Polish AAT Project

National Institute for Museums and Public Collections, NIMOZ, Poland

http://nimoz.pl/en/
Polish AAT Project

- Background
- Collaboration with the Getty
- Objectives
- Organisation of work
- Project team
- Technology
- Progress as of July 2016
Background

New digitisation opportunities for museums in Poland in the 2010s: recognition of needs, new funding

There are some 800+ museums in Poland, under state and local, governmental ownership, housing some 15 million objects.

The role of NIMOZ

- Est. 2011 under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, as a governmental advisory body for museums
- Designated the National Centre of Excellence for Digitisation in Museums
- Appointment of experts. Areas of expertise include: collection management systems, metadata standards, specialist terminology and controlled vocabularies; photographic and 3D documentation; IP/copyright; public engagement.
Collaboration with the Getty Research Institute (GRI)

- 2013: preliminary discussions at NIMOZ about the use of controlled vocabularies in museum documentation; the translation of AAT into Polish; early communication with the Getty Research Institute
- 17 December 2013: Letter of Agreement for Contributions signed between GRI and NIMOZ; NIMOZ’s objective — to create a major single resource to supersede multiple vocabularies, currently in use in museums in Poland
- International Terminology Working Group meeting, GRI, 22–24 August 2016. NIMOZ represented by Anna Bentkowska-Kafel and Tomasz Zaucha
Objectives

- To survey the terminology used in museums in Poland; to revise and aggregate the existing, mostly unstructured dictionaries;

Concurrently with:

- Translation and editorial work, in collaboration with GRI, on the Polish version of AAT

A glossary used in the past at the National Museum in Kraków. This format is still common to other museums in Poland
Objectives

- To promote a structured approach to digitisation of public collections in Poland, through adherence to international terminological and technical standards,
- thus enhance the international exposure of cultural heritage in Poland by facilitating access to her collections and linkage to global art resources.

Organisation of work

2013 — Preliminary discussions within the NIMOZ expert advisory terminology group. Main outcomes:

- Assessment of semantic equivalences and differences between English and Polish terms and of conceptual discrepancies between the AAT hierarchy and Polish taxonomy;

Example 1: Hierarchical discrepancies between English and Polish names of religions

Correspondence of concepts and hierarchies — see the next two slides
Polish taxonomy

For a clearer view, see next slide

AAT

Source: Tezaurus Dziedzictwa Kulturowego (Cultural Heritage Thesaurus), University of Wroclaw
http://www.historiasztuki.uni.wroc.pl/tezaurus.html
**Polish taxonomy**

- Kościół chrześcijański
- kościół anglikański
- kościół rzymsko-katolicki
- protestanci
- anabaptyści
  - amisz
  - huteryci
  - mennonici
  - bracia szwajcarscy
- bracia czescy
- bracia morawscy
- kalwiniści
  - hugenoci
  - prezbiterianie
- luteranie
- metodyści
- unitarianie
  - socynianie

**AAT**

- Christianity
- Protestantism
- Amish
- Anabaptism
- Mennonite
- Anglican (Church of England)
- Arminianism
- Baptism
- Calvinism
- Congregationalism
- Episcopal
- Hugenot
- Lutheran
- Methodist
- Moravian
- Nazarene (modern Protestant)
- Presbterianism
- Unitarianism
- Universalism
Example 2: No equivalent Polish terms to convey the variety of English terms for describing burial grounds.
Example 3: Coffin portrait. An AAT candidate term?

AAT categories and descriptive terms relevant to coffin portraits: Portrait | Funerary object | Posthumous; commemoratives
Polish Coffin Portraiture

Particular to Polish Early Modern culture, esp. 17th century

Portrayed the deceased; placed at the foot of the coffin; shaped accordingly. Removed prior to the burial and displayed in the deceased’s parish church or family chapel. Many are now housed in museums.

