

# The Getty Vocabularies

Discover, link, access, retrieve, research, catalogue, index  
Explore art, architecture, cultural heritage, conservation, archaeology, and beyond



## What are the Getty vocabularies?

*Catherine wheel or rose window? Mona Lisa or La Gioconda? Gaochang or Qara-Hoja?*

The Getty vocabularies are structured vocabularies that comply with national and international standards for thesaurus construction. They contain multilingual terminology and other related data for art, architecture, other cultural heritage, conservation, archaeology, archival materials, visual surrogates, and bibliographic materials. Structured controlled vocabularies allow for categorization, indexing, and powerful retrieval of information, particularly in the evolving world of linked data.

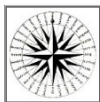
The Getty vocabularies grow largely through contributions from the user community, including large scale international translation projects. AAT, ULAN, TGN, IA, and CONA are valued as authoritative because they are compiled by experts and cite sources. Each concept record, as well as terms within the record, are identified by unique numeric IDs; this allows the Getty vocabularies to be used efficiently for cataloguing, retrieval, and linking.



**AAT**, the Art & Architecture Thesaurus®, includes generic terms, dates, relationships, sources, and notes for work types, roles, materials, styles, cultures, techniques, and other concepts (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, sralais*)



**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, 葵囊, Cai Xiang, Crevole Master, Altobelli & Molins, Rajaraja Museum, Jenaer Glaswerk Schott*)



**TGN**, the Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names®, focuses on places relevant to art, architecture, and related disciplines, recording names, relationships, place types, dates, notes, and coordinates for current and historical cities, nations, empires, archaeological sites, lost settlements, and physical features; it is a thesaurus, may be linked to GIS and maps (e.g., *Diospolis, Acalán, Ottoman Empire, Mogao, Ch'ien-fu-tung, Ganges River, गंगा नदी*)



**IA**, the Getty Iconography Authority, covers topics relevant to art, architecture, and related disciplines; includes multilingual and multicultural proper names, relationships, and dates for iconographical narratives, religious or fictional characters, themes, historical events, and named literary works and performing arts (e.g., *Adoration of the Magi, Flood of Deucalion, French Revolution, Xibalba, Niflheim, शिव, Shiva, Bouddha couché, Apedemak, Tumatauenga*)



**CONA**, the Cultural Objects Name Authority®, compiles titles/names and other metadata for works of art, architecture, and other cultural works, current and historical, documented as items or in groups, whether works are extant, destroyed, or never built; in development, may be used to record works depicted in visual surrogates and for other purposes (e.g., *Florentine Codex, Codice Fiorentino, Guernica, Girl with a Pearl Earring, Chayasomesvara Temple, Hagia Sofia, Αγία Σοφία, The Great Wave, Kanagawa oki nami ura, Le déjeuner sur l'herbe, Venus de Milo*)

## How can the Getty vocabularies be obtained?

- **Linked Open Data:** When data is linked and open, it means that data is structured and published according to the principles of Linked Data, so that data can be both interlinked and made openly accessible and shareable on the Semantic Web. The AAT, TGN, ULAN are available as Linked Open Data (LOD) under the ODC-BY 1.0 license. Releases of CONA and IA are in development. For up-to-date information on releases and access to LOD data, see this page: <http://www.getty.edu/research/tools/vocabularies/lod/index.html>
- You may consult the vocabularies on the Getty Web site, free of charge, by searching individual terms and names, linked through this page: <http://www.getty.edu/research/tools/vocabularies/index.html>
- Raw data files are available in relational tables, XML format, and through Web services APIs. Read about free and open licensing at this page: <http://www.getty.edu/research/tools/vocabularies/obtain/download.html>



The J. Paul Getty Trust

© J. Paul Getty Trust

[www.getty.edu/research/tools/vocabularies/index.html](http://www.getty.edu/research/tools/vocabularies/index.html)

contact us: [vocab@getty.edu](mailto:vocab@getty.edu)  
revised January 2019