NATIONAL INSTITUTE
FOR MUSEUMS
AND PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

International Terminology Working Group
Getty Research Institute
22–24 August 2016

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
- Future developments: **NIMOZ**AURUS
  forthcoming at http://slowniki.nimoz.pl/nimoz/

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.

Clockwise from top left: Zbylut Grzywacz, The Preserved III, 1966. Leon Tarasiewicz, Untitled, 2006. Olga Boznańska, Girl with Chrysanthemums, 1894, all in the National Museum in Kraków. Photos (1) (2): Anna Bentkowska-Kafel and (3) Wikimedia

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
          amisze
          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)
  Presbiterianism
  Unitarianism
  Universalism

Example 2:
No equivalent Polish terms to convey the variety of English terms for describing burial grounds

Słownik

Pojęcie: cmentarze według funkcji

| POL | ANG |

Top of the AAT hierarchies
  Objects Facet
    Built Environment
      Built Complexes and Districts
        complexes
          complexes by function
            cemeteries

cmentarze według funkcji *cemeteries by function*
            cineraria
            national cemeteries
            pet cemeteries
            potter's fields
            war cemeteries
            churchyards
            military cemeteries

No equivalent Polish terms

Highlight All   Match Case   11 of 18 matches

Example 3: Coffin portrait. An AAT candidate term?

Art & Architecture Thesau... X +

www.getty.edu/vow/AATServlet?english=N&find=portrait&logic=AND&page=1&note=fun

Research

Research Home ▸ Tools ▸ Art & Architecture Thesaurus ▸ Search Results

Art & Architecture Thesaurus® Online Search Results

🔍 New Search   ◂ Previous Page

Find Name: **portrait**

Logic: **AND**

Note: **funeral**

Your search has produced *no* results. Please refine your search by clicking on New Search.

🔍 New Search

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

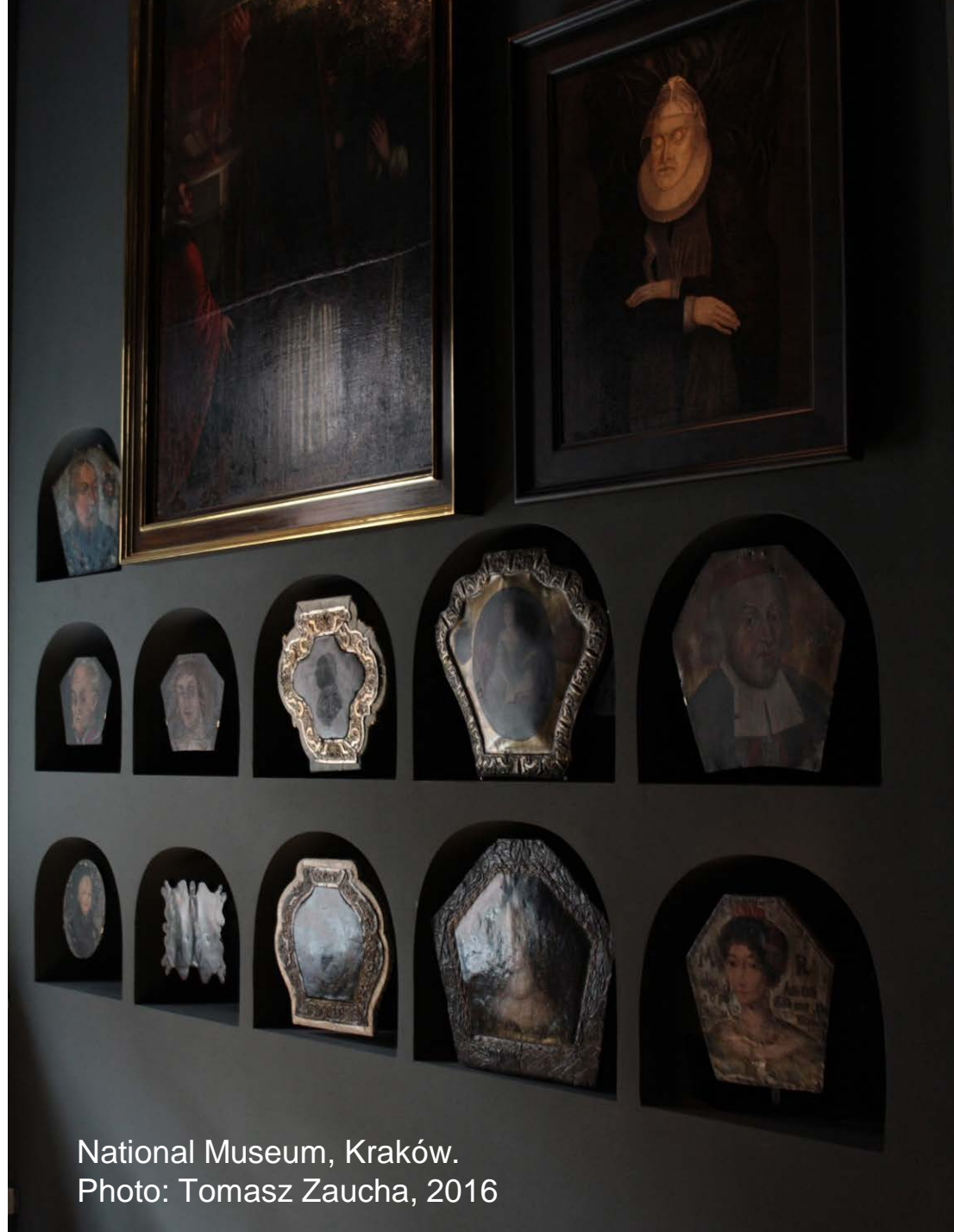# Coffin portrait example—possible placement in the AAT hierarchy

