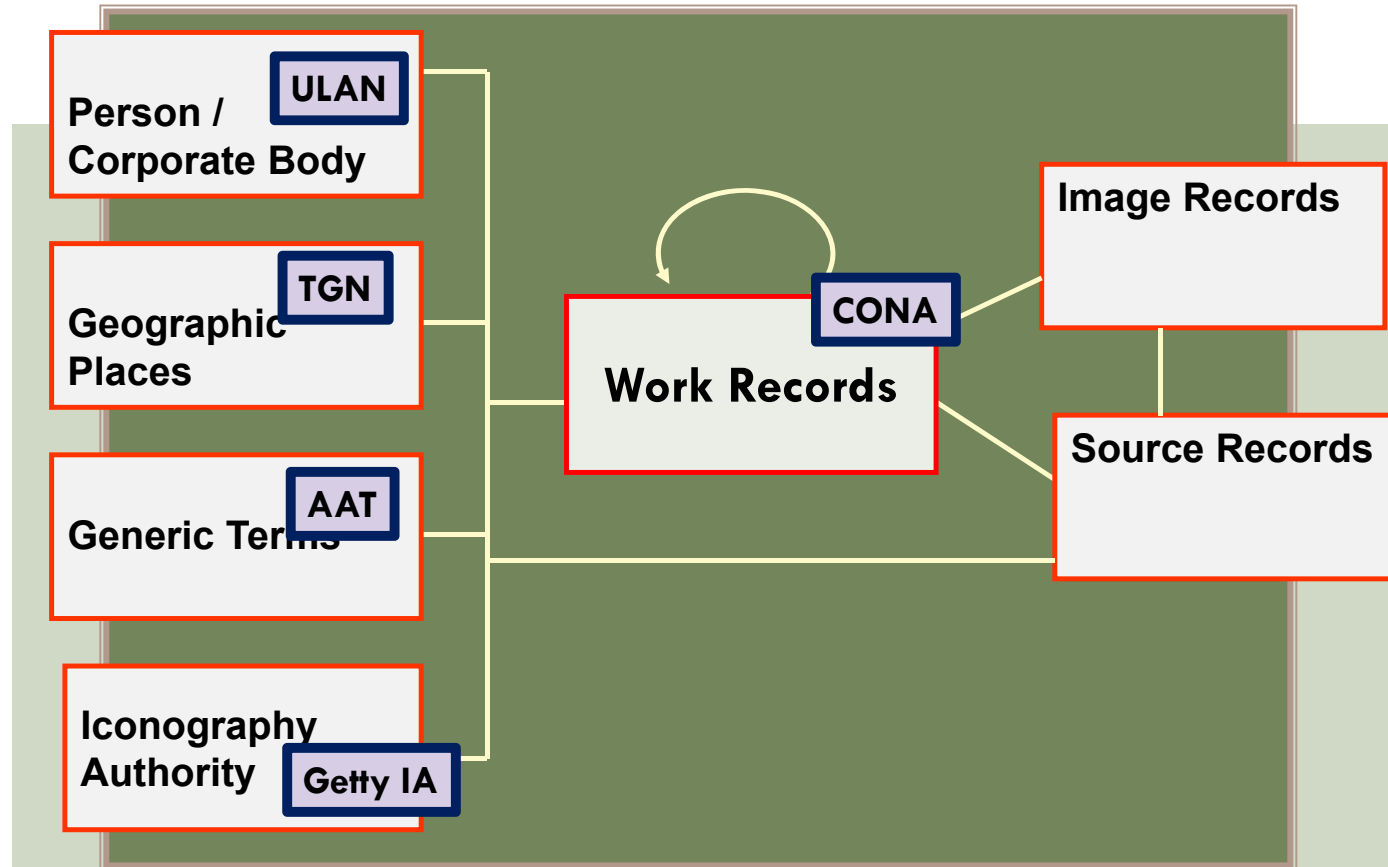
- **IA, the Getty Iconography Authority™** is a new resource that includes proper names, relationships, and dates for iconographical narratives, religious or fictional characters, historical events, names of literary works and performing art
(*e.g., Adoration of the Magi, Flood of Deucalion, French Revolution, Xibalba, Niflheim, िशव, Shiva, Bouddha couché*)



- **CONA, the Cultural Objects Name Authority®** is a new resource for indexing works depicted in visual surrogates and for other purposes, linking rich metadata such as title, artist attribution, patron, materials, and location for works of art, architecture, and other cultural works, to allow a conduit for research and discovery
(*e.g., The Lacemaker, La Dentellière, Merlettaia, 神奈川沖浪裏, Great Wave, Die große Welle, Chayasomesvara Temple, Hagia Sofia, Αγία Σοφία*)

Entity Relationship Diagram for a Work record and authorities

- Diagram as used for CDWA and CCO
- Correlates to diagram for CONA and the other Getty Vocabularies



Part 2: How to Index Subject

SUBJECT ACCESS FOR ART WORKS

Quick Reference Guide



- Understand what is Subject: It is what is depicted in and by a work of art
 - Included are depictions of narratives; events; myth, religion, legend, and literary topics; named people; named places; named things
 - Included are allegorical themes or symbols
 - Utilitarian objects and architecture have Subject too, including purpose, dedication, and “isness”
- Always include a General Subject
- Include Specific Subjects when possible
- Use controlled vocabulary for indexing subjects
 - Use generic terms and proper names as appropriate
 - For Specific Subject, use AAT for generic terms, TGN for place names, ULAN for names of people and groups, CONA for names of other art works and architecture, and IA for iconography, events, and other subjects having proper names
 - Have process to add candidate terms to these resources
 - Alternatively use other sources of vocabulary, such as Iconclass or Library of Congress authorities

SUBJECT ACCESS FOR ART WORKS

Quick Reference Guide *(continued)*



- Remember standard methods of subject analysis
 - Consider *Description* (generic recognition of what is depicted), *Identification* (named specific things or people), and *Interpretation* (based on expert knowledge, the meaning or symbolism of the work)
 - Consider “*isness*,” for non-pictorial works
 - Consider “*aboutness*” (what a work conveys) and “*ofness*” (what the work depicts)
- Index any important words and proper names mentioned in the Title
- Index only the important aspects of Subject; do not index every item depicted in a busy composition
- Be as consistent as possible in assigning subject terms
 - Set a target number of terms per record, proceed in naming subjects in a prescribed manner: who-what-when-where, most important to medium important, front to back, top to bottom, etc.
 - Accept that complete consistency is not attainable, but aim for as much consistency as possible
 - Remember that subject should be queried with other fields, such as Work Type and Style, in retrieval
- Do not guess or estimate what is depicted; use only expert knowledge
 - Better to be broad & correct rather than specific & wrong
 - If two different subjects are possible based on conflicting expert opinions, index both

What Is Subject?

What is depicted in and by a work of art

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.
- Per CDWA and CCO, subject is broadly defined
- It is “Core” information
- Include 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* work represented in the database

What Is Subject?

Quick overview

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

Why control Subject terminology using the Getty Vocabularies?

The power of synonyms, hierarchies, associative relationships, and related information

Controlled by AAT, ULAN, TGN, CONA, and IA

Power of the synonyms and associative relationships, and biography

[ULAN ID 500312828](#)

Names

- Pinceloup de la Grange, Magdaleine
- Parseval, Magdaleine

Related Person

spouse of ... Pinceloup de la Grange, Charles-François

[AAT ID 300265960](#)

Terms

- Felis domesticus (species)
- domestic cat (species)
- house cat (species)
- Felis catus (species)

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

General Subject: portraits

Specific Subject:

- Pinceloup de la Grange, Magdaleine (French aristocrat, 18th century)
- Felis domesticus (species)
- single-sitter portrait

domestic 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
*Mtl & Tech and Techniques: oil on canvas
all parts
Canvas
Description: The sitter was from the provincial French region of Orléans, but the artist imbued her with Parisian sophistication. The cat she holds is known as a "Chartreux cat," descendants of which first appeared in 13th-century France. While some at this time valued the breed 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: local; parent of
link to work: Charles-François Pinceloup de la Grange, Jean-Baptiste Perroneau, painting, 1747, 84PA664

- By linking to AAT, you have the power of synonyms, the hierarchy, associative relationships, and other links to power retrieval on Subject
- By linking to ULAN, you have the power of synonyms, biographical information, associative relationships, hierarchy for corporate bodies, and other links that may aid in retrieval



Power of the hierarchy

[AAT ID 300404138](#)

- ... portraits
- animal portraits
- chinzō
- clipei (portraits)
- companion portraits
- composite portraits
- conjectural portraits
- double-sided portraits
- effigies (general portraits)
- tomb effigies [N]
- equestrian portraits
- eye portraits
- forensic facial reconstructions
- group portraits
- conversation pieces (portraits)
- double portraits
- historiated portraits
- ndop [N]
- portrait heads
- self-portraits
- selfies
- **single-sitter portraits**
- stylized portraits

General Subject: portraits
Specific Subject:

- Pinceloup de la Grange, Magdaleine (French aristocrat, 18th century)
- Felis domesticus (species)
- single-sitter portrait

- By linking to AAT, you have the power of synonyms, the hierarchy, associative relationships, and other links to power retrieval on Subject
- By linking to ULAN, you have the power of synonyms, biographical information, associative relationships, hierarchy for corporate bodies, and other links that may aid in retrieval

Class: paintings
 Pinceloup de la Grange
 Jean-Baptiste Perroneau (French
 1783)
 J. Paul Getty Museum (Los
 Angeles, USA) ID: 84.PA.664



Controlled by
AAT, ULAN, TGN, CONA, and IA
Power of synonyms, hierarchy,
relationships, coordinates, historical

- TGN for subjects that are geographic places; in turn linked to GIS and other geo-data
- CONA for subjects that are architecture or other works, includes dates, materials, patrons, etc; here an important portrayal of critical built work as it looked in 1400s

TGN ID 7002473

Names

- istanbul
- Constantinople
- Konstantinopel
- Κωνσταντινούπολις
- Kōstanṭīniye
- قسطنطينية

Related Places

located onSilk Road

Coordinates

Lat: 41.0110 Long: 28.9578

Hierarchies

[parents = Turkey, Ottoman Empire, Byzantine Empire, etc.]

Catalog level: item Class.: manuscripts maps

Work Type: cityscape map

Titles: Map of Constantinople

Karte von Konstantinopel

Creator: Cristoforo Buondelmonti Date: 1422

Current Location: Bibliothèque nationale de France (Paris, France)

Dimensions 25.4 x 16.4 cm, one of 66 leaves

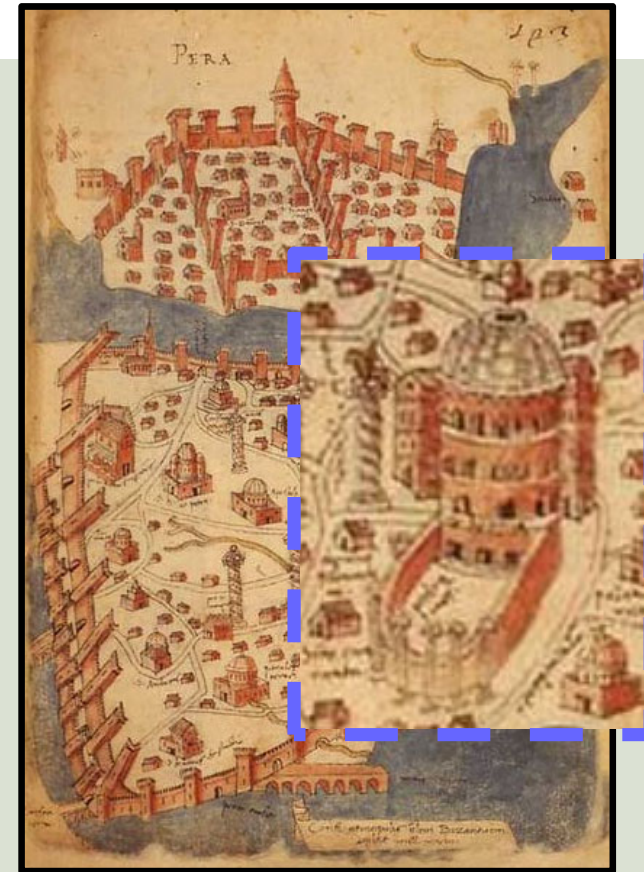
Tech & Mat: ink and wash on vellum

General Subject:

cityscapes architecture

Specific Subject:

- Constantinople (inhabited place)
- Hagia Sophia (built work)



Controlled by
AAT, ULAN, TGN, CONA, and IA

Power of synonyms, relationships, related
people, dates, materials, historical info

[CONA ID 700000141](#)

Terms

- Hagia Sophia
- Ayasofya
- Αγία Σοφία
- Sancta Sophia
- 圣索菲亚大教堂

Work Types: church, mosque,
museum [AAT]

Related People:

Anthemios of Tralles
Isidoros of Meletus
Justinian I [ULAN]

Dates: original structure dated
from 4th century CE; present
structure built 532-537 CE;
rebuilt in 12th century

[Materials, Style, Subject, etc.]

Cat. level: item Class.: manuscripts maps

Work Type: cityscape map

Titles: Map of Constantinople

Karte von Konstantinopel

Creator: Cristoforo Buondelmonti Date: 1422

Current Location: Bibliothèque nationale de
France (Paris, France)

Dimensions 25.4 x 16.4 cm, one of 66 leaves

Tech & Mat: ink and wash on vellum

General Subject:

cityscapes architecture

Specific Subject:

- Constantinople (inhabited place)
- Hagia Sophia (built work)

- TGN for subjects that are geographic places; in turn linked to GIS and other geo-data
- CONA for subjects that are architecture or other works, includes dates, materials, patrons, etc; here an important portrayal of critical built work as it looked in 1400s



Controlled by
AAT, ULAN, TGN, CONA, and IA
Synonyms, links, hierarchy

- The Getty Iconography Authority contains records for named events, religious/mythological iconography, fictional characters and places, themes from literature
- Linked to the other Getty Vocabularies

[IA ID 1000045](#)

Names

- Xibalba
- Place of Fear

[AAT ID 300191778](#)

Terms

- skeleton [English]
- beendergestel [Dutch]
- esqueleto [Spanish]
- squelette [Italian]
- 骨架 [Chinese]

Cat. level: item 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

General Subject: religion and mythology

Specific Subject:

Xibalba (Maya legendary place)
skeleton underworld death ax altar
baby jaguar (Maya character)
celebration

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.



