Terminology Resource Discovery for the UK Heritage sector

ENGLISH HERITAGE
NATIONAL MONUMENTS RECORD

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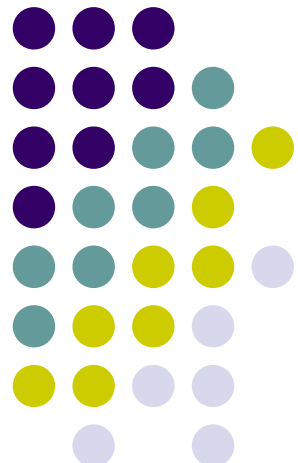

The users

- Cultural resource managers (200+)
  - National and local authorities
  - Professional and independent sector
- Museum curators (6000+)
  - National collections
  - County collections
  - Thematic collections
  - Independent collections

Current standards

- MIDAS, the Monument Inventory Data Standard
  - Due for new edition 2005
- SPECTRUM
  - New edition currently in progress

- There is a need to share resources between the communities and their standards

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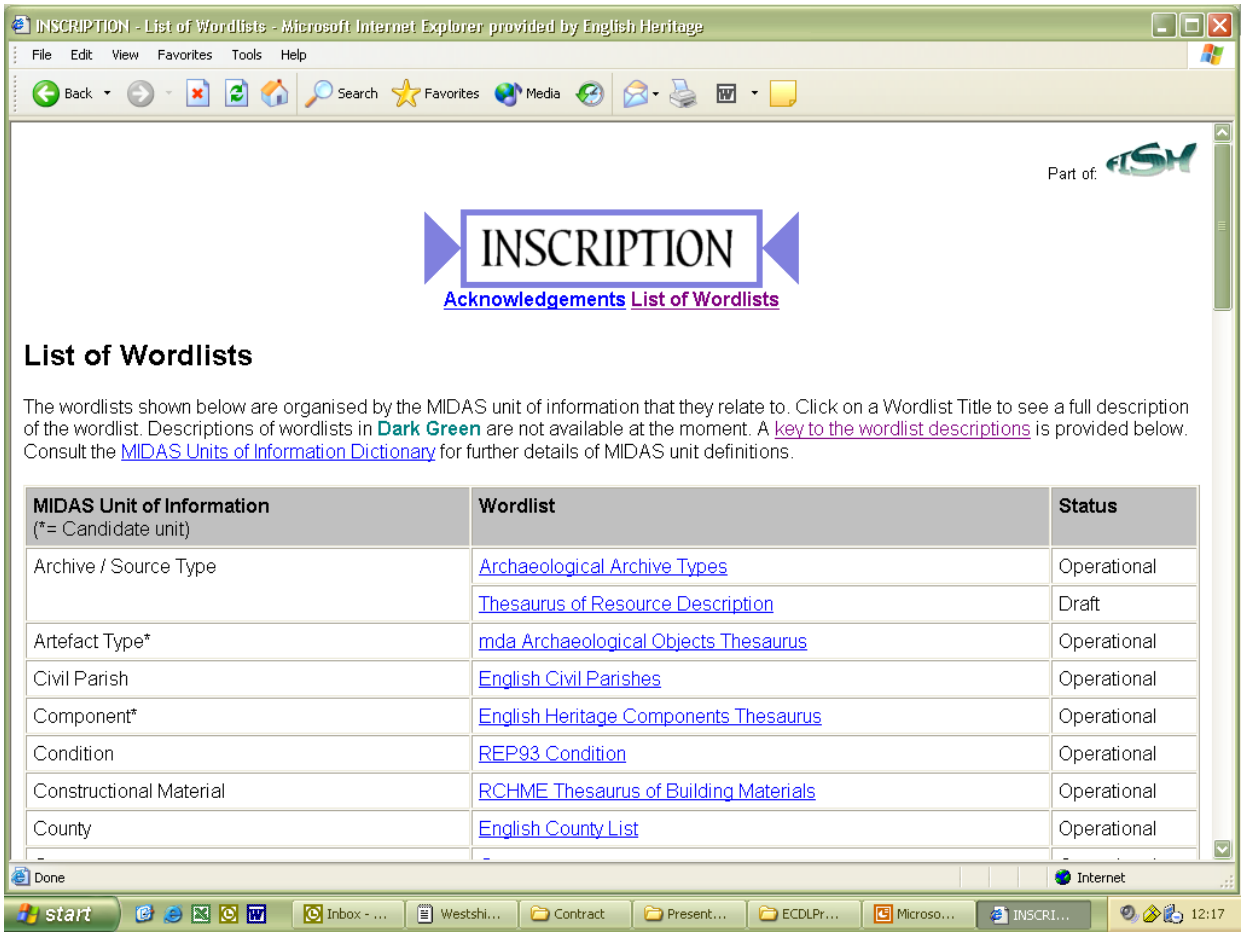