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")

Organisation of work

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.
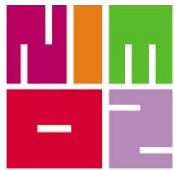
Polish AAT Project Team

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

Literature, Movie, Religions and Religious Concepts	Arkadiusz Roszkowski, Senior Assistant Curator, Collection management system and digitisation, Fryderyk Chopin Museum, Warsaw
Design elements/ Ornamentation, Color, utensils for serving food, utensils for consuming food, culinary containers	Magdalena Mielnik, Curator, Department of Painting, National Museum in Gdańsk

AAT translators

General geochronology, Ancient Greek and Roman, Renaissance and Baroque, Medieval, Aegean styles; Archaeology	**Joanna Jezierska**, Senior Assistant Curator, Department of Archeology and Ethnology, Malbork Castle Museum
Modern and post-1945 styles and movements	**Maciej Janicki,** Curator, Fryderyk Chopin Museum, Fryderyk Chopin Institute, Warsaw
People	**Marta Zdańkowska**, Senior Assistant Curator, Department of Arts, Royal Castle in Warsaw Museum
Processes and Techniques; Materials	Dr **Aleksandra Szewczyk**, Associate Professor**,** Institute of Art History, University of Wrocław
Built Environment	Dr **Barbara Arciszewska,** Associate Professor**,** Institute of Art History, University of Warsaw; Dr **Joanna Wolańska**, IRSA Institute for Art Historical Research, Kraków
Furniture	**Dorota Gutkowska**, Senior Assistant Curator, Department of Furniture, National Museum in Warsaw
Armament, Transportation Vehicles, Components	**Łukasz Stawski,** Curator, Digitisation Department, National Institute for Museology and Public Collections, Warsaw