Controlled by
AAT, ULAN, TGN, CONA, and IA
Synonyms, links, hierarchy

- The Getty Iconography Authority contains records for named events, religious/mythological iconography, fictional characters and places, themes from literature
- Linked to the other Getty Vocabularies

[IA ID 1000045](#)

Names

- Xibalba
- Place of Fear

Hierarchy

Legend, Religion, Mythology
...<Amerindian iconography>
.....<Maya iconography>
.....<Maya legendary places>
.....Xibalba (Maya leg. place)

Related records

associated with Popol Vuh
(Maya literature) [IA]
role ... underworld (doctrinal
concept) [AAT]
located in ... Cobán (Guatemala)
[TGN]

Cat. Level: item 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

General Subject: religion and mythology

Specific Subject:

Xibalba (Maya legendary place)
skeleton underworld death ax altar
Baby Jaguar (Maya character)
Chahk (Maya deity)



How to Apply General and Specific Subject Terms

Using a controlled list and links to Getty Vocabularies

What are General Subject and Specific Subject?

- **General Subject:** Required to include one general subject
- Controlled by an extensible list, not directly linked to Getty Vocabularies but mapped to AAT
- Purpose is to place the depicted subject in a broad category; count nouns are plural

- **Specific Subject:** Optional but highly recommended
- Add terms to describe subject as specifically as possible
 - However, index only the most important characteristics or topics
- Controlled by AAT, TGN, ULAN, CONA, and the IA
- Purpose is to index subject and allow retrieval using Getty Vocabularies
- May repeat same concept as in General Subject, but more specifically if possible
- Avoid repeating the Work Type if possible

- You may instead use one repeatable Subject field, if your system so dictates; in this presentation, extrapolate useful information for your situation
- You may instead link to Iconclass, LOC Authorities, etc., if these terms are already incorporated in their local data

General Subject

General Subject: Extensible list, mapped but not linked to AAT.
For definitions see the Scope Note for the term in the AAT.

- Required to include one general subject terms from the extensible list
- Recommended to also include specific subjects as warranted, using AAT, TGN, ULAN, IA, and CONA itself for works depicted in works

Code	Description
30001	undetermined
30002	not applicable
30101	advertising and commercial
30102	allegory
30103	animals
30104	apparel
30105	architecture
30106	landscape architecture
30111	activity
30201	botanical
30205	biographical
30301	cartographic
30302	ceremonial objects
30303	cityscapes
30305	calligraphic
30306	costume
30401	didactic and propaganda
30405	documentary
30411	decorative arts
30498	engineering
30501	events
30600	fine arts
30601	funerary
30605	fantasy
30611	furnishings
30612	furniture
30701	genre
30710	games and sports
30801	history and legend
30802	human figures
30851	humor and comedy
30901	interior architecture
30902	installation
30906	industry
31201	landscapes
31202	literary
31301	machines and equipment
31302	military
31304	marines
31310	monuments and memorials
31320	musical
31401	nonrepresentational art
31402	figurative art
31403	abstract art
31404	conceptual art
31405	numismatic
31406	philatelic
31411	natural objects
31412	natural phenomena
31413	agriculture
31414	labor
31501	utilitarian objects
31502	object components
31511	ornament
31551	documents
31552	law
31553	science
31554	philosophy
31601	performance art
31602	portraits
31605	performing arts
31701	violence
31801	religion and mythology
31901	seascapes
31902	still lifes
31903	sites
31910	satire
31922	structures
31925	symbols
31935	text
31936	textile
31938	travel
31961	various subjects
31965	found objects
31967	time-based works

General Subject and Specific Subject

- Minimum subject = one term from General Subject
- Fuller subject = additional terms from Getty Vocabularies, based on Title and authoritative information from the object record or expert analysis

Minimum and fuller

Cat. level: item Class: prints Work Type: Etching

Title: Rom, 1859

Creator: Post, Karl Borromäus, 1834-1877, printmaker.

minimum

ite:1859
sc.:1 print etching ;
sheet size: 55.5 cm, mount 44.5 x 62.9 cm

General Subject: ▪landscapes [General ID 31201]

fuller

General Subject: ▪landscapes [General ID 31201]

Specific Subject:

- view (visual work) [AAT 300015424]
- naturalistic landscape (visual work) [AAT 300417313]
- Rome (Lazio, Italy) [TGN 7000874]



General Subject and Specific Subject

Utilitarian or functional work = *isness*
Other subject? Having only one term, for General Subject is okay, fulfills minimum requirement

- 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

Catalog Level: item Class.: musical instruments

Work Type: • viola da gamba

*Title: Viola da Gamba

*Creator Display: Richard Meares (English, 17th century)

*Current Location: Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, New York, USA) •ID: 1982.324

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General Subject: utilitarian objects

Indexing Type: isness

Inscriptions: marks, printed label: Richardus Meares / Instrument.Music.Fabric.in area / Boreali.D. Pauli apud Londinates

Description: Viols, the most esteemed bowed instruments of the late Renaissance, were only gradually displaced by the violin family. Viols differ from violins chiefly in shape, in number of strings and tuning, and in having fretted necks. All viols are played in an upright position between the knees or on the legs ("gamba" means "leg"), and the bow is held palm upward. Their sound is less brilliant and quieter than that of violin's. Chamber music for a consort of four to six viols was composed during the Renaissance and Baroque eras, and solo works for the bass viol were being played until nearly the end of the eighteenth century.

Description Source: Metropolitan Museum of Art (© The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 10 February 2004)



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Subject Access to Art Works

CONA ID 700000119

author: Patricia Harpring

August 2019

General Subject and Specific Subject

Specific does not repeat General
Levels of indexing subject (discussion later)

- Description, identification, interpretation
- What the work is “of” and “about” – description, identification, interpretation (more on this later)
- Common iconographical themes, stories and characters
- General subject controlled by extensible list
- Specific subject controlled by AAT, TGN, ULAN, CONA, IA

Cat. Level: item Class: sculpture Work Type: statue
Title: Guanyin, Bodhisattva of Compassion
Creator Display: unknown Chinese
Current Location*: Museum of Fine Arts (Boston, Massachusetts, USA) 20.590
Role: sculptor Person: unknown Chinese

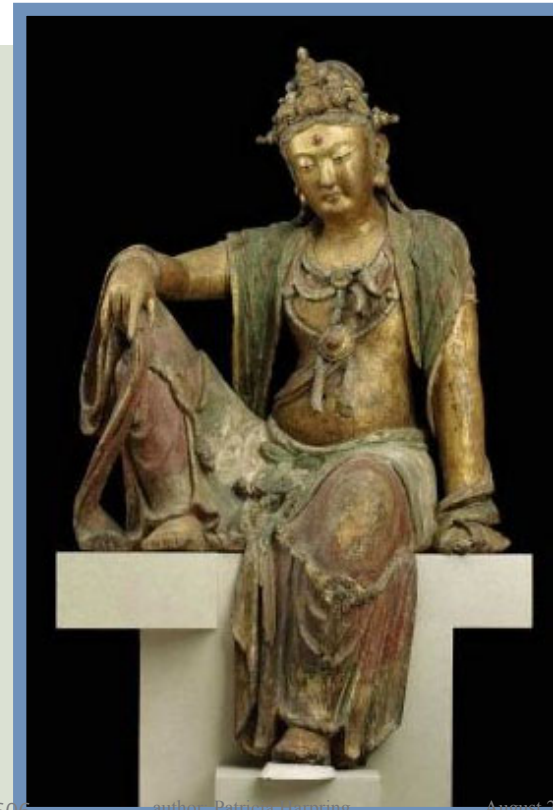
General Subject:

- human figures [*General ID 30802*]
- religion and mythology [*General ID 31801*]

Specific Subject:

- man (male human) [*AAT 300025928*] description
- Guanyin (Buddhist bodhisattva) [*IA 1000085*] identification
- royal ease [*AAT 300391241*] identification
- compassion [*AAT 300393159*] interpretation

help others achieve it ...



General Subject and Specific Subject

Specific does not repeat General
Important elements indexed, only if certain

Cat. level: item Class: paintings Work Type painting*

Title: Still life with flowers and fruit

General Subject: ▪still lifes ▪botanical

Specific Subject:

- flower piece [AAT]
- fruit piece [AAT]
- apples (fruits) [AAT]
- grapes (berry fruit) [AAT]
- chrysanthemums (genus) [AAT]
- basket (container) [AAT]

Specific Subject
does not necessarily
repeat “still lifes” of
General, but notes
more specific types
of still life

the tablecloth, sketchy in the apples, and short and dense in
the flower petals.

- Description, identification, interpretation
- What the work is “of” and “about”
- still lifes = fruit piece, flower piece



General Subject and Specific Subject

Literary source cited, location identified

Cat. level: item *Classification:* paintings *Work Type:* screen

Titles: Irises at Yatsunashi (Eight Bridges)

Eight-Planked Bridge (Yatsunashi)

Creator Display: Ogata Korin (Japanese, 1658-1716)

Creation Date: : probably done sometime between 1711 and 1716

**Current Location:* Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, New York, USA)

General Subject:

landscapes allegory

Specific Subject:

- Tales of Ise (poems, Kino Tsurayuki, 10th century) [IA]
- Yatsunashi (Aomori, Japan) [TGN]
- bridge (built work) [AAT]
- iris (plant) [AAT]
- love (emotion) [AAT]
- longing [AAT]
- journeying [AAT]

- Description, identification, interpretation
- What the work is “of” and “about”
- Common iconographical themes, stories and characters
- literary source, place name, objects depicted, allegory, symbolism (e.g., life’s journey) from expert source



General Subject and Specific Subject

- Subject may be historical events, linked to IA

Subject may be historical event

Cat. level: item Class.: paintings Work Type: painting

Title: George Washington Crossing the Delaware

Creator display: Emanuel Gottlieb Leutze (American, 1816-1868)

Creation Date: 1851

Current Location: Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, N.Y.)

General Subject: history and legend

Specific Subject:

- Battle of Trenton (American history, 1776) [IA]
- George Washington (American general and president, 1732-1799) [ULAN]
- Delaware River (United States) [TGN]
- winter [AAT]
- boat [AAT]
- military [AAT]



General Subject and Specific Subject

Architecture: Whole or part, or generic depicted
Literary source cited

- Description, identification, interpretation
- What the work is “of” and “about”
- architecture, specific elements depicted

Cat. level: item 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 Museum (Auckland, New Zealand): Department International Art

General Subject: •architecture

Specific Subject:

- column (architectural element) [AAT]
- capital (column component) [AAT]
- base (object component) [AAT]
- acanthus (motif) [AAT]
- De Architectura (treatise, Vitruvius, 1st century BCE) [IA]



General Subject and Specific Subject

Architecture: Work indexed IS a built work = *isness*
Other subject? Extent = *dedication* and *purpose*

- For architecture, indicate *architecture* and also use Indexing Type *isness* to clarify this is a built work, not a representation of a built work (in sync with Work Type). (Indexing Type is discussed later.)
- Use Specific Subject to index a dedication of churches, temples, monuments (e.g., Notre Dame, Lincoln Memorial)
- (For a simple dedication, for which the person is not a subject, use Related People and Corporate Bodies with Role “dedicatee”)

Cat. level: item Class: ▪ Roman architecture

Work Type: ▪ temple ▪ rotunda ▪ church

Titles: Pantheon

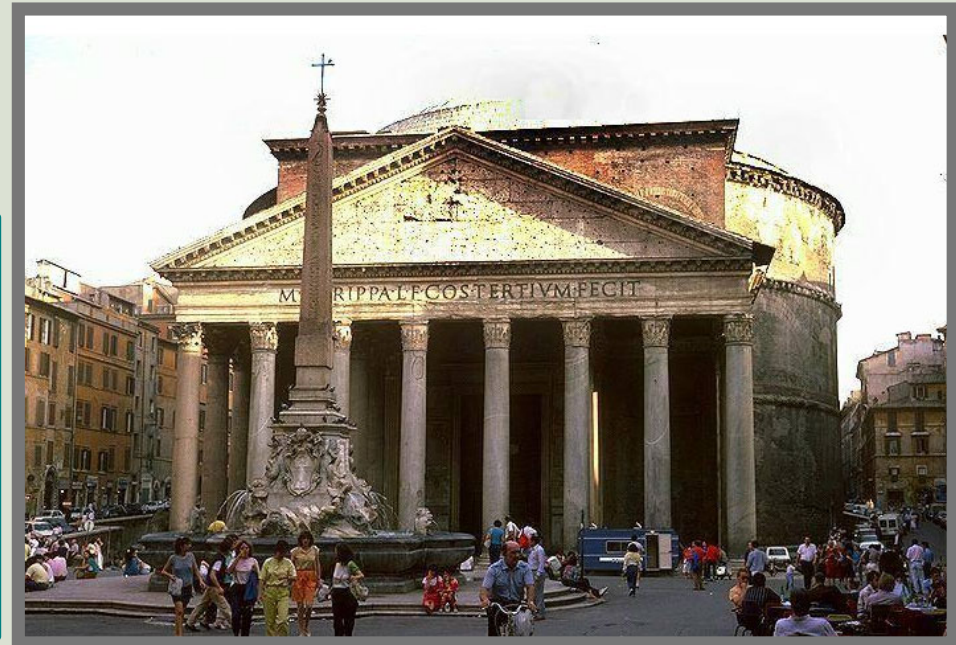
Santa Maria ad Martyres

Santa Maria Rotunda

General Subject: ▪ architecture **Indexing Type:** *isness*
religion and mythology **Extent:** purpose

Specific Subject:

- worship [AAT] **Extent:** purpose
- Roman Planetary Gods (Roman deities) [IA]
Extent: dedication
- Queen of Martyrs (Christian theme) [IA]
Extent: dedication



What is Subject Extent?

Optional: not required

- When there are multiple subjects, a term indicating the part of the work to which these subject terms apply.
- May also indicate terms referring to content or characteristics of the work not “subjects” per se, but not covered in other fields

Code	Description
30001	undetermined
30002	not applicable
30003	common
30014	primary
30015	secondary
30100	<positional extent>
30105	overall
30106	recto
30107	verso
30108	obverse
30109	reverse
31301	main work
31302	component
31303	ancillary work
31304	component
31901	side A
31902	side B
32101	interior
32102	exterior
33101	foreground
33102	background
33198	front
33199	rear
33201	top

33202	bottom
33203	side
33204	end
33205	corner
33211	center
33213	right
33214	left
33215	upper right
33216	upper left
33217	lower right
33218	lower left
33241	east
33242	north
33243	northeast
33244	northwest
33245	south
33246	southeast
33247	southwest
33248	west
33280	<non-positional attributes>
33281	language
33282	writing system
33283	script
33285	related event

Subject Extent: Extensible list.