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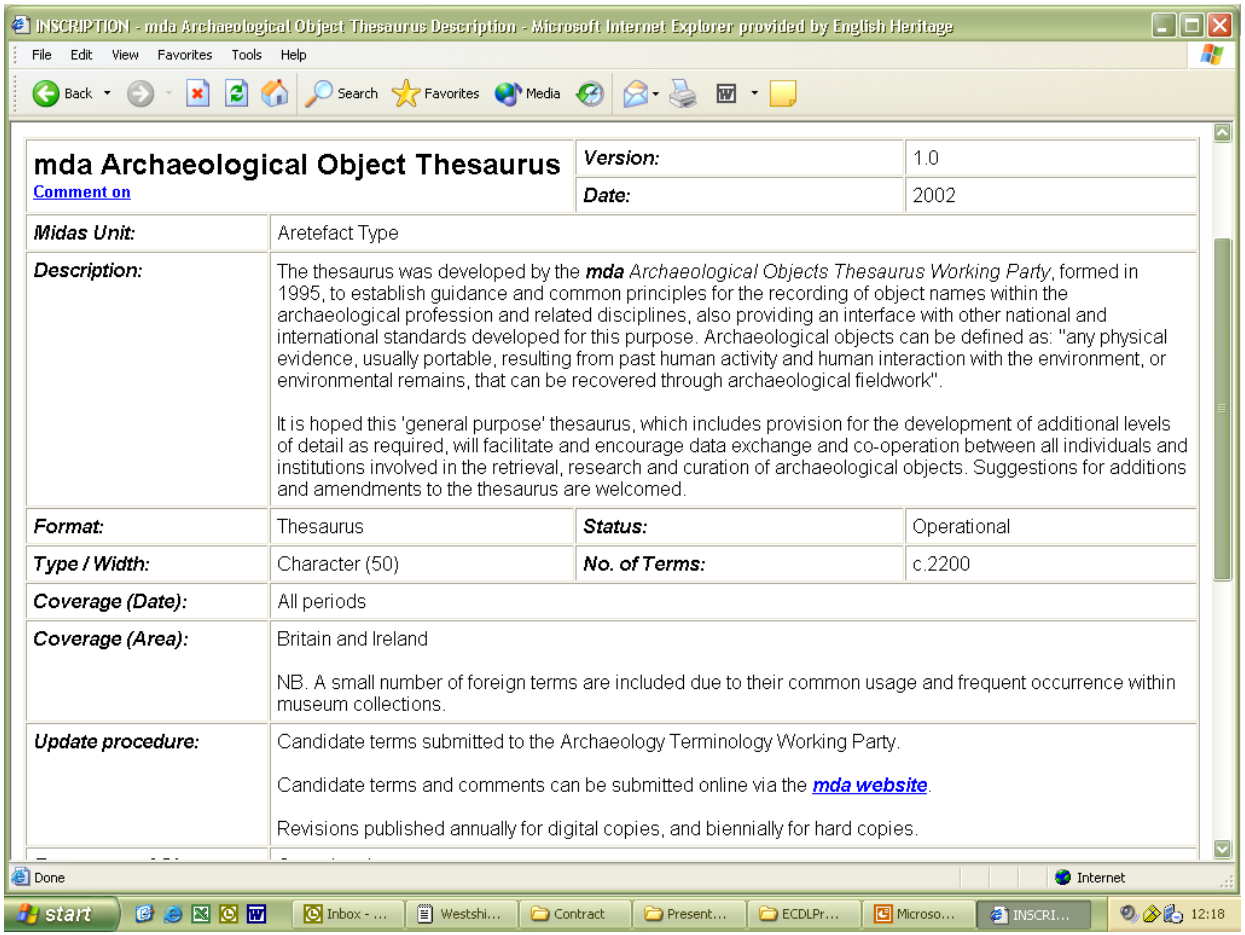