AAT translators

Costume, Textiles	**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
Sound Devices	**Joanna Gul**, Library of Culture and Musicology, University of Wrocław
Coverings and hangings	**Katarzyna Połujan**, Curator**,** Art Department, Royal Castle in Warsaw Museum
Painting	**Dorota Juszczak** and **Hanna Małachowicz**, Curators, Art Department, Royal Castle in Warsaw Museum
Sculpture	Dr **Artur Badach,** Chief Curator), Art Department, Royal Castle in Warsaw Museum
Metalwork	**Bartłomiej Butryn**, Curator, Department of Art and Crafts, Malbork Castle Museum
Prints	Dr **Magdalena Olszewska**, Senior Assistant, National Museum in Warsaw Library
Ceramic Ware	**Agnieszka Pospiszil,** M.A. in Art History, Russian Philology

Technology

- Choice of software: TemaTres, xTree and other Open-Source collaborative online platforms v. 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, **NIMOZ**AURUS

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 suport the integration with different systems used in museum practice to describe cultural heritage

MIDAS
Browser
AAT /
NIMOZAURUS
interface

Progress as of July 2016

Pilot project, **NIMOZ**AURUS

- 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

NIMOZAURUS: Developing the overall concept

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
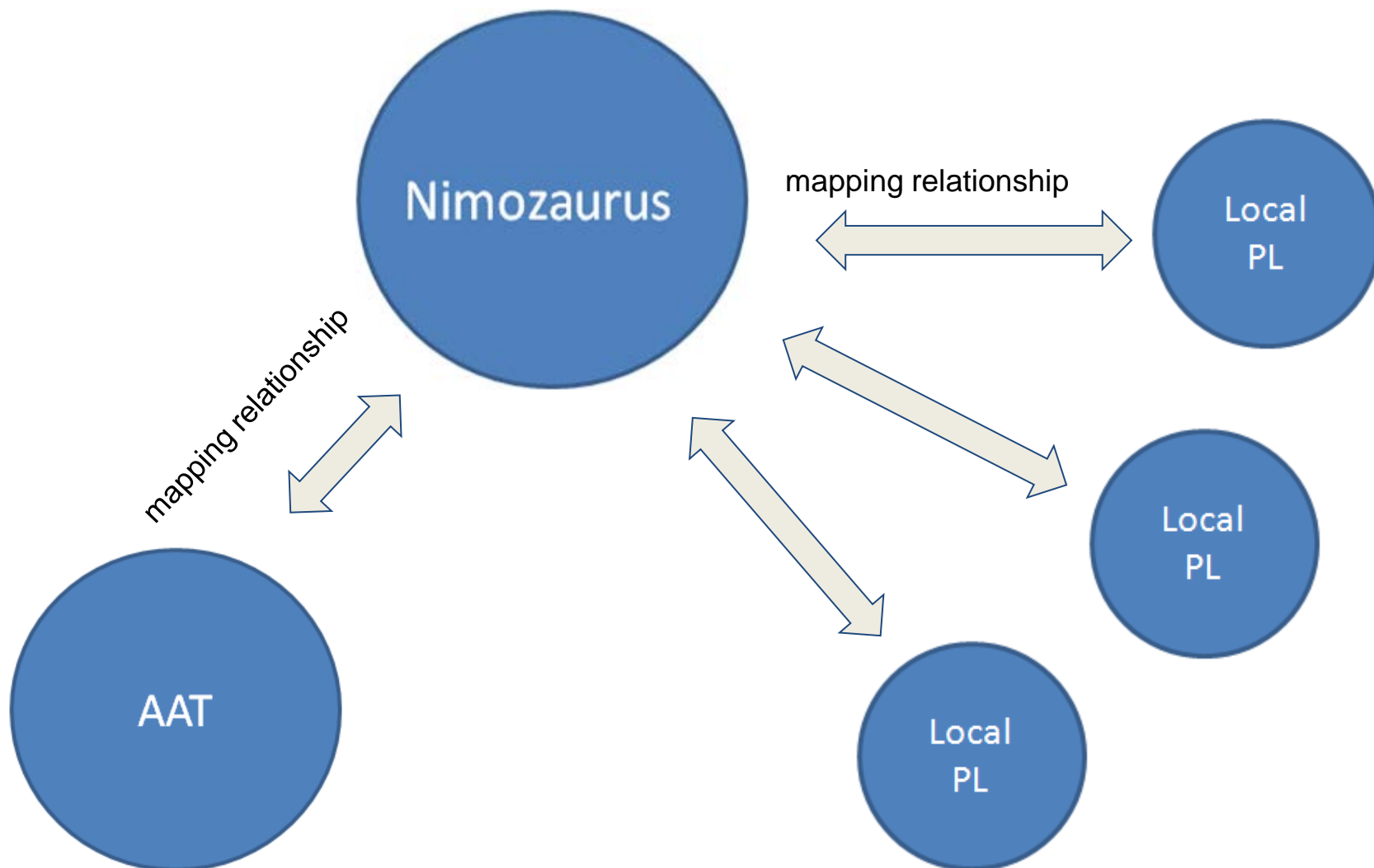
AAT/NIMOZAURUS mapping explained