For definitions, see

[CONA Editorial Guidelines: Subject Extent](#)

33287	dedication
33288	honoree
33289	style
33290	point of view
33291	purpose
33292	method of representation
33293	design element
33294	theme
33295	allegory
33296	symbolism
33297	color
33298	text
33299	source
33301	ware
33305	context
33351	probably
33352	former
33355	work depicted

General Subject and Specific Subject: Extent

Include subjects on various parts of the work

Cat. level: item Classification: antiquities Work Type: amphora
Title: Panathenaic Prize Amphora with Lid
Creator: attributed to the Painter of the Wedding Procession; signed by

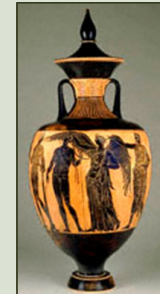
General Subject:

- religion and mythology **Extent:** overall
- utilitarian objects **Indexing Type:** isness
- ceremonial objects **Indexing Type:** isness

Specific Subject:

- Panathenaia **[AAT]** **Extent:** related event
- prize **[AAT]** **Extent:** purpose
- Athena Promachos (Greek theme) **[IA]** **Extent:** side A
- human females **[AAT]** **Extent:** side A
- Nike (Greek deity) **[IA]** **Extent:** side B
- victor **[AAT]** **Extent:** side B
- competition **[AAT]** **Extent:** side B

- Use of Extent
- Different parts of the work have different subjects
- Not required, but available if known



General Subject and Specific Subject: Extent

Include topics or proper names contained in inscriptions
For language, use Subject Extent = language

- All works should be indexed with subject
- Even nonrepresentational works and utilitarian objects
- No need to repeat Work Type *zhong* (bells)
- Subject may refer to text, including language

Record Type: Movable Work Catalog Level: item Class: sculpture

Work Types: zhong (bells) [300404743] (preferred)
bronze (visual work) [300047333]

Titles: Bell of Zhou (preferred,C,U,RP,English-P,U,U)

Zong Zhou Zhong (Bell of Zhou) (C,U,Chinese,U,U)
宗周鐘 (C,U,Chinese,U,U)

Cloche zhong dite Zong Zhou (C,U,French,U,U)

Here proper name in inscription is also the patron; repeat link to him as related person with Creator

General

ceremonial objects Extent: purpose

Specific

- ceremonial sound device [AAT] Extent: purpose
- King Li of Zhou (Chinese king, died 828 BCE) [ULAN] Extent: text
- military campaign [AAT] Extent: text
- Chinese (language) [AAT] Extent: language

Inscription: ... The inscription relates how King Li of the Western Zhou Dynasty led a successful military campaign against the southern states ...



General Subject and Specific Subject: Groups

Include subjects for group-level description, depending on whether item-level description too

Cat. Level: item **Record Type: collection**

Class: photographs European art

Work Type: albumen prints

Title: Views of Paris and Environs and the Exposition Universelle

General Subject:

- architecture
- various subjects

Specific Subject:

- views (visual works) [AAT]
- Paris (France) [TGN]
- Exposition universelle de 1889 (International exposition, Paris, 1889) [IA]
- Château de Versailles (Versailles, France) [CONA]
- Parc de Saint-Cloud (Paris, France) [TGN]
- Parc du Champ-de-Mars (Paris, France) [TGN]
- travel [AAT]



- 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

General Subject and Specific Subject: Design elements

Minimum: Include one General Subject
May include design elements, patterns, etc.

Catalog Level: item Class: prints and drawings Work Type:
lithograph
Title: White Line Square XII
Creator: Josef Albers

General Subject:

nonrepresentational art

Specific Subject:

square (shape) [AAT] Extent: design element

line (geometric concept) [AAT] Extent: design element

orange (color) [AAT] Extent: design element

Measurements: 53.3 x 53.3 cm (21 x 21 in.)

Description: Edition 125 plus 10 AP, 5 TP, RTP, PPII, 2 GEL, 5 PP;
Collaboration and Supervision Kenneth Tyler; Processing and
Proofing Kenneth Tyler; Edition Printing James Webb, Fred Ganis,
Octavio Pereira

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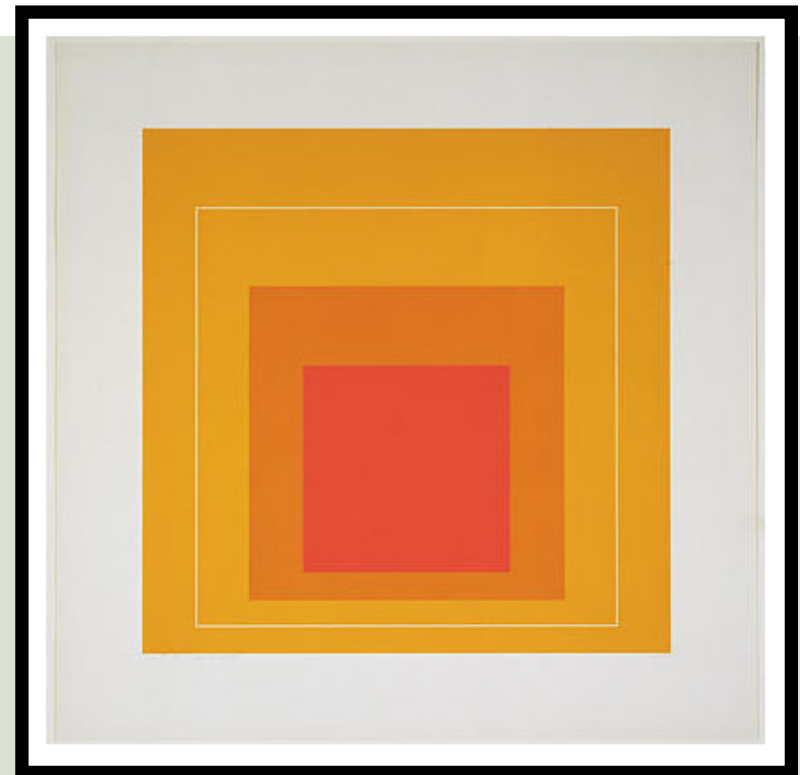
Subject Access to Art Works

CONA ID 700008601

author: Patricia Harpring

August 2019

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



What is Indexing Type?

A classification of the level of subject description indicated by the indexing terms, for use if necessary to distinguish between what a work is "of" and what it is "about."

- 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

- Three levels of analysis (“indexing type”)
 - Objective description
 - Identification of subject
 - Interpretation of the meaning or theme

Description, Identification, Interpretation are based loosely on Panofsky, Erwin. *Studies in Iconology: Humanistic Themes in the Art of the Renaissance*. New York, Oxford University Press, 1939.

What is Indexing Type?

- **description**

For terms that index the work according to the generic elements of the image or images depicted in, on, or by it. These are elements that may be recognized by a viewer having little or no knowledge of a particular theme or the iconography depicted. Used in both General Depicted Subject (e.g., a viewer without specialized knowledge may recognize a human figure) and Specific Depicted Subject (e.g., child (people by age group) [AAT 300025945]). Description is usually analogous to *ofness*.

- **identification**

For terms that name the subject depicted in or on a work: its iconography. Iconography is the named mythological, fictional, religious, or historical narrative subject matter of a work, or its non-narrative content in the form of persons, places, things, from the real world or iconographic themes. Identification requires knowledge of the subject depicted. Used primarily in Specific Depicted Subject (e.g., an image of a child may be identified as Eros (Greek god) [IA 1000613]). Identification may be analogous to either *aboutness* or *ofness*.

- **interpretation**

For terms that refer to the meaning or theme represented by the subject matter or iconography of a work. Interpretation requires access to expert analysis or knowledge of common themes, such as represented in allegory or symbols. Used primarily in Specific Depicted Subject (e.g., an image of Eros symbolizes love (emotion) [AAT 300055165]). Interpretation is usually analogous to *aboutness*.

Description, Identification, Interpretation

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

General Subject:
religion and mythology

Specific Subject:

- woman [AAT]
- baby [AAT]
- men [AAT]
- vessels [AAT]

description

Cat. Level: item Class. paintings Work Type: Painting

Title: *Adoration of the Magi*

Greater Master, Italian



Description, Identification,

General Subject:
religion and mythology

Specific Subject:

- Adoration of the Magi [IA]
- Mary [IA]
- Jesus [IA]
- Joseph [IA]
- Magi [IA]
- Melchior [IA]
- Caspar [IA]
- Balthasar [IA]
- gifts [AAT] ■ kings [AAT]
- gold [AAT] ■ magi [AAT]
- frankincense [AAT]
- myrrh [AAT]

identification

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

Cat Level: item Class.: paintings Work Type: Painting

Title: *Adoration of the Magi*



Subject Access to Art Works

CONA ID: 700002178

author: Patricia Harpring

August 2019

Description, Identification, Interpretation

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

General Subject:
religion and mythology

Specific Subject:

- Epiphany [AAT]
- Races of Man [IA]
- Ages of Man [IA]
- deity [AAT]
- death [AAT]

interpretation

Cat. Level: item Class.: paintings Work Type: Painting

Title: *Adoration of the Magi*



What is Indexing Type?

A classification of the level of subject description indicated by the indexing terms, for use if necessary to distinguish between what a work is "of" and what it is "about."

another way of considering subject,
according to what the subject is *of*, what it is *about*, or what it *is*

- **isness** = what a work is, what class it belongs to
- **aboutness** = what a work conveys
- **ofness** = what a work depicts

For aboutness, ofness, isness, see
Zeng, Marcia Lei, Athena Salaba and Maja Zumer. *FRSAD: Conceptual Modeling of Aboutness. Third Millennium Cataloging*. Santa Barbara, California: Libraries Unlimited, 2012.

Isness, Aboutness, Ofness

- **isness**
For terms that equal the work described or the class to which it belongs, relevant particularly to distinguish when the subject term is the work, as opposed to descriptive of the subject portrayed in the work. Used primarily in General Depicted Subject. For example, if you are cataloging a cathedral as a built work, General Depicted Subject term architecture has Indexing Type *isness*; if you are cataloging a drawing of a cathedral, architecture has Indexing Type *description*.
- **aboutness**
If more familiar with aboutness than the Panofsky-inspired terms, cataloging institutions may use this flag to indicate what the work is about. It may be analogous to either identification or interpretation.
- **ofness**
If more familiar with ofness than the Panofsky-inspired terms, cataloging institutions may use this flag to indicate what the work is of. It may be analogous to either description or identification.

Part 3: Issues and Resolutions in Indexing Subject

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



Where to set limits on Specificity and Exhaustivity

- **Issue:** How many terms are required?
- **Resolution:** One subject term is required, a general subject designation (from controlled list)
- although it is strongly encouraged to include specific subject terms too (from AAT, TGN, ULAN, CONA, and IA, or other published authorities)
- As a last resort, “undetermined” may be sometimes allowed in if no subject can be extrapolated

- **Issue:** Is it useful to index every item in the scene? If not, where do you draw the limit?
- **Resolution:** Do not index all items depicted! Too many indexing terms are almost as bad as none, because bad retrieval results happen
- Index only the most important or most prevalent parts of the subject depicted or intended

How specific? How many terms?

- Minimum record: One term for General Subject is required
- Indexing Type is not required, but is particularly recommended for “isness”
- Also recommended to index information in the title, here “Vulture.” The species of vulture is known as probable from accompanying authoritative material.

Cat. level: item Classification ceramics
Work Type vessel
Title: Vulture Vessel
Creator Display: unknown Aztec Cultural Group: [ULAN 500202913]
Creation Date 1200/1521

General Subject

utilitarian objects **Indexing Type:** isness

Specific Subject

vulture [AAT]

Sarcoramphus papa (species) [AAT] **Extent:** probably



How specific? How many terms?

Cat. level: item Class: photographs Work Type: photograph

Title: [Portrait of Empress Carlota]

Creator: Díaz: André Adolphe Fournier (1810-1890)

General Subject: portraits

Specific Subject:

- Carlota, Empress, consort of Maximilian, Emperor of Mexico (Empress, active in Mexico, 1840-1927) [ULAN]
 - single-sitter portrait [AAT]
 - full-length figure [AAT]
 - woman (female human) [AAT]
 - costume [AAT]
 - fur garments [AAT]
- not primary subjects

-
- coat [AAT] • hat [AAT] • gloves [AAT]
 - table [AAT] • book [AAT] • carpet [AAT]
 - bow (costume accessory) [AAT]
 - face (animal or human component) [AAT]
 - hands (animal or human components) [AAT]



How many subject terms are too many?

Establish rules regarding the number of terms to assign and method of analyzing

Include subjects named in Title and any other important subjects

- In this example, General Subject and name of sitter are critical, in the Title
- Costume is also important subject element, according to contributor
- But indexing too many details of the composition are unhelpful
- Will user want to retrieve this work when looking for “carpet” or “hands”?

How specific? How many terms?

- Include names of characters in the title
- Include the identity of sitters in historiated portraits, if known from authoritative information
- Subject of the painting is a reference to a literary work, Dante's *La Vita Nuova*

Catalog Level: item Class: paintings Work Type: painting

Title: Dante and Beatrice

Creator: Henry Holiday (British, 1839 - 1927)

Current Location: Walker Art Gallery (Liverpool, England)

General Subject: ·literary ·portraits

Specific Subject:

- Dante Alighieri (Italian poet, 1265-1321) [ULAN]
- Beatrice Portinari (Florentine, 1266-1290) [ULAN]
- Vita Nuova (literary work, Dante, 1295) [IA]
- historiated portraits [AAT]
- Eleanor Butcher (British, 1844-1894) [ULAN]
- Milly Hughes (British, 19th century) [ULAN]
- Kitty Lushington (British, 1867-1922) [ULAN]
- Ponte Vecchio (bridge, Florence, Italy) [CONA]
- Ponte Santa Trinità (bridge, Florence, Italy) [CONA]
- Arno River (Tuscany, Italy) [TGN]



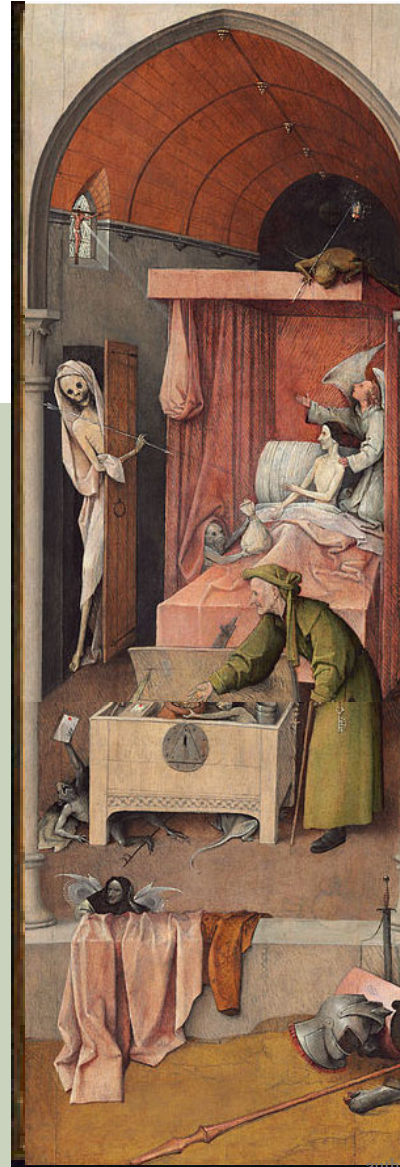
How specific? How many terms?