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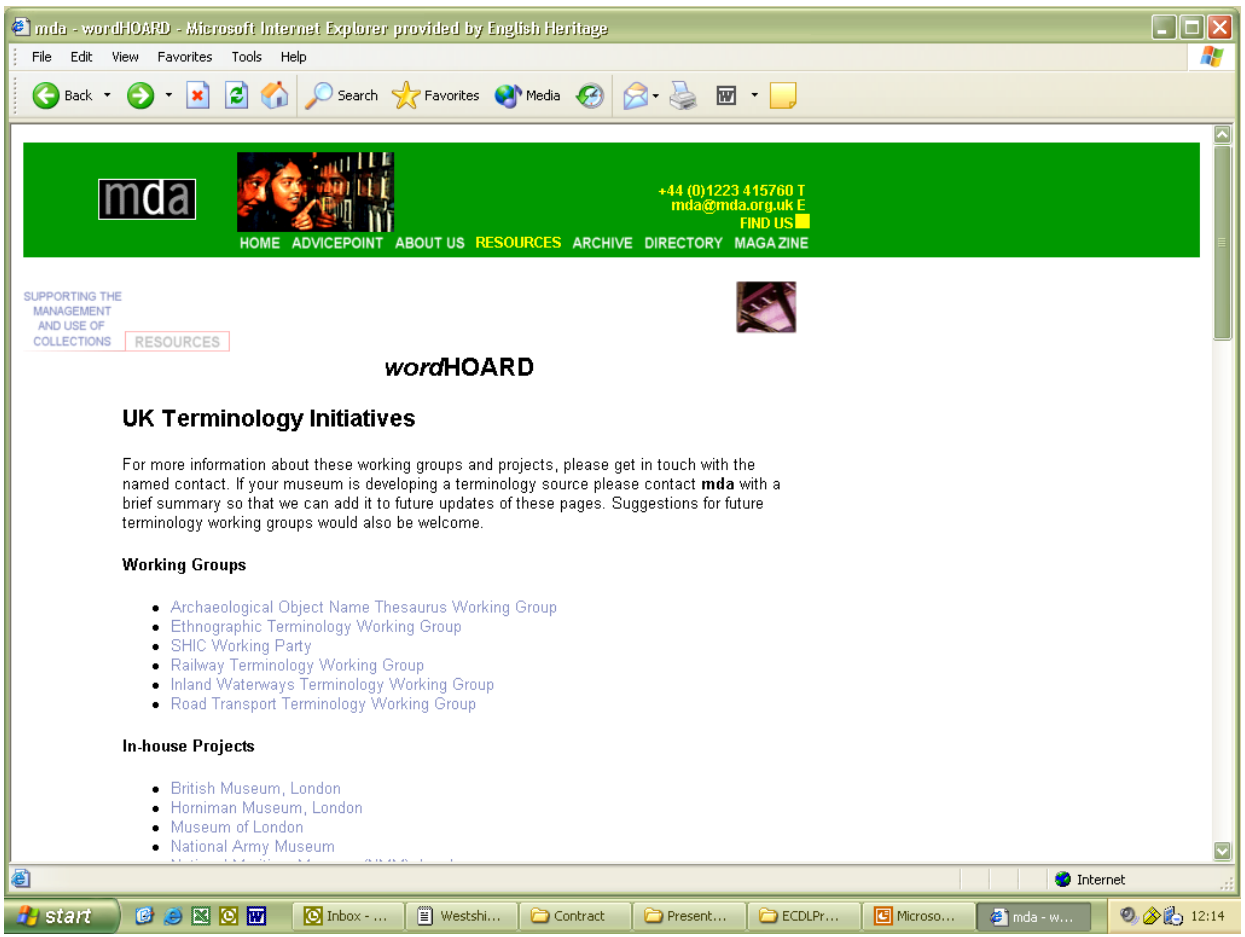
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UK Terminology Initiatives
For more information about these working groups and projects, please get in touch with the named contact. If your museum is developing a terminology source please contact mda with a brief summary so that we can add it to future updates of these pages. Suggestions for future terminology working groups would also be welcome.