- 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
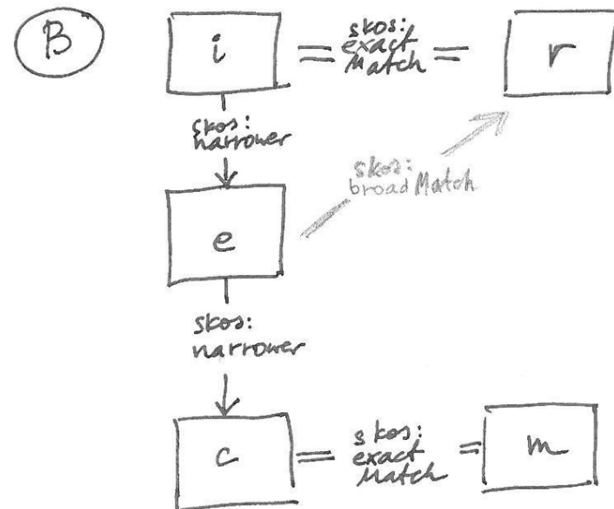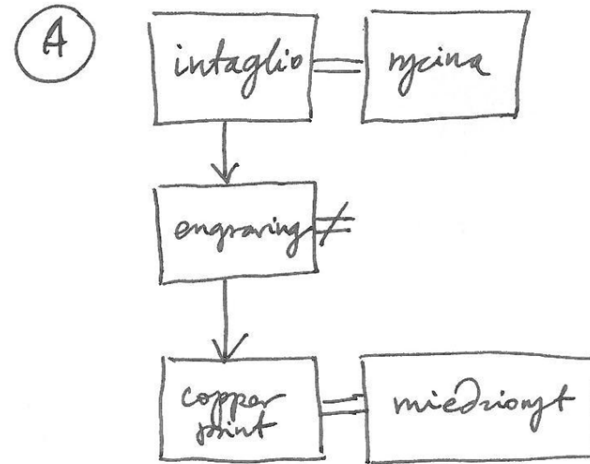
English (AAT) and Polish concepts as separate, parallel records, connected by a mapping property.