Cat. level: item Class: paintings Work Type: painting
Title: Death and the Miser
Creator: Hieronymus Bosch (Netherlandish, ca. 1450-1516)

General Subject: literary theme

Specific Subject:

- **Ars Moriendi** (instructional literature, 1415 and 1450) [IA]
- **miser** [AAT]
- **Death (allegorical character)** [IA]
- **death** [AAT]
- **skeleton (animal component)** [AAT]
- **man (male human)** [AAT]
- **angel (spirit)** [AAT]
- **devils (spirits)** [AAT]
- **sparver bed** [AAT]
- **deathbed** [AAT]
- **avarice** [AAT]



Adjust 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
- Index subject in the title
- 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

How specific? How many terms?

Cat level: item Class.:paintings Work Type: painting

Title: Death and the Miser

Creator: Hieronymus Bosch (Netherlandish, ca. 1450-1516)

General Subject: literary theme

Specific Subject:

- **Ars Moriendi** (instructional literature, 1415 and 1450) [IA]
- **miser** [AAT]
- **Death (allegorical character)** [IA]
- **death** [AAT]
- **skeleton (animal component)** [AAT]
- **man (male human)** [AAT]
- **angel (spirit)** [AAT]
- **devils (spirits)** [AAT]
- **sparver bed** [AAT]
- **deathbed** [AAT]
- **avarice** [AAT]

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



Adjust 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
- Index subject in the title
- 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

How specific? How many terms?

- Example of a volume containing photographs, each cataloged as an item and linked to the whole
- Album has general and overall subject indexing, not every subject in the album because
- Individual subjects would be indexed at item-level

Whole/part Hierarchical relationships



- Delhi (album (book); Felice Beato (British, 1832-1909); 2007.26.204)
 - Arch in Kootub (albumen print; Felice Beato (British, 1832-1909); 2007.26.204.1)
 - Arch in Kootub (albumen print; Felice Beato (British, 1832-1909); 2007.26.204.2)
 - Barren Landscape with Fortress, Delhi (albumen print; Felice Beato (British, 1832-1909); 2007.26.204.3)
 - Cashmere Gate (albumen print; Felice Beato (British, 1832-1909); 2007.26.204.4)
 - Cashmere Gate. Front view (albumen print; Felice Beato (British, 1832-1909); 2007.26.204.5)
 - Delhi Mahoumudan (albumen print; Felice Beato (British, 1832-1909); 2007.26.204.6)
 - Detail View of the Pillar of Kootub (albumen print; Felice Beato (British, 1832-1909); 2007.26.204.7)
 - Distant View of Kootub (albumen print; Felice Beato (British, 1832-1909); 2007.26.204.8)
 - Entrance to an unidentified tomb (albumen print; Felice Beato (British, 1832-1909); 2007.26.204.9)
 - Entrance to the Large Mosque of Jumma (albumen print; Felice Beato (British, 1832-1909); 2007.26.204.10)
 - Exterior of the Crystal Throne in the Dewan-i-Khas (albumen print; Charles Moravia; 2007.26.204.11)
 - Exterior of the Hindu Temple in Kootub (albumen print; Charles Moravia; 2007.26.204.12)
 - Exterior of the Hindu Temple in Kootub (albumen silver print; Charles Moravia; 2007.26.204.9)
 - Flag Staff Battery (albumen print; Felice Beato; 2007.26.204.25)
 - Grand Breach at the Cashmere Bastion (albumen print; Felice Beato; 2007.26.204.41)
 - Hindoo Nao's House (albumen print; Felice Beato; 2007.26.204.38)
 - House where King was Confined in the Palace (albumen silver print; Felice Beato; 2007.26.204.13)
 - Interior of the Crystal Throne in the Dewan-i-Khas (albumen print; Charles Moravia; 2007.26.204.18)

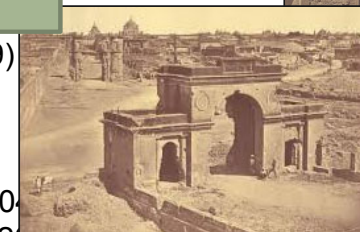
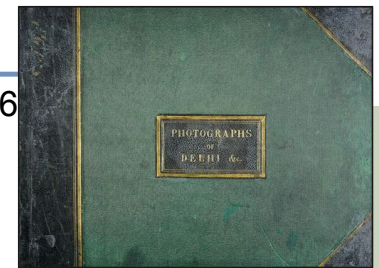
Cat. level: item Class: photographs
Work Type: album (book)
Title: Delhi
Creator: Felice Beato (British, 1832-1909)
Date: ca. 1857
Location: J. Paul Getty Museum; 2007.26.204)

General Subject:

- architecture •various subjects

Specific Subject:

- portraits [AAT]
- topographical views [AAT]
- architectural views [AAT]



How specific? How many terms?

- Be only as specific as warranted by authoritative info
- Broad and accurate is better than specific but incorrect
- e.g., “butterflies” is better than incorrectly labeling it “Morpho menelaus”

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)

General Subject: · animals · botanical
Specific Subject:

- pomegranate (fruit) [AAT]
- Punica granatum (species) [AAT]
- butterflies [AAT]
- Blue Morpho (general) [AAT]
- Morpho menelaus (species) [AAT]
- caterpillar [AAT]
- Banded Sphinx Moth (species) [AAT]



- In this case, the repository has identified the type of butterfly in the title and the species elsewhere
- Wings have different coloration on top and underside, same species of butterfly
- Expert information indicates that the caterpillar however is another species, of moth

How to index when a subject is unknown or uncertain?

- **Issue:** Sometimes the subject is not documented. The indexer can guess, but does not have authoritative warrant for what is the subject. Okay?
- **Resolution:** As with all indexing, better to be accurate and broad rather than incorrect and specific
- Do not guess or index based on your own or other non-expert opinion
- If you are not an expert on the subject, you must have authoritative information from a reliable source
- You may index multiple possible subjects if scholarly opinion is divided
- You may index multiple possible subjects authoritative opinion on the subject content has changed over time, list current and historical to allow retrieval

Subject is unknown or uncertain

Cat. Level: item Class: textiles Work Type: mola
Title: Kuni Mola

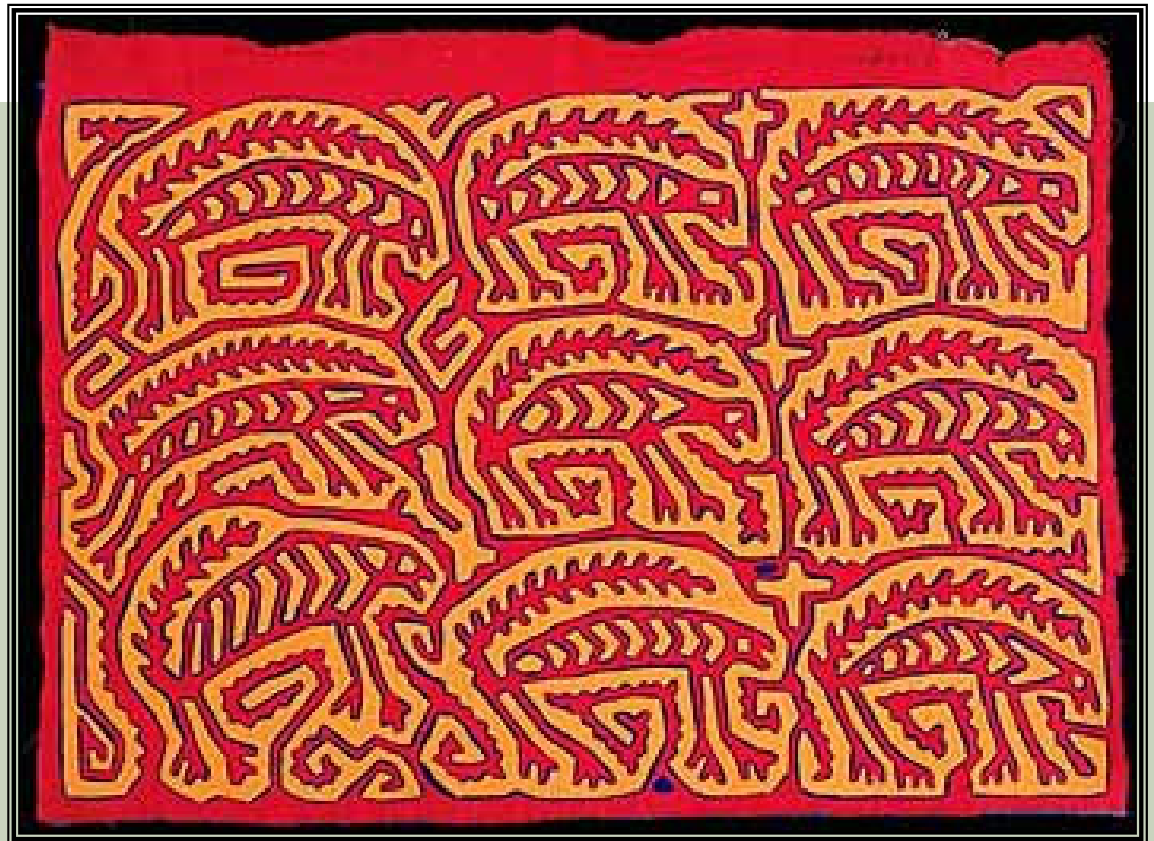
General Subject:

- **apparel** **Indexing Type: isness**
- **animals**

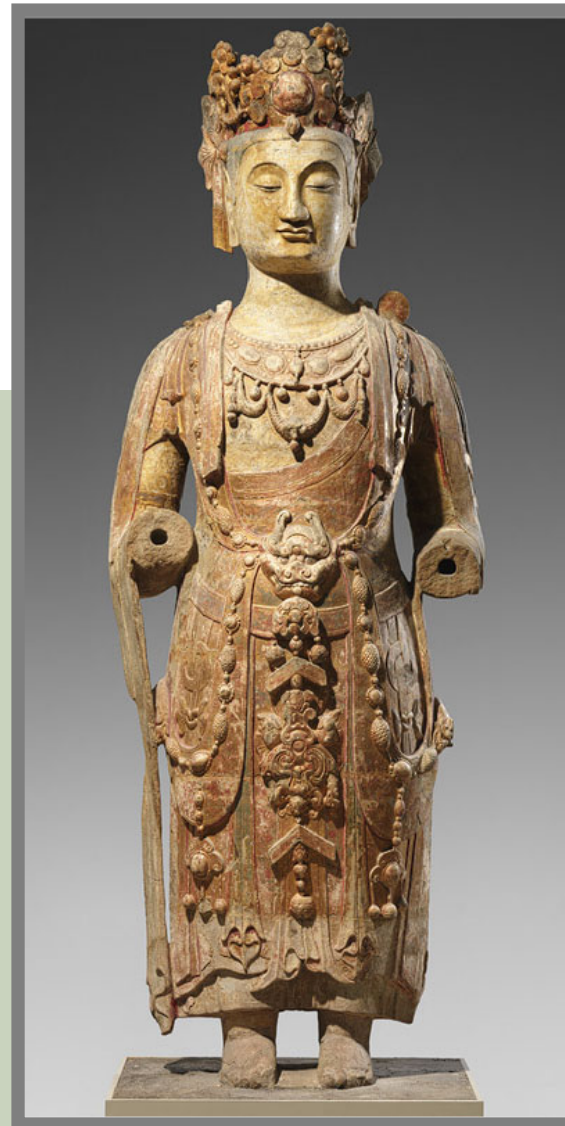
Specific Subject:

- squirrels [AAT]
- tree [AAT]
- branches (plant components) [AAT]
- cages [AAT]
- Nature [AAT]
- dreams [AAT]
- creation (doctrinal concept) [AAT]
- tree of life (general motif) [AAT]
- Balu wala (Kuna theme) [IA]
- Olouaipipilele (Kuna deity) [IA]
- sun god [AAT]
- felling (activity) [AAT]

- 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



Subject is unknown or uncertain



- When subject is uncertain due to scholarly debate, list multiple possibilities (Guanyin or Maitreya)
- Since Title mentions *Avalokiteshvara* (Indian counterpart of Guanyin) that is also indexed
- Descriptive Note field may be used to explain the controversy

General Subject:

religion and mythology
human figures

Specific Subject:

Guanyin [IA]
Avalokiteshvara [IA]
Maitreya [IA]
bodhisattva [AAT]
compassion [AAT]

Subject is unknown or uncertain or has changed

Another situation warranting multiple possible subjects is to index former subjects

Cat. level: item Class.: paintings Work Type: painting
Titles: Portrait of a Halberdier (Francesco Guardi?)
Portrait of Cosimo I de' Medici Title Type: former
*Creator Display: Pontorno (Italian, 1494-1557)

General Subject: portraits

Specific Subject:

- Francesco Guardi (Italian noble, born 1514) [ULAN] **Extent:** probably
- Cosimo I de' Medici, Grand duke of Tuscany (Italian grand duke, patron, 1519-1574) [ULAN] **Extent:** former
- single-sitter portrait [AAT]
- halberdier [AAT]
- noble (aristocrat) [AAT]



- A work may have former subject designations
- Index all
- Here, opinion re. identity of the sitter has changed
- May use **Extent** to indicate former subject attribution and “probably”



When to use Indexing Type: Description, Identification, Interpretation

- **Issue:** Should you indicate Indexing Type? Description, Identification, Interpretation, Aboutness, Ofness, Isness. Why and when?
- **Resolution:** If possible, flag the indexing type applicable to the term, particularly when the distinction is relevant
- "Isness" is always useful to know, to distinguish a thing from depictions of a thing
- If you do flag Indexing Type, you need not flag every term
- If you cannot flag Indexing Type, it is still helpful to use the method mentally to analyze subjects when indexing

Description, Identification, Interpretation

Catalog Level: item Class.: paintings

Work Type: painting

Titles: Three Peonies

牡丹

Creator: Yün Shou-p'ing (1633-1690) Style/Period: Ch'ing dynasty

Location: National Palace Museum (Taipei, Taiwan)

General Subject

botanical

Specific Subject:

- Paeonia (genus) [AAT]
- wealth [AAT] Indexing Type: interpretation
- prosperity [AAT] Indexing Type: interpretation

Note: Three peonies are distinguished by their colors and positions. The peony is considered the king of flowers in China, symbolizing **wealth and prosperity**.