Working Groups
Archaeological Object Name Thesaurus Working Group
Ethnographic Terminology Working Group
SHIC Working Party
Railway Terminology Working Group
Inland Waterways Terminology Working Group
Road Transport Terminology Working Group
In-house Projects
British Museum, London
Horniman Museum, London
Museum of London
National Army Museum
Internet
start
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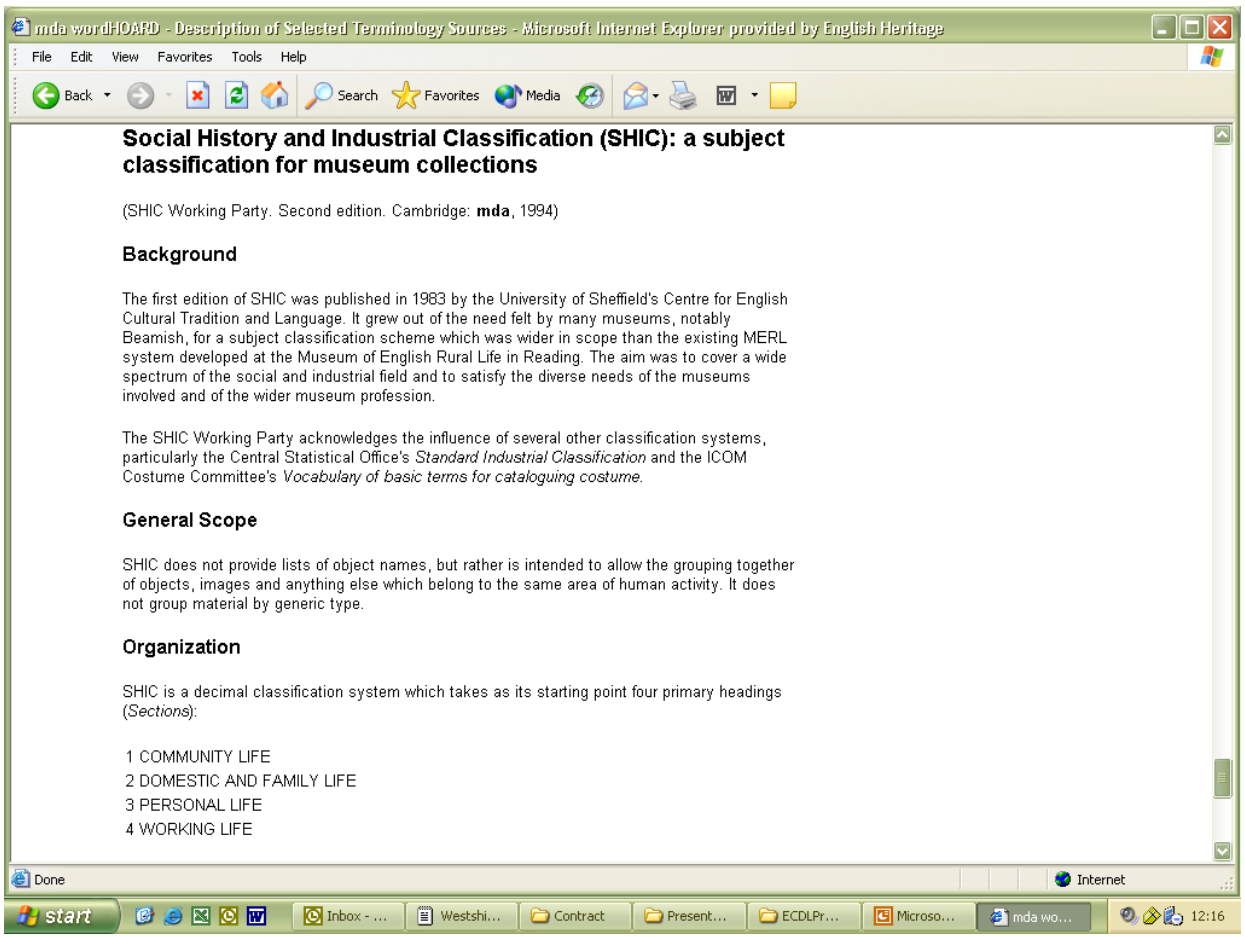
mda