≈ *math.* approximately equal   (skos:closeMatch)
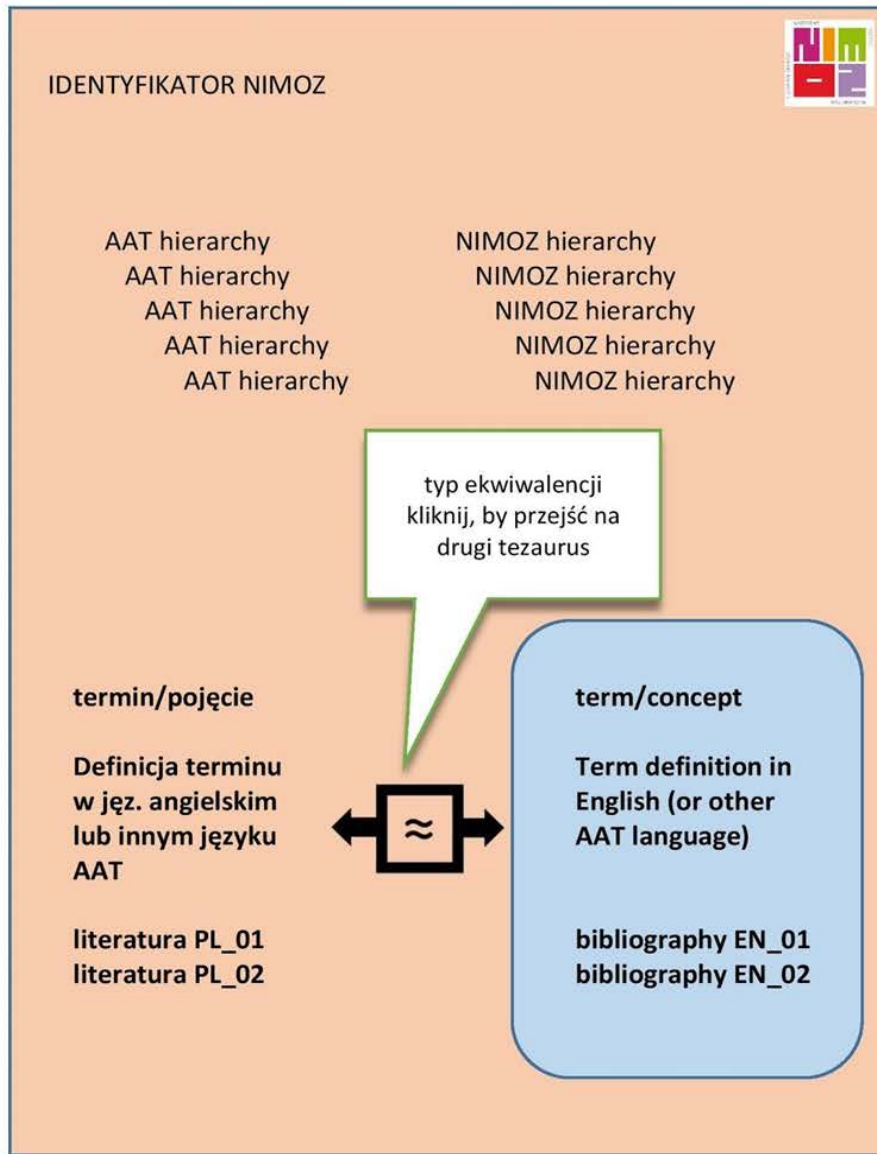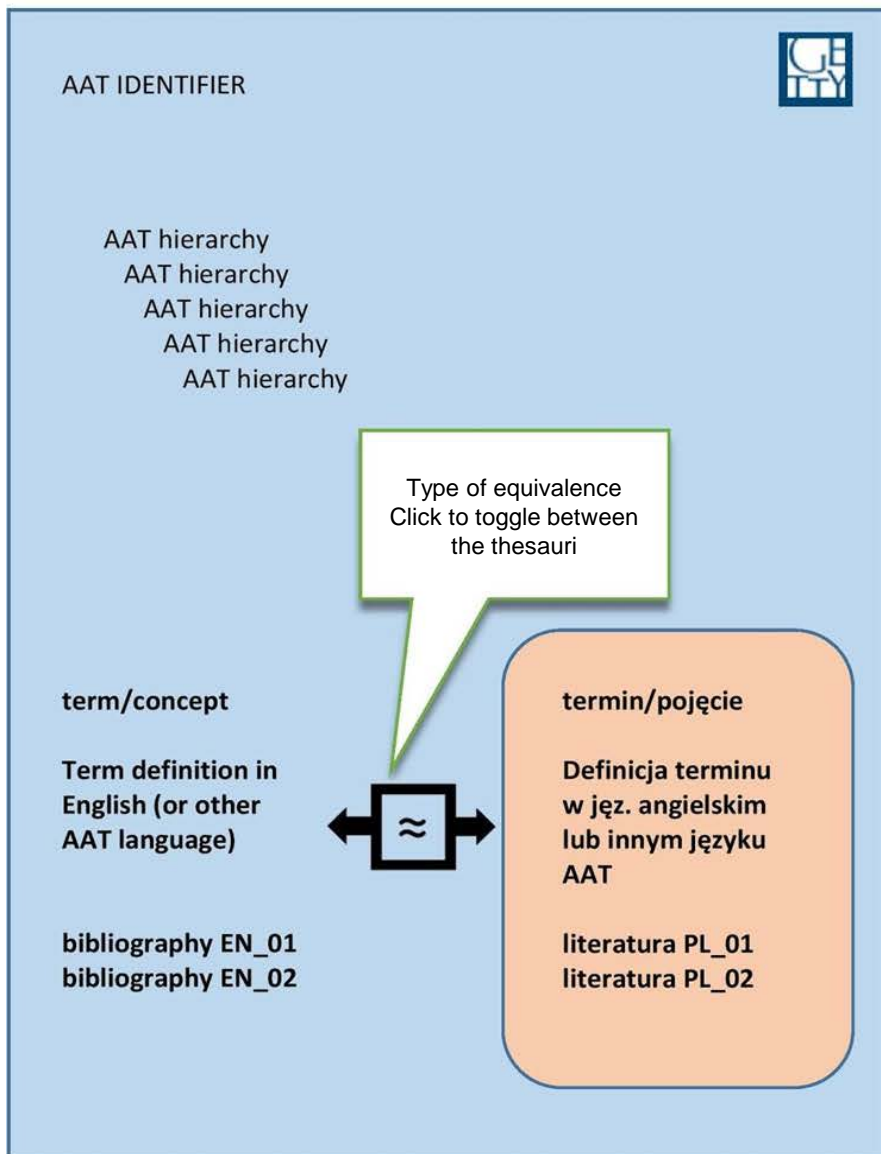
Relationships between English (AAT) and Polish concepts using SKOS mapping properties, with the aim to retain the