- Flagging “interpretation” indicates that this is what the image is about, not what is literally depicted in it
- Based on expert knowledge from the museum, associated with the work



CONA ID 700008561

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Description, Identification, Interpretation

Cat. level: item Class.: paintings Work Type: ▪ painting

Title: Autumn: On the Hudson River

*Gardner, Philip James, 1823-1890

General Subject ▪ landscapes **Type:** description

Specific Subject

- hunters [AAT] **Type:** description
- autumn [AAT] **Type:** description
- dawn [AAT] **Type:** description
- Hudson River (United States) [TGN] **Type:** identification
- Storm King Mountain (Orange county, New York, USA) [TGN] **Type:** identification
- peace [AAT] **Type:** interpretation
- harmony [AAT] **Type:** interpretation
- Nature [AAT] **Type:** interpretation

Note: ...looking southeast toward the distant **Hudson River** and the flank of **Storm King Mountain**. A small stream leads from the foreground, where three hunters and their dogs gaze into the sunlight at dawn. All along the meandering tributary there are signs of man's **peaceful coexistence with nature**.

- **Description:** what does a non-expert see? hunters, autumn colors, dawn (or dusk)
- **Identification and Interpretation** based on expert information, which also confirms that Description as correct



Description, Identification, Interpretation

Cat. level: item Class.: paintings Work Type painting
Title: Les Demoiselles d'Avignon
Creator Display Pablo Picasso (Spanish 1881-1973)

General Subject
human figures

Specific Subject

women (human females) [AAT]
nudes (representations) [AAT]
fruit (plant components) [AAT]
mask (costume) [AAT]
African (culture and style) [AAT]
Iberian (culture and style) [AAT]
Carrer d'Avinyó (Barcelona, Spain) [TGN]
brothel [AAT]
prostitution [AAT]

Description
Identification
Interpretation

May be used as a systematic method for analysis, even if the three levels are not labeled



Description, Identification, Interpretation

Cat level: itemClass.: Manuscripts Work Type: folio
Title: A Pelican Feeding her Young
Creator: unknown Franco-Flemish Role: illuminator

General Subject:

animals
religion and mythology
literary theme
allegory

Specific Subject:

Pelecanus (genus) [AAT]
blood (animal material) [AAT]
feeding [AAT]
De Avibus (Hugh of Fouilloy) [IA]
Psalms [IA]
eucharist [AAT]

**Resurrection of Christ (New
Testament narrative)** [IA]

Type: interpretation



- If you do not label *interpretation*, you cannot reliably distinguish a portrayal of the “Resurrection” from this allegory for the “Resurrection”

Description, Identification, Interpretation

- Other appellations for works that have no *title* per se
- May repeat the Work Type

Cat. level: item

Classification tools and implements | Pre-Columbian art

Work Type bannerstone

Title Bannerstone

Creator unknown Woodland (Native American)

Creation Date Late Archaic (1000 BCE/1000 CE)

General Subject utilitarian objects

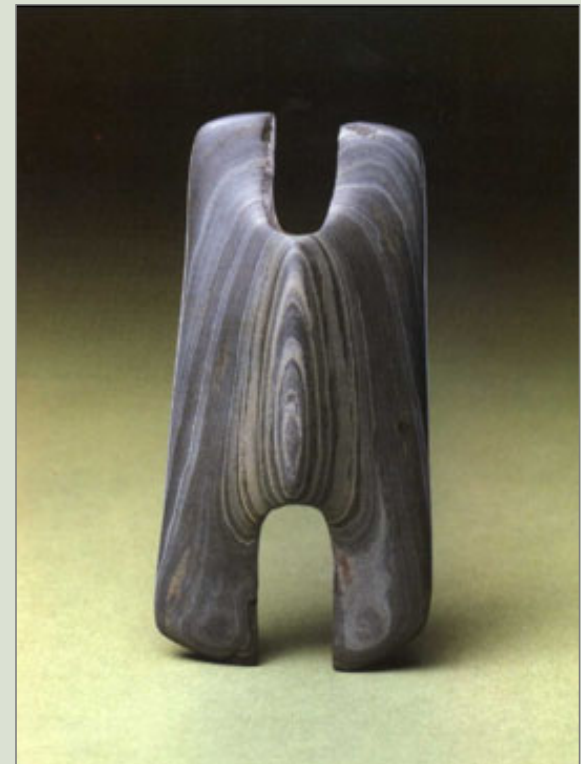
Current Location Gordon Hart Collection (Bluffton, Indiana)

Dimensions 9.7 x 5 cm (3 7/8 x 2 inches)

Mat & Tech banded slate

| banded slate

Descriptive Note Formed part of an atlatl (spear-thrower); it is carefully made and of decorative material and thus was probably a status symbol.



Description, Identification, Interpretation

- Subject for furniture and decorative arts
- may include “isness” to distinguish from depictions of a thing
- Need not repeat Work Type in Subject, even though it is in the Title

Cat level: item Class: decorative arts
Work Type: globe
Title: Terrestrial Globe

General Subject:
utilitarian objects
Indexing Type: isness
cartographic
Specific Subject:
Earth (planet) [TGN]

s: 109.9 (height) x 44.5 (diameter)
1.8 cm (depth of the stand) (43
2 x 12 1/2 inches)

a globe



Cat. level: item Class. drawings Work Type: drawing
Title: Pennsylvania German Dish

General Subject:
another work
utilitarian objects
Indexing Type: description
Specific Subject:
Pennsylvania German Dish [CONA]
floral patterns [AAT]
sgraffito (maiolica) [AAT]

Notice the bold floral design that contrasts with the light strokes of lettering that form a delicate border. Splashes of green worked into the glaze heighten the color of the red clay that is exposed. The dish was made by Samuel Troxel. The inscription reads: "From clay and many skills, the potter fashions what he will, July the 19th 1823."
Related Work: Pennsylvania German Dish

a drawing of a dish



For non-narrative works Is there a subject?

- **Issue:** What if the work has no apparent pictorial iconography?
- **Resolution:** Works without iconographical or narrative subject content should also be assigned a subject term
- General subject term could be, for example, "architecture" or "utilitarian objects," extrapolated from work type
- Purpose, function, dedication are recorded as "subjects"

Is there a subject?



- *General Subject* should be included even if there is no figurative or narrative content
- what is it "of" or "about"
- *Specific Subject* is not required
- in this case, the repository notes it as 'interior design' as subject, indicating purpose, of sorts
- intended to invoke the idea of 'children,' created for a kindergarten

Cat. level: item Class: decorative arts Work Type: stained glass window
Title: Stained-glass window
Date: 1912
Creator: Frank Lloyd Wright (American, 1867-1959)
Mat & Tech: glass, zinc; 86 1/4 x 28 x 2 in. (219.1 x 71.1 x 5.1 cm)
Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, New York)
Purchase, Edgar J. Kaufmann Foundation and Edward C. Moore Jr. Gifts, 1967
(67.231.1)

General Subject:

furnishings **Indexing Type:** isness
nonrepresentational art

Specific Subject:

interior design [AAT] **Extent:** purpose
children [AAT] **Extent:** theme

Is there a subject?

- General subject = work type “isness”
- Type and Extent may be used, but not required
- Specific Subject: not required, but may be purpose

Cat level: item Class: architecture Work Type: house

Titles: Case Study House No. 21

Bailey House

General Subject:

architecture **Indexing Type:** isness

Specific Subject:

dwelling **[AAT]** **Extent:** purpose



Is there a subject?

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

Catalog Level: item Class: sculpture Modern art
Work Type: sculpture

Title: Unique Forms of Continuity in Space

General Subject:

nonrepresentational art
human figures

Specific Subject:

motion [AAT]
nude (representation) [AAT]
female [AAT]
space (general physical property) [AAT]
striding [AAT]

DO NOT GUESS:
interpretation of
artist's intent is
derived from an
authoritative
source



www.moma.org | accessed 23 January 2010

Is there a subject?

- Subject may include design elements, symbols and themes
- May represent a named person, event, etc.

Cat level: item Class: textiles Work Type: carpet

Title: Carpet

Creator/Role*: Savonnerie Manufactory

General Subject:

utilitarian objects **Indexing Type:** isness
textile **Indexing Type:** isness

Specific Subject:

sunflower (genus) [AAT]

acanthus (motif) [AAT]

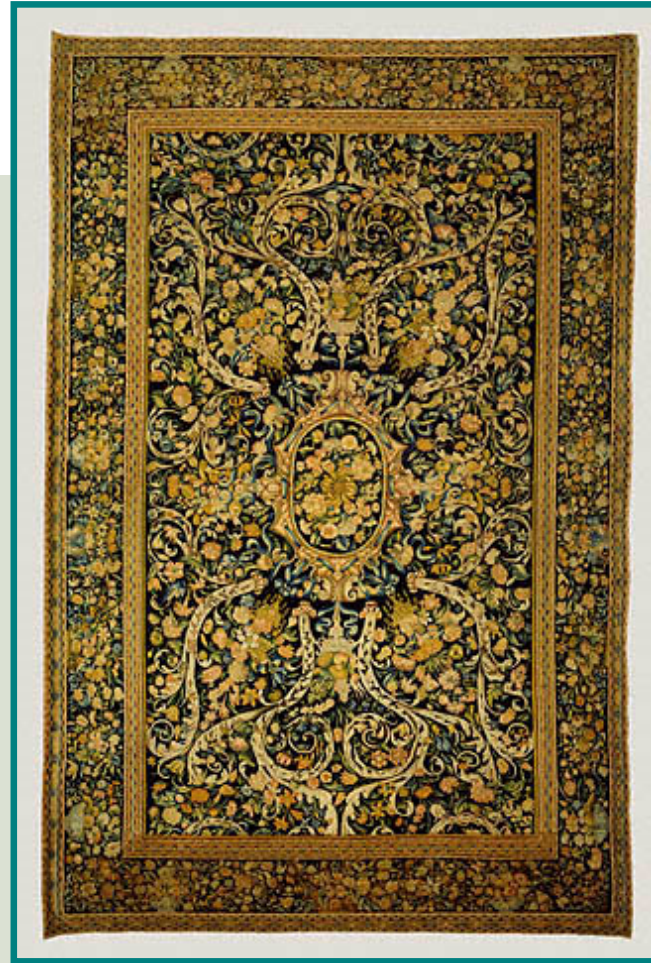
leaf scrolls [AAT]

fruit (plant components) [AAT]

flowers (plant components) [AAT]

Louis XIV (French king, 1638-1715) [ULAN]

Indexing Type: interpretation



Is there a subject?

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

Cat level: item Class: performance Work Type: performance art

*Title: Angels//Anvils

*Creator Display: Sean Kilcoyne (American, contemporary) and

General Subject:

performance art

Specific Subject:

- men (male humans) [AAT]
- Vietnam War (Asian-Western event, 1954-1975) [IA]
- death [AAT]
- remorse [AAT]



Is there a subject?

- Subject may include function
- Work Type *pwo mask* is already captured in another field
- Restate the obvious? A mask does represent a face
Okay to add additional indexing terms to clarify for retrieval

Cat level: item *Class:* costume *Work Type:* ▪ pwo mask
Title: Face mask (pwo)

General Subject:

- human figures
- apparel **Extent:** isness
- ceremonial objects **Extent:** purpose

Specific Subject:

- face (animal component) [AAT]
- face mask [AAT]
- female [AAT]

h (Washington, DC,

ation: Democratic

okwe villages masks
re, or to represent
wn Chokwe



Written vs. pictorial subject

Cat level: item Class: manuscripts Work Type: folio
Title: Folio from Sloane 1975 f. 10 r-v
Creator: Unknown N. England or N. France
Location: British Library (London)

General Subject:

- botanical
- literary

Specific Subject:

- herbal (reference source) [AAT]
- De medicina ex animalibus
(Sextus Placitus, Roman, ca. 370 CE) [IA]
- *Stachys officinalis* (species) [AAT]
- medicines [AAT]

Provenance: ? The Cistercian abbey of St Mary, Ourscamps,
Picardy; effaced 14th-century ownership inscription (f. 91); see

Inscription: 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.



- Subject may include the content of the text
- in addition to or instead of the visual subject content
- Transcribe or describe the text in the [Inscriptions](#) field
- For physical form of the work, *book*, use [Work Type](#) field

Relying upon Subject Authority vs 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?

- **Resolution:** 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

Subject as depicted in the Work vs subject in the Authority

Cat level: item Class.: sculpture

Work Type: colossal sculpture

Titles: Reclining Buddha

Cre
Cre
Loc

General Subject

religion and mythology
human figure

Specific Subject

Reclining Buddha (Buddhist theme) [IA]

nirvana (Buddhist doctrinal concepts) [AAT]

Redundant linking?

- Try for consistency, but variations are inevitable in indexing
- E.g., The character “Buddha” is linked to the theme “Reclining Buddha” in IA
It need not, but may, be repeated here
- “nirvana” should also be included in IA for Reclining Buddha, but may be repeated here
- Other fields will be implemented in retrieval, not only Subject. What about size “colossal,” is that Subject?
- It is recorded in Work Type and in Dimensions and need not be repeated here



Subject as depicted in the Work vs subject in the Authority

The Iconography Authority record

#	P	Name
1	P	Adoration of the Magi
2	V	Adoraton of the Kings
3	V	Adoration of the Three Kings
4	V	Adoration of the Wise Men
5	V	Adorazione dei Magi
6	V	Anbetung der Könige

LET'S CONSIDER AN EXAMPLE

- **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

Sources Associative Rels AAT Rels Place Rels Person/Cor

Rel Type	
5500 - actor is	Blessed Virgin Mary
5500 - actor is	Joseph, Saint
5500 - actor is	Three Magi
5500 - actor is	Gaspar
5500 - actor is	Melchior
5500 - actor is	Balthasar

Iconography Edit

Iconography Id: 1000083 Iconogra

Iconography Type: Event/Narrative

Descriptive Note: Episode in the Life of Christ the newborn Jesus Christ with Phrygian caps in early man and the tury CE

Name

Name	Term Type	Source
Magi		
Kings	New Testament narrative	
Three Kings	New Testament narrative	
Wise Men	New Testament narrative	
Magi	storia del Nuovo Testamento	
önige	Geschichte des Neuen Testamen	

P Term Type

P Descriptor

Source

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston [online] (2003)

Catholic Encyclopedia [online], republished from 1913 editi(accesse

Hierarchy

Name	Iconography Id
ards	1000
	1000
	1000
	1000
	1000
	1000
	1000
	1000
	1000
	1000

author: Patricia Harpring August 2019

Subject as depicted in the Work vs subject in the Authority

Adoration of the Magi example

**Iconography specific
to this work that is not standard for all
Adoration of the Magi depictions:**

- Journey of the Magi at top method of representation = *continuous representation*
- Jerusalem = Siena
- horses as major compositional element

Cat level: item Class.: paintings
Work type: altarpiece;
Title: Adoration of the Magi
Creator: Bartolo di Fredi (Sienese, ca. 1330-1410);
Date: ca. 1385
Location: Pinacoteca Nazionale di Siena (Siena,
Siena province, Tuscany, Italy); no. 104.