National Museum, Kraków.
Photo: Tomasz Zaucha, 2016
Coffin portrait example—possible placement in the AAT hierarchy

Funerary objects (ceremonial objects, <object genres by function>)

Hierarchical Position
Object Facet

… Object Genres (hierarchy name) (G)
…… object genres (object classifications) (G)
……… <object genres by function> (G)
…………… ceremonial objects (G)
……………… funerary objects (G)

Visual and Verbal Communication (hierarchy name)

…… Visual Works (hierarchy name)

…….. visual works (works)

……… <visual works by material or technique>

……………… paintings (visual works)

………………….<paintings by location or context>

……………………. mummy portraits

Nota bene
ID: 300404718 posthumous name - used solely in the context of honorary personal names given, commonly in Asia, posthumously to royalty and nobles; no concept of objects made posthumously

ID: 300235430 commemoratives: Items produced, issued, or worn to commemorate a person, event, or occasion (not "memorials")
2013 Preliminary discussions within the NIMOZ expert advisory terminology group. Main outcomes (con'td):

- Liaising with Dutch and German colleagues working on national versions of AAT
  - Meeting Reinier van 't Zelfde and Reem Weda at the Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie (RKD), The Hague, in December 2013;
  - Meeting the German AAT team lead by Monika Hagendorn Saupe, Reem Weda of the Dutch AAT project and the developers of the XTree software in Hamburg, February 2015.
- Decision to hire subject specialists, rather than professional translators, to undertake translation of AAT into Polish.
General Editor: Dr Anna Bentkowska-Kafel
Editorial Board: Anna Kuśmidrowicz-Król, Arkadiusz Roszkowski, Dr Agnieszka Seidel-Grzesińska, Dr Tomasz Zaucha, Marta Zdańkowska

20 translators: mostly curators working in museums and other relevant subject specialists

**AAT translators**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Literature, Movie, Religions and Religious Concepts</th>
<th>Arkadiusz Roszkowski, Senior Assistant Curator, Collection management system and digitisation, Fryderyk Chopin Museum, Warsaw</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Design elements/ Ornamentation, Color, utensils for serving food, utensils for consuming food, culinary containers</td>
<td>Magdalena Mielnik, Curator, Department of Painting, National Museum in Gdańsk</td>
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<th>Category</th>
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<th>Position and Institution</th>
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<tr>
<td>General geochronology, Ancient Greek and Roman, Renaissance and Baroque, Medieval, Aegean styles; Archaeology</td>
<td>Joanna Jezierska</td>
<td>Senior Assistant Curator, Department of Archeology and Ethnology, Malbork Castle Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modern and post-1945 styles and movements</td>
<td>Maciej Janicki</td>
<td>Curator, Fryderyk Chopin Museum, Fryderyk Chopin Institute, Warsaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People</td>
<td>Marta Zdańskowska</td>
<td>Senior Assistant Curator, Department of Arts, Royal Castle in Warsaw Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processes and Techniques; Materials</td>
<td>Dr Aleksandra Szewczyk</td>
<td>Associate Professor, Institute of Art History, University of Wrocław</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Built Environment</td>
<td>Dr Barbara Arciszewska</td>
<td>Associate Professor, Institute of Art History, University of Warsaw; Dr Joanna Wolańska, IRSA Institute for Art Historical Research, Kraków</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture</td>
<td>Dorota Gutkowska</td>
<td>Senior Assistant Curator, Department of Furniture, National Museum in Warsaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armament, Transportation Vehicles, Components</td>
<td>Łukasz Stawski</td>
<td>Curator, Digitisation Department, National Institute for Museology and Public Collections, Warsaw</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Costume, Textiles</td>
<td>Monika Janisz, Senior Assistant Curator, Department of Textiles, National Museum in Warsaw; Dr Anna Straszewska, Assistant Professor, Department of Basic Research of History of Fine Arts, Documentation of Polish Contemporary Art, Institute of Art of the Polish Academy</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sound Devices</td>
<td>Joanna Guli, Library of Culture and Musicology, University of Wrocław</td>
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<td>Coverings and hangings</td>
<td>Katarzyna Połujan, Curator, Art Department, Royal Castle in Warsaw Museum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Painting</td>
<td>Dorota Juszczak and Hanna Małachowicz, Curators, Art Department, Royal Castle in Warsaw Museum</td>
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<td>Sculpture</td>
<td>Dr Artur Badach, Chief Curator, Art Department, Royal Castle in Warsaw Museum</td>
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<td>Metalwork</td>
<td>Bartłomiej Butrym, Curator, Department of Art and Crafts, Malbork Castle Museum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prints</td>
<td>Dr Magdalena Olszewska, Senior Assistant, National Museum in Warsaw Library</td>
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<td>Ceramic Ware</td>
<td>Agnieszka Pospiszil, M.A. in Art History, Russian Philology</td>
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Technology

- Choice of software: TemaTres, xTree and other Open-Source collaborative online platforms vs. a commercial solution, the MIDAS Browser
- Earlier applications of MIDAS:
  - The online Cultural Heritage Thesaurus developed by the Institute of Art History, University of Wrocław
  - Folk Woodcut Virtual Museum, Kraków
  - Applications in a number of other museums and libraries in Poland.
- Pilot project, NIMOZAURUS
Technology: MIDAS Browser

- MIDAS Browser application and MIDAS Browser database
  - based on MIDAS data model
  - creates hierarchical thesauri tied to data sets describing objects, people, events and bibliographies in a multilingual environment
  - built on a Java platform, according to multilayer architecture standards
  - allows the user to modify the metadata structure
  - exports data in XML and RDF formats

- Service-oriented architecture (SOA) with ESB to support the integration with different systems used in museum practice to describe cultural heritage
Typ pojęcia w AAT:
  Concept

Pojęcie szersze:
  Top of the AAT hierarchies
  Objects Facet
  Furnishings and Equipment
  Containers
    containers
    containers by function or context
    culinary containers
    containers for serving and consuming food
    accessory containers for food service

bone dishes (AAT: 300216965) naczynie na ości lub kości
  Single-to-multiple term equivalence

Definicja w AAT do przekładu:
  Shallow dishes placed alongside a dinner plate for the bones and other remains of an elaborate meal. Often included as part of a standard place setting in the 19th century; often having a crescent shape.

Przekład definicji z AAT:
  Płytkie naczynie ustawiane obok talerza obiadowego na kości, ości i inne pozostałości posiłku. W XIX wieku często element serwisu; często w kształcie półksiężyca.

uwaga tłumacza:
  brak źródła
  2016.02.15

Słowo kluczowe:
  AAT
Pilot project, **NIMOZAURUS**

- Translation work concurrent with technical development;
- Working initially with Excel sheets as an interim measure;
- Translated terms exported from Excel into a MIDAS Browser pilot platform
- Some 8,500 terms have been translated
- Editing in progress
- Review and validation to follow

- Export to GRI of the first tranche anticipated early 2017
N.B. Nimozaurus is not an independent system; it employs the AAT structure.

- Mapping AAT and Polish terms/concepts by means of equivalence relationships; prioritising the terminology standard/common to Polish museum practice.
- Updating the AAT with terms specific to Polish vocabulary; the system accommodates candidate terms for possible inclusion in GRI AAT.
- Mapped terms published as SKOS/RDF (LOD)
- Publication of Polish terms, with definitions and bibliography, as a separate dictionary based on the hierarchical structure of AAT — the first phase of creating the Nimozaurus.
- Adjustment of hierarchies acquired from AAT according to Polish museum practices.
- Subsequent mapping of other Polish specialist thesauri to Nimozaurus.
AAT, NIMOZAURUS and Polish specialist thesauri mapping structure
AAT/NIMOZAURUS mapping explained

- Two independent systems of terms defined through exact (or near-exact?) equivalence

- Not straightforward translation from ENGLISH into POLISH, but two independent records with respective unique identifiers, displayed together for convenience
English (AAT) and Polish concepts as separate, parallel records, connected by a mapping property.

AAT IDENTIFIER

AAT hierarchy
AAT hierarchy
AAT hierarchy
AAT hierarchy

Term/concept
Term definition in English (or other AAT language)

bibliography EN_01
literatura PL_01
literatura PL_02

≈ math. approximately equal (skos:closeMatch)

IDENTYFIKATOR NIMOZ

AAT hierarchy
AAT hierarchy
AAT hierarchy
NIMOZ hierarchy
NIMOZ hierarchy

typ ekwiwalencji kliknij, by przejść na drugi tezaurus

termin/pojęcie
Definicja terminu w jęz. angielskim lub innym języku AAT

literatura PL_01
literatura PL_02

Library EN_01
literatura PL_02
Relationships between English (AAT) and Polish concepts using SKOS mapping properties, with the aim to retain the consistency of taxonomic relationships where semantic gaps occur.

cont’d next slide

Tomasz Zaucha, 2016
Relationships between English (AAT) and Polish concepts using SKOS mapping properties

1) portrait = skos.exactMatch = portret

2) portrait = skos.exactMatch = portret
   skos:broader
   portret triumieny

2.2) portrait = skos.exactMatch = portret
   skos:broader
   skos:narrower
   portret triumieny
   portret oktagonowy
   portret morgiłowy

3) portrait = skos.exactMatch = portret
   skos:broader
   skos:narrower
   coffin
   portrait

Tomasz Zaucha, 2016
Contacts

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