consistency of taxonomic relationships where semantic gaps occur.
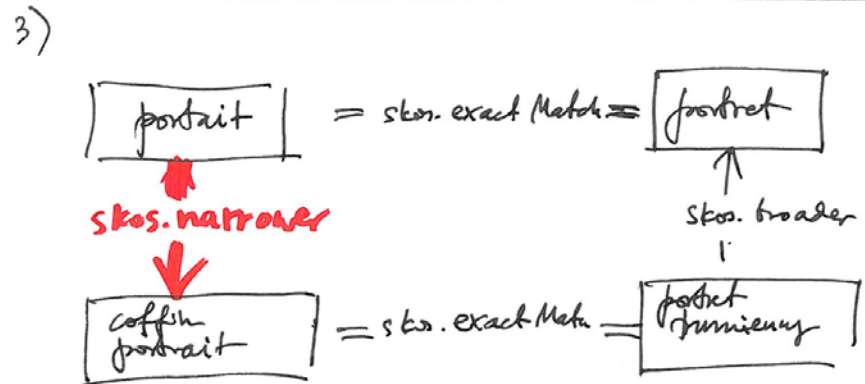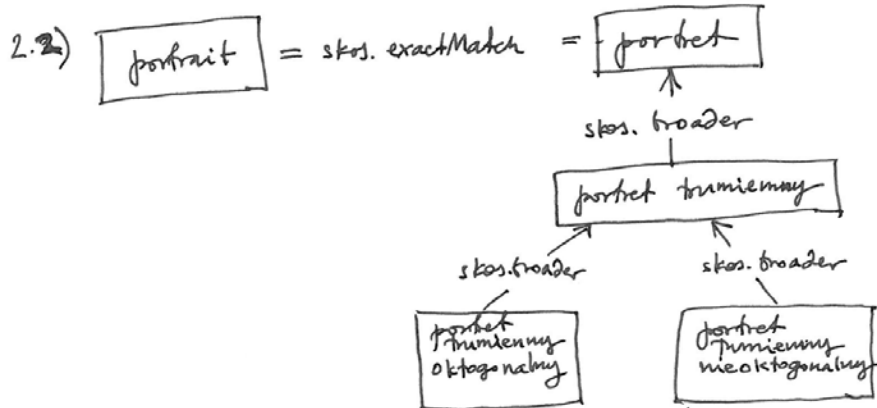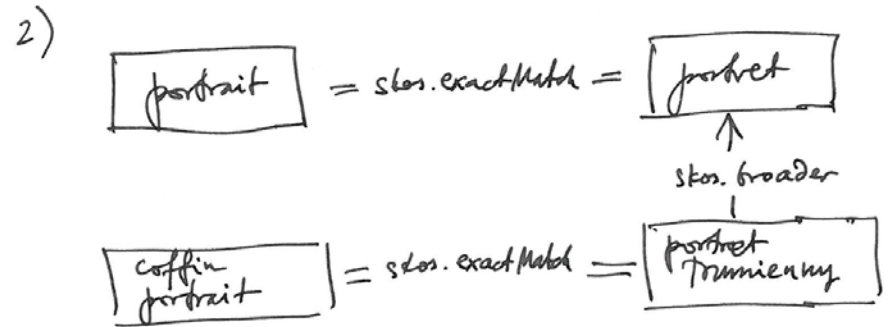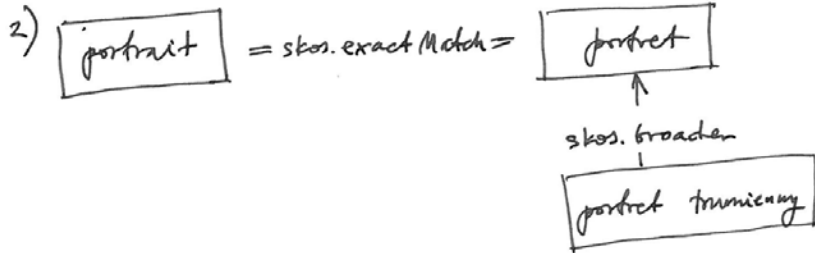
Tomasz Zaucha, 2016