- Are the Three Ages of Man portrayed in this work? **Yes**
- Are the Three Races of Man portrayed? **No**

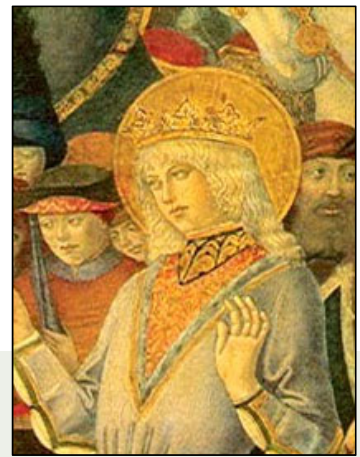


- Are they kings or magi?
- Both kings and astrologers with Phrygian caps
- Unbeliever rustic groom contrasted with believers Magi and retinue

Subject as depicted in the Work vs subject in the Authority

- This later painting has both Three Ages of Man and Three Races of Man

Cat level: item Class paintings
Work Type: painting
Creator: Benvenuto di Giovanni (Sienese, 1436 - before 1517)
Title: Adoration of the Magi
Date: ca. 1470/1475
Mat & Tech: tempera on panel
Dimensions: 182 x 137 cm (7 5/8 x 53 15/16 in.)
Current Location: National Gallery of Art (Washington, DC); Andrew W. Mellon Collection; 1937.1.10



Subject as depicted in the Work vs subject in the Authority



- This one also has both Three Ages of Man and the Three Races of Man
- Structure of the stable (new order, the Church) built upon ancient ruins (the old order, Paganism)

Cat level: item Class: paintings
Work Type: painting
Creator: Peter Paul Rubens
Title: Adoration of the Magi
Date: 1624
Mat & Tech: oil on panel
Current Location: Koninklijk
Royal Museum of Fine Arts
(Antwerp, Belgium)

Subject as depicted in the Work vs subject in the Authority

Adoration of the Magi example

- 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 and gifts
- Part of subject here is **method of representation** = *close-up view* is reference to Roman reliefs



Cat level: item
Class: paintings
Work Type painting
Creator: Mantegna
Title: Adoration of the Magi
Current Location: J. Paul Getty Museum

Subject as depicted in the Work vs subject in the Authority

Adoration of th



- This one has Adoration of the Magi and the Journey of Magi
- Animals include not just ox, ass, horses, camels, but a peacock (incorruptible flesh, symbol of eternal life)

Cat level: item Class: paintings
Work Type: painting
Creator: Fra Angelico and Fra Filippo Lippi
Title: Adoration of the Magi
Date: ca. 1440/1460
Current Location: National Gallery of Art (Washington, DC) Samuel H. Kress Collection; 1952.2.2



Subject as depicted in the Work vs subject in the Authority

Cat level: item Class: sculptures
Work Type: plaque

Title: Ivory plaque with the Adoration of the Magi

Current Location: British Museum
(London, England); 1904,0702.1;
M&ME 1904,7-2,1

Creation Location: Eastern
Mediterranean region

Dimensions: 21.700 x 12.400 x 1.200
cm; from the centre of a 5-part
diptych

Date: Early Byzantine, early 6th
century CE

Mat & Tech: relief panel

Desc. Note: This panel presents a
solemn hieratic image of the
Adoration of Christ. The Virgin
Mary, shown with wide staring eyes
and larger in scale than the other
figures, dominates the composition.
The Christ child, held between her
legs, makes the gesture of blessing.
Beside the Virgin are an angel
holding a cross-staff and the three
Magi (Wise Men) dressed in Oriental
costume – tight trousers, short
tunics and Phrygian caps. They
present their gifts as sacred
offerings with veiled hands.



In brief:

- If you know it, include it
- But do not index specific subject data unless you have authoritative sources for the information
- Better to be general and correct rather than specific and incorrect

- Balthasar, 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 are intended here?
- If not, better to index *Adoration of the Magi* as a Specific Subject
- But do not name the Magi unless you are certain, based on authoritative sources

Linking to the appropriate term within a vocabulary record

- **Issue:** Will your system allow you to choose not only the vocabulary record, but also the term?

The vocabulary will have one preferred term that is used as a default, and other synonyms that refer to the same concept, person, place, work, or iconographic subject; must you use the default preferred?

- **Resolution:** If possible, link to the term that matches the source material or subject, not necessarily the Preferred term

If not possible, the Preferred term for the authority is okay

But given that Subject is typically used for both indexing and also for display, it is desirable to have a system that will allow you to link to the appropriate synonym for your work at hand

Linking to a particular term

Cat level: item Class: paintings Work Type: painting

Title: Modern Rome – Campo Vaccino

Creator: [redacted] (1851)
 Date: 18[redacted]
 Dimension: 48 1/2 x 48 1/2 in. (123.8 x 123.8 cm)
 Current Location: California

General Subject
 cityscape

Specific Subject
 Campo Vaccino [Roman Forum] (Rome, Italy) [TCGN]
 ruins [AAT]



- Use the term/name that is appropriate for the subject depicted
- Examples: Plural or singular, English or Latin, current or historical term/name
- Example: The title names the Roman Forum by a historical name, appropriate for the time when the scene was depicted

TGN 7006946

#	P	H	V	Terms/Names	Term ID
1	P	C	V	Roman Forum	1005687175
2	V	C	V	Foro Romano	101547
3	V	H	V	Campo Vaccino	1005687176
4	V	H	V	Forum Romanum	143035

- Campo Vaccino* is a variant term/name for *Roman Forum*
- Terms are identified by unique numeric IDs
- The combination of TGN ID plus the Term ID distinguish *Campo Vaccino* [meaning “cow pasture”]

Linking to a particular term

- Use the term/name that is appropriate for the subject depicted
- Example: May prefer to index with the “Common term” for the species rather than the Latin binomial, which is the preferred name/term

Cat level: item Class sculpture

Work Type: sculpture

Title: Tomb Figure of a Bactrian Camel

General Subject: ceremonial objects **Type:** isness animals

Specific Subject:

Bactrian camel (species) [AAT]

funerary object [AAT] **Extent:** purpose

AAT 300343842

Materials: earthenware

Term: terracotta (Ceramics)

Sancai

Dimensions: 32 x 20 x 15 cm)

General Subject: animals


Specific Subject: funerary object

object

Culture: Chinese



#	P	H	V	Terms/Names	Term ID	Other Flags
1	P	C	U	Camelus bactrianus	1000462371	Scientific term
2	V	C	U	Bactrian camel	1000462372	Common term
3	V	C	U	Bactrian camels	1000580917	N/A
4	V	C	U	Camelus ferus	1000462373	N/A



Another work depicted: Record as subject or associative relationship?

▪ **Issue:** If the Work depicts another work, should this be recorded as Subject or as Associative Relationship?

- **Resolution:** Always link the work depicted as Subject (ideally using CONA).
- If the work is a critical depiction of the work, link it also as a related work using Associative Relationships.
- Remember that link via Associative Relationships is reciprocal. Is this a link that should always be displayed in the second work's record? If not, do not make an Associative Relationship.

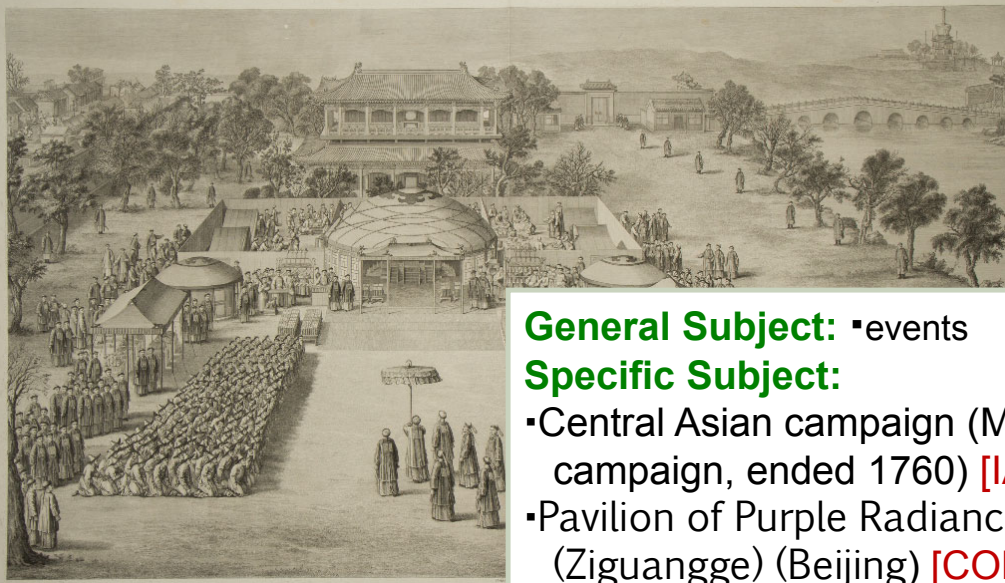
Depicted Subject or Associative Relationship?

- Subject of a work is another work
- No associative relationship necessary in most cases

Cat level item Class prints Work Type: etching

Title: **The Victory Banquet**

Series/Portfolio: *The Conquests of the Emperor of China (Les Conquêtes de l'Empereur de la Chine)*



- General Subject:** ▪ events
Specific Subject:
- Central Asian campaign (Manchu campaign, ended 1760) [IA]
 - Pavilion of Purple Radiance (Ziguangge) (Beijing) [CONA]
 - banquet (feast) [AAT]
 - victory [AAT]
 - avarice [AAT]

Subject link
(one way)



Cat level item Class architecture Work Type: palace

Titles: Pavilion of Purple Radiance

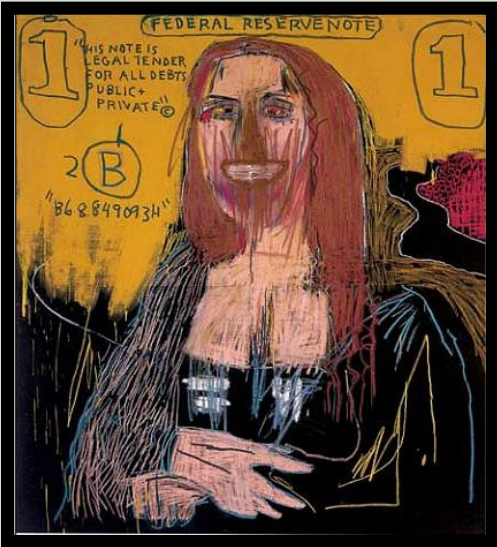


Depicted Subject or Associative Relationship?

- Subject of a work is another art work
- Here the referenced work is not actually depicted in the first work, do not link as related works (Associative Relationship); for that and other reasons, record only as reference in Subject

No Associative Relationship between the two

Cat level: item Class: paintings Work Type: painting
title/Name: Mona Lisa
 Creator Display: Jean-Michel Basquiat



The Estate of Jean-


General Subject: ▪human figures

▪satire

Specific Subject:

- Mona Lisa (Leonardo da Vinci, Louvre) [CONA]
- dollar (paper money) [AAT]
- valuation [AAT]
- avarice [AAT]

Cat. level: item Class: paintings Work Type: painting
Titles: Mona Lisa
Portrait of Lisa Gherardini
) الموناليزا (C,U,Arabic,U,U)
 蒙娜丽莎 (C,U,Chinese,U,U)



han, scientist,
 draftsman,
 Île-de-France,
 province
 re division)),
 facet)

Subject link (one way) →

Depicted Subject or Associative Relationship?

- Subject of a work is another art work
- You may also link to separate record for a related work
- Link as Associative Relationship only if critical
- In this case, the original is lost, so the rendering is the only depiction of the lost work

the drawing

Catalog Level: item
 Class: prints and drawings Work Type: r
 Title: Bulto Creator: rendered by Eld



General Subject: •another work
 •human figures
Specific Subject:
 •Bulto, sculpture (visual work); possibly Fray Andres Garcia (1760-1799) [CONA]
 •Isadore the Farmer, Saint (Spanish saint, Madrid, died 1130) [ULAN]
 •bulto [AAT] •angel (spirit) [AAT]
 •farming [AAT] •miracle [AAT]
 •plow [AAT] •oxen [AAT]

Relationship Type: depicts
Related Work: CONA ID 700008613
 Bulto; possibly Fray Andrés Garcia; 18th century; Location: Lost

the sculpture

Catalog Level: item
 Class: sculpture Work Type: sculpture
 Title: Bulto (possibly Fray Andrés Garcia); possibly attributed to Fray Andrés Garcia (1760-1799);
 Locations: Los Angeles
 Display Material: wood (plant material) (Materials F... (hierarchy name), materials (substances), <materials by function>, biological material (wood and wood by product))
 paint (coating) (Materials F... (hierarchy name), materials (substances), <materials by function>, coating (material), <coating by form>)
 Dimensions: as recorded when rendered by the Index of American Design: 11" high; 10 3/4 wide
 Cultures: Colonial Spanish American (preferred)



Subject link (one way)

Associative Relationship (reciprocal)
 depicts
 depicted in

Depicted Subject or Associative Relationship?

- One work is depicted in another work = Subject
- While not all depictions should have a reciprocal link to the other work as Associative Relationships, in this case the photograph documents an important phase of construction and may be important to have a reciprocal link

the photograph

Cat.Level: item •
Classification: photograph Work Type: albumen
*Title: Exposition universelle de 1889 /



General Subject:

- another work
- architecture

Specific Subject:

- Eiffel Tower (watchtower; architect: Gustave Eiffel; 1887-1889) [CONA]
- Belle Époque [AAT]

Extent: style

pt Authority): • albumin

months short of the
photographed the tower
monumentality. The
ance is dwarfed under
Collections [online]

the built work

Cat.Level: item •
Classification: architecture



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t iron,

Associative Relationship
(reciprocal)

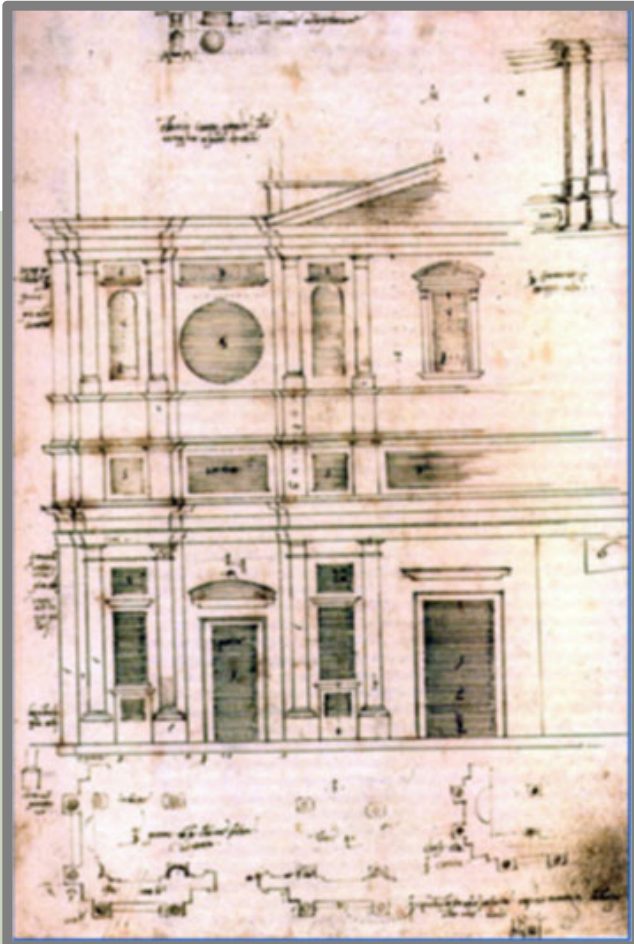
depicts

depicted in

Subject link
(one way)

Subject is what is mentioned in title & what the work actually depicts
About *method of representation* for architectural drawings

- In this case, drawing is of the model
- But title mentions the church, so also linked to that, **Extent** = context
- Use Subject to record the important concepts *method of representation* and *purpose* for architectural drawings
May be flagged with **Extent**



Cat level: item Class.: drawings Work Type: drawing

Title: Plan and Elevation of the facade of San Lorenzo

General Subject:

architecture another work

Specific Subject:

Model for the façade of San Lorenzo in Florence (model (representation), Michelangelo completed 1555) [CONA]

San Lorenzo (church; Filippo Brunelleschi; ca. 1422-1461; Florence, Italy) [CONA]

Extent: context

church [AAT]

façade [AAT]

elevation [AAT]

Extent: method of representation

plan [AAT]

Extent: method of representation

Subject link (one way)

Cat level: item Class: sculpture
Work Types: model (representation)

Title: Model for the façade of San Lorenzo in Florence

Creator: Michelangelo Buonarroti (Italian, 1475-

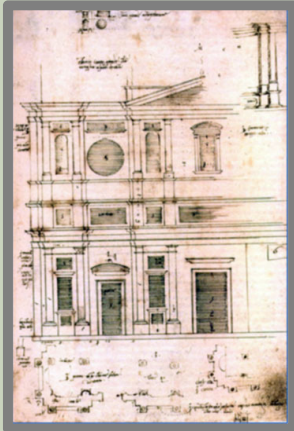


Façade is a component for a built work,
designed, but not constructed

May be both:
Model has as Subject the unbuilt façade
Model has Associative Relationship to façade

Subject and Associative Relationship

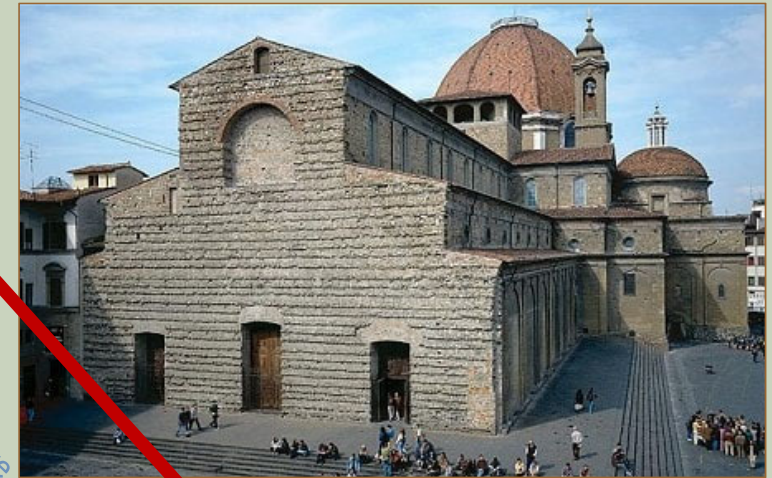
- This façade was never constructed, but church exists; this model is a rare record for the concept of the unbuilt façade
- Ideally linked to a separate record for the unbuilt façade; but if that record is not created, link to San Lorenzo the church



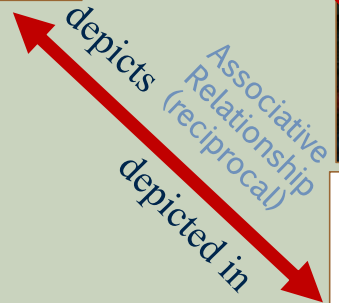
Subject link
(one way)



Subject link
(one way)



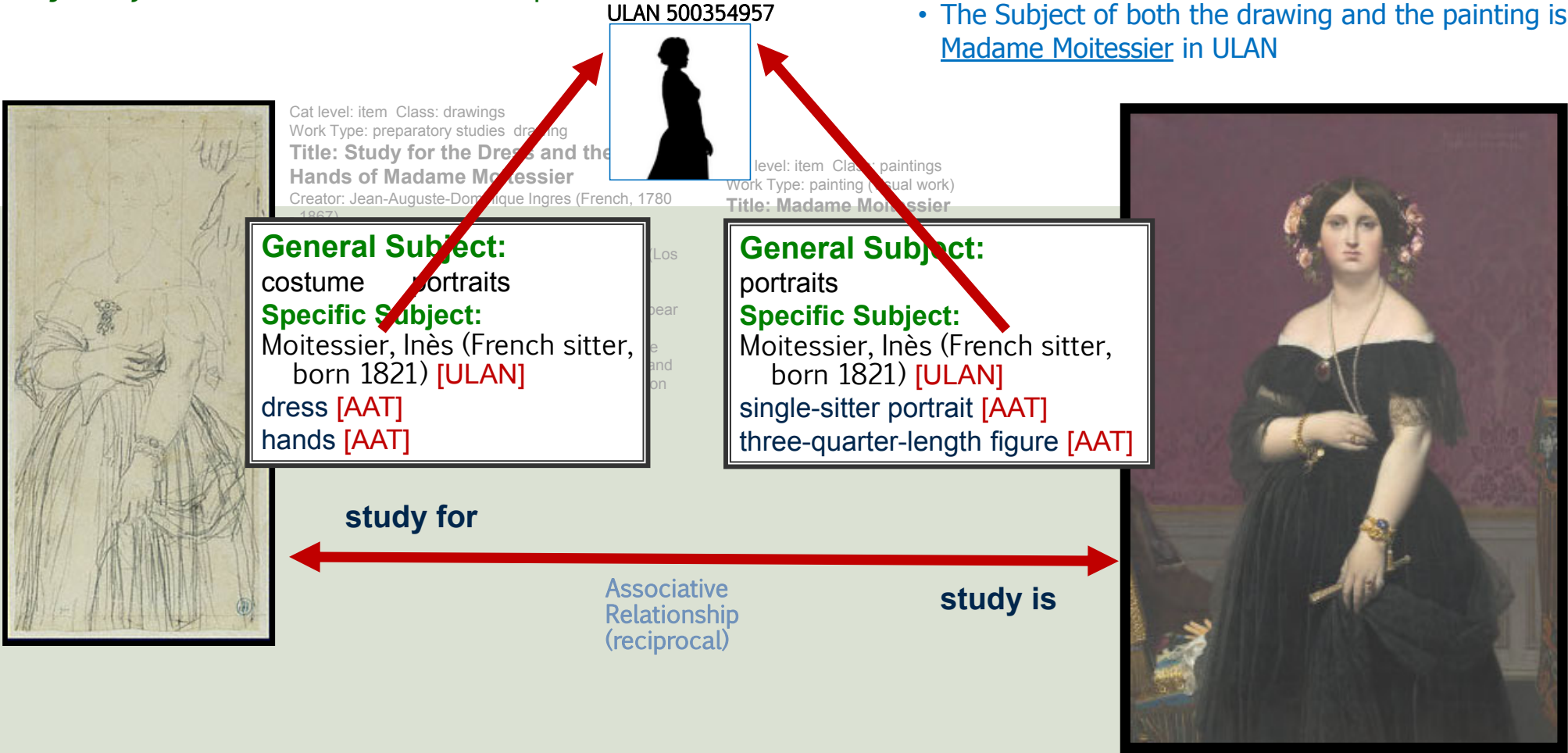
Associative
Relationship
(reciprocal)
depicts
depicted in



San Lorenzo (church, Florence, Italy) [CONA
70000113]
...Unbuilt Façade (unrealized work, Michelangelo)
[CONA 1000018390]

Design drawing linked by associative relationship
 Not by subject, both linked to ULAN person record

- In this case, the painting is not Subject of drawing
- Drawing = part of creative process = linked through Associative Relationship
- The Subject of both the drawing and the painting is Madame Moitessier in ULAN

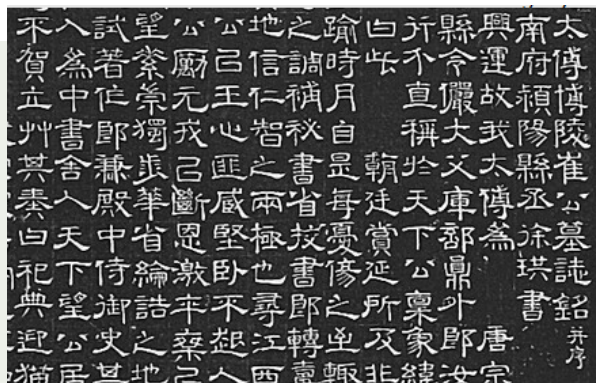


Rubbing has as subject the tombstone
Do not make an associative relationship

- In this case, the tombstone is the subject
- Do not make Associative Relationship = many such rubbings
- Rubbing contains no unique view of the tombstone
- Multiples? Multiples are the concept of a work, indicating multiple works printed from same plate, e.g., Rembrandt
- This is not treated as a printing plate, because was not created with the intention to be a multiple, thus no "idea" or concept of the tombstone is cataloged; but all rubbings linked to the tombstone as Subject; more appropriate to treat it as an artistic visual surrogate

the rubbing

Cat level: item Class.: rubbings Work Type: rubbing
Title: Rubbing of the Inscribed Epitaph of Cui Youfu



y | text
Cui Youfu

the tombstone

Cat level: item Class.: artifacts Work Type: tombstone
Title: Inscribed Tombstone of Cui Youfu of the Tang Dynasty



General Subject text
another work funerary
Specific Subject

- Inscribed Tombstone of Cui Youfu (tombstone; Henan Museum; 8th century) [CONA]
- Cui Youfu (Chinese Tang Dynasty official, 721-780) [ULAN]
- epitaph [AAT]



Part 4: Subject Indexing Training Exercises

Subject Indexing: Exercise 1

- Based on the information at hand, index the subject

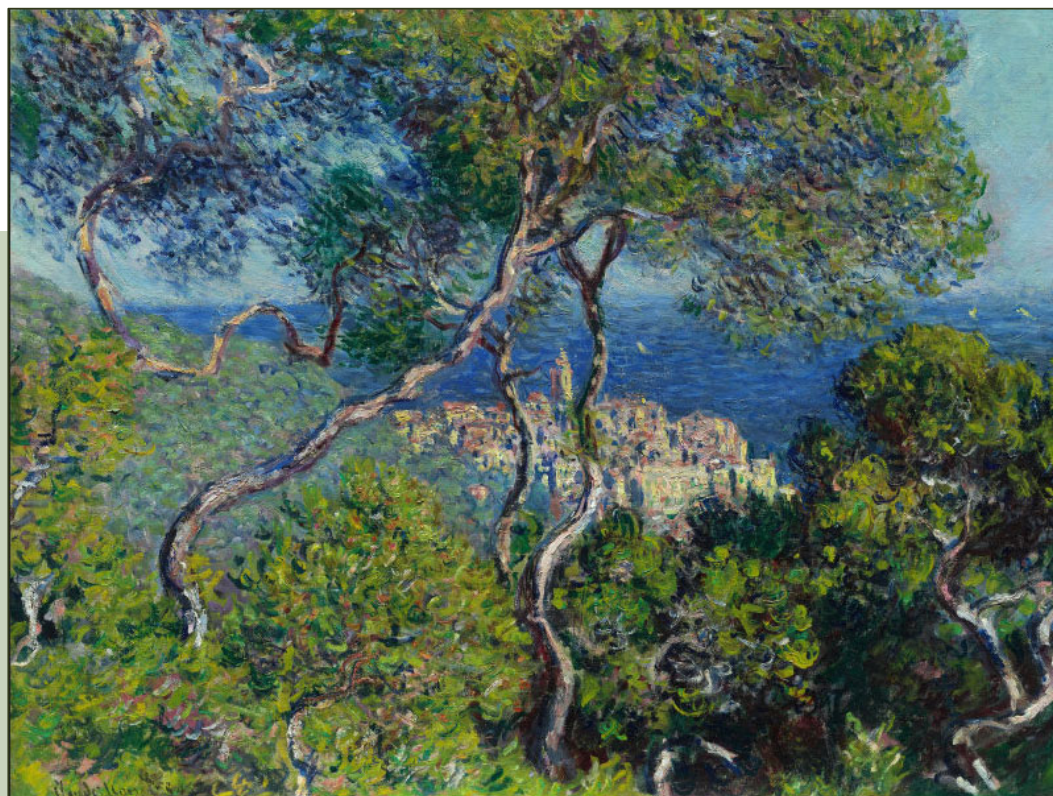
Cat level: item Class: paintings
Work Type: painting
Creator: Claude Monet (French, 1840-1926)
Title: Bordighera
Creation date: 1884
Mat & Tech: oil on canvas
Dimensions; 25 5/8 x 31 13/16 in. (65 x 80.8 cm)
Style etc.: Impressionist Type: style
Inscription: Inscribed, lower left: Claude Monet 84
Location: Art Institute of Chicago (Chicago, Illinois): Potter Palmer Collection. 1922.426

Suggested subjects

General Subject: landscapes

Specific: Subjects

- Bordighera (Liguria, Italy) [TGN]
Extent: background
- trees [AAT]



The town is in the background, but mentioned in the title so should be indexed as subject

Subject Indexing: Exercise 2

- Based on the information at hand, index the subject

Cat level: item Classification weapons Object Type arrowhead
Title Arrowhead
Creator: Archaic (North American)
Date: Archaic period (ca. 8,000/4,000 BCE)
Current Location: Chicago History Museum (Chicago, Illinois, USA)
Repository Number X.282
Mat & Tech: flint (rock)
Materials/Techniques flint (rock)
Descriptive Note: Fragment of sand-colored flint chiseled or roughened into the shape of an arrowhead point . Stone-hewn arrowheads such as this were common hunting tools and weapons of Native American peoples during the Archaic Period.



Suggested subjects

General Subject: utilitarian objects

Indexing Type: isness

Specific: Subjects

- [none necessary]

Subject Indexing: Exercise 2

Catalog Level item

Classification sculpture | antiquities

Work Type statuette

Title Female Figure of the Kilia Type

Creator unknown Anatolian

Creation Date 2800/2200 BCE

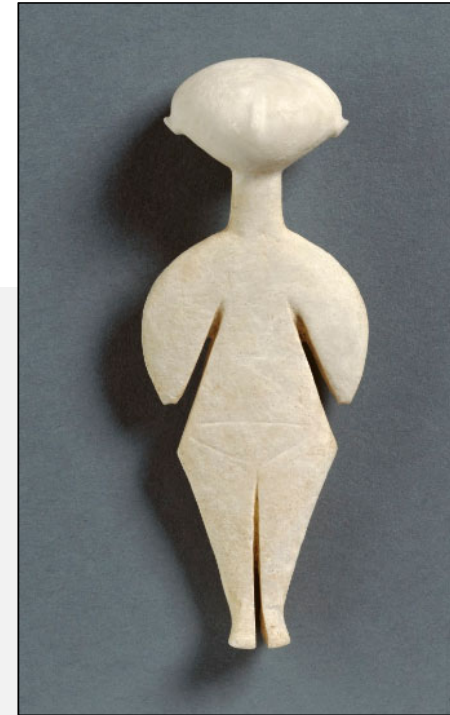
Style/period: Chalcolithic

Current Location J. Paul Getty Museum, Getty Villa Malibu (Los Angeles, California, USA) Repository Number 88.AA.122

Dimensions 14.3 cm height (5 5/8 inches)

Mat & Tech marble

Note: Chalcolithic female figures were probably connected with the cult of a fertility goddess. In the third millennium B.C., female figures were made throughout the Mediterranean, including the area of modern Turkey previously known as Anatolia. This figure represents a highly stylized standing nude female with flipper-like arms. Her bulbous head, long neck, and flat body are characteristic of the Kilia type of female figurines, named after the village in Turkey where the first examples were found. The facial features are only schematically rendered, but areas such as the eyes would originally have been enhanced by paint.



Suggested subjects

General Subject: human figures

Specific: Subjects

- woman (female human) [AAT]
- fertility [AAT]

Subject Indexing: Exercise 3

Cat level: item Class: photographs

Work Type: photograph

Title: Lincoln on the Battlefield of Antietam

Creator: Alexander Gardner (American photographer, 1821-1882)

Date: 1862

Material: albumen print

Dimensions: 8 5/8 x 7 3/4 inches

Location: J. Paul Getty Museum (Los Angeles, CA); 84.xm.482.1

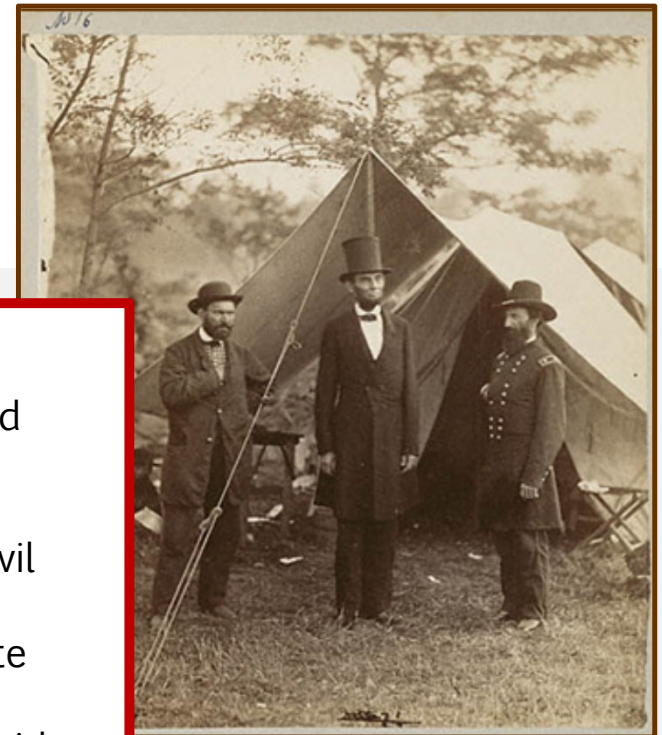
Descriptive Note: Twenty-six thousand soldiers were killed or wounded in the battle of Antietam on September 17, 1862, after which Confederate General Robert E. Lee was forced to retreat to Virginia. Lincoln stands tall, front and center in his stovepipe hat, with Allan Pinkerton and General John McClellan.

Suggested subjects

General Subject: history and legend
portraits

Specific: Subjects

- Battle of Antietam (American Civil War, 1862) [IA]
- Antietam National Battlefield Site (Sharpsburg, Maryland) [TGN]
- Abraham Lincoln (American president, 1809-1865) [ULAN]
- John A. McClellan (American Union general, politician, 1812-1900) [ULAN]
- Allan Pinkerton ((Scottish American detective, spy, 1819-1884) [ULAN]
- army camp [AAT]



Subject Indexing: Exercise 4

Catalog Level item
Classification vessels
Work Type vase
Titles: Blue and White Glazed Globular Vase
Blue and White Glazed Globular Vase with Dragon
Pattern in Yongle's Reign of the Ming Dynasty
明 永樂 青花龍紋天球瓶
Creator unknown Chinese
Creation Date 1403/1424 CE
Current Location National Palace Museum (Taipei,
Taiwan) Repository Number: 012547N000000000
Dimensions 42.9 cm high and 9.7 cm diameter; foot
diameter 15.8 cm
Mat & Tech: blue and white porcelain

In title – unless
inscribed on the work --
“Yongle’s Reign of the
Ming Dynasty” is about
style-culture and
creation date, more
than Subject; record in
appropriate fields



Suggested subjects

General Subject: utilitarian objects
Indexing Type: isness
Specific: Subjects
• dragon [AAT]

Subject Indexing: Exercise 5

Cat level: item Class: manuscripts

Work Type: illumination

Titles:

• Shah Jahan on Horseback: Leaf from the Shah Jahan Album, period of Shah Jahan (1628–1658)

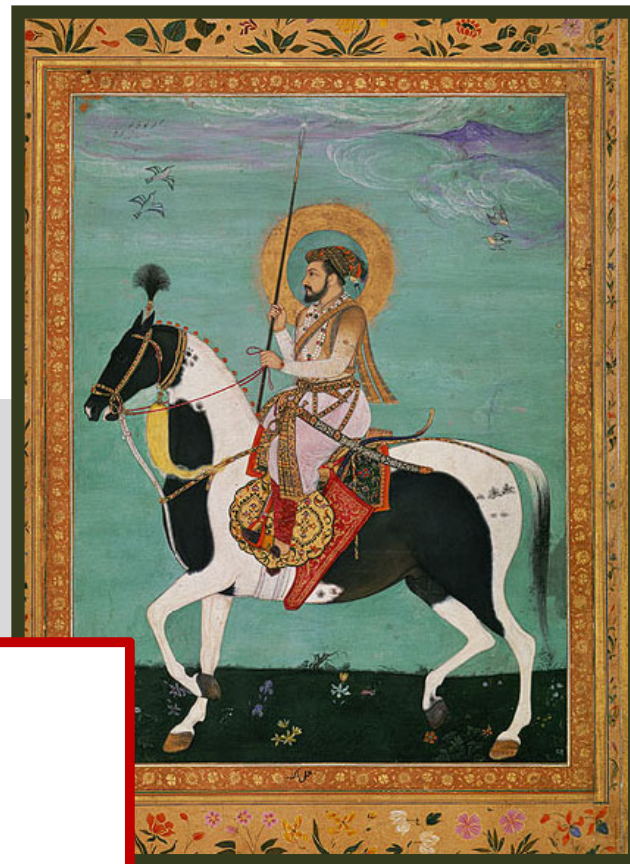
• Shah Jahan Dressed for the Hunt Type: former
Creator: Painting by Payag (Indian, active ca. 1591–1658); Calligrapher: Mir 'Ali Haravi (d. ca. 1550)

Mat & Tech: Ink, colors, and gold on paper

Dimensions: 15 1/3 x 10 1/10 in. (38.9 x 25.7 cm)

Location: Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (55.121.10.21) Credit Line: Rogers Fund and The Kevorkian Foundation Gift, 1955.

Note: Shah Jahan is shown in an idealized fashion with the holy nimbus, or halo, encircling his turban head. The fashion of depicting the ruler with a halo is seen from the period of Jahangir onward in Mughal art, when increasingly formalized portraiture comes to characterize Hindustani court art.



Suggested subjects

General Subject: portraits

Specific: Subjects

- equestrian portrait [AAT]
- Shah Jahan (Mughal emperor of India, 1592-1666) [ULAN]
- ruler [AAT]
- horse (species) [AAT]
- halo (glory) [AAT]
- hunt [AAT]

Subject Indexing: Exercise 6

Cat level: item Class: architecture Work Type: skyscraper

Titles: Willis Tower Date: renamed 16 July 2009

Sears Tower Type: former

Creator: Skidmore, Owings and Merrill (American, established 1939), for
Sears Roebuck and Company (American retail company, founded
1886); Role: architect: Graham, Bruce

Role: owner: Willis Group Holdings (British insurance brokerage firm,
founded 1828)

Role: tenant United Airlines

Creation Date: completed in 1973

Current Location: Chicago (Illinois, USA)
Drive

Dimensions: height to the top of the roof
the highest occupied floor 436 m (1,430 ft)
square m of office and commercial space

Mat & Tech: steel frame, clad in bronze-tinted
aluminum

Descriptive Note: Overlooks the west side of Chicago's downtown
Loop. Built to consolidate several Sears offices. In 2009, the London-
based insurance brokerage Willis Group Holdings secured the naming
rights as part of an agreement to lease space. Now the corporate
headquarters of United Airlines.

Suggested subjects

General Subject: architecture

Indexing Type: isness

Specific: Subjects

- office building [AAT]

Extent: purpose



Subject Indexing: Exercise 7

Cat level: item Class: wall paintings
Work Type: wall painting
Creator: unknown Aboriginal Australian
Title: Gwion Gwion Figures
Creation Date: around 5,000 Before Present
Current Location: Kimberley region (Western Australia, Australia)
Dimensions: unavailable
Mat & Tech: pigment on stone
Note: Portrays Gwion Gwion figures, human figures ornamented with accessories such as bags, tassels and headdresses

Suggested subjects

General Subject: human figures
religion and mythology

Specific: Subjects

- Gwion Gwion [AAT]

- Based on the information at hand, index the subject



Subject Indexing: Exercise 8

- Based on the information at hand, index the subject

Cat level: item Class: prints Work Type: screen print

Title: Brushstroke

Creator: Roy Lichtenstein (American, 1923 – 1997)

Creation Date: 1965

Dimensions: sheet: 58.4 x 73.6 cm (23 x 29 inches)

image: 56.4 x 72.4 cm framed: 76.7 x 92.2 x 4.4 cm

Mat & Tech: color screen print on heavy, white wove paper

Note: Lichtenstein depicted the gestural expressions of the painting brushstroke itself, as a comment on Abstract Expressionism.

Current Location:

Gift of Roy and Doro

Inscriptions: lower

Leo Castelli Galler

Suggested subjects

General Subject: figurative art
object component

Specific: Subjects

- brush stroke [AAT]
- satire (artistic device) [AAT]
- Abstract Expressionism [AAT]

Extent: theme



Subject Indexing: Exercise 9

- Based on the information at hand, index the subject

Cat level: item Class: paintings

Work Type painting | leaf

Titles: Sitting on Rocks Gazing at Clouds

宋 李唐 坐石看雲

Assis sur des rochers en regardant les nuages

Creator: Li Tang (Chinese painter, 1050s-after 1130)

Creation Date 12th century

Culture: Song dynasty

Mat & Tech: album leaf, ink and colors on silk

Current Location National Palace Museum (Taipei, Taiwan)

Dimensions 27.7 x 30 cm

Note: Cleverly arranged diagonal composition, based on this imaginary diagonal line; also an interesting relationship of contrasts between void and solid. Two figures in the lower right wear wide robes and dangle their feet in the water, admiring the beautiful scenery in the upper left. The idealized scenery is filled with trees, the rugged cliffs painted with blue-and-green colors and ink washes, to which ochre has been added for variation.



Suggested subjects

General Subject: landscapes

Specific: Subjects

- idealized landscape [AAT]
- trees [AAT]
- clouds [AAT]
- figures (representations) [AAT]

If you knew what the text said, you would index the subject of the text as well. However, this is not indicated in the material at hand, do not guess.

Subject Indexing: Exercise 10

Cat level: item Class: furnishings
Work Type: rolltop desk
Title Roll-Top Desk
Creator David Roentgen (German, 1743-1807, active in Paris), with Pierre Gouthière and François Rémond
Creation Date ca. 1785
Current Location J. Paul Getty Museum (Los Angeles, California) ID: 72.DA.47
Dimensions 66 1/4 x 61 3/8 x 35 3/16 inches
Mat & Tech: veneered with mahogany, with gilt bronze
Note: Made in the Neoclassical style, this monumental rolltop desk is fitted with numerous complicated mechanical devices. The desk is the work of a master of the Sciences.

Suggested subjects

General Subject: utilitarian object

Indexing Type: isness

Specific: Subjects

sciences (modern discipline) [AAT]

Extent: secondary

- Based on the information at hand, index the subject



- No specific subject is necessary
- However, you may mention the subject on the plaques since it is in the Note

Subject Indexing: Exercise 11

- Based on the information at hand, index the subject

Cat level: item Class: ceramics Work Type: vase

Title: Vase

Date: 1127-1279 Culture: Southern Song dynasty

Location: British Museum (London, England) Repository number: PDF.233

Location: Longquan (Asia,China,Zhejiang (province))

Materials: porcelain Longquan Ware; stoneware, porcelain-type, blue-green glaze

Dimensions: Height: 410 millimetres

Descriptive Note: Vase shaped after an ancient jade called a *cong*. Longquan porcelain jar having an archaic jade cong form, with rectangular sides and short cylindrical neck. The jar has grey-green glaze. There are moulded sectional grooves in imitation of carved jade. Connoisseurs regard the finest Longquan wares as those with bluish glazes made in the late twelfth and early thirteenth centuries such as this vase which is shaped after an ancient ritual jade object. It was made at a kiln in or around the market town of Longquan in the southern part of Zhejiang province.



Suggested subjects

General Subject: utilitarian object

Indexing Type: isness

Specific:Subjects

cong (ceremonial vessel) [AAT]

- The vessel is in the shape of another more ancient vessel type, which is made of another material
- Thus “cong” is the subject, not the Work Type
- So far as known from the text, this is not a copy of “another work”



Patricia Harpring

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