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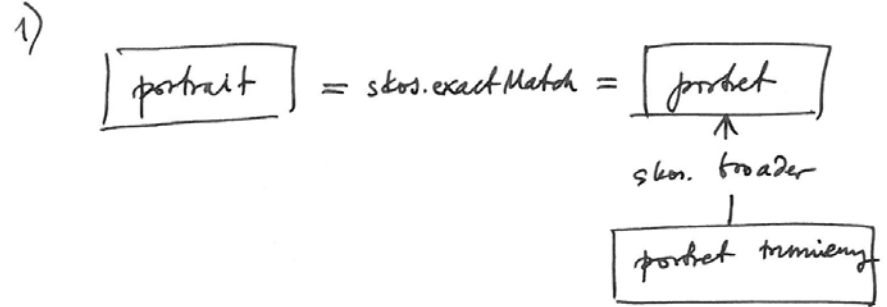
Tomasz Zaucha, 2016

Contacts

Anna Bentkowska-Kafel, General Editor, Polish AAT Project,
abentkowska@nimoz.pl, anna.bentkowska@kcl.ac.uk

Tomasz Zaucha, Editorial Board Member, Polish AAT Project,
Muzeum Narodowe w Krakowie, tzaucha@mnk.pl

Anna Kuśmidrowicz-Król, Polish AAT Project Director, National
Institute for Museums and Public Collections, Warsaw,
akusmidrowicz@nimoz.pl

Jakub Ławniczak, Arch-Info, Midas Browser system
j.lawniczak@arch-info.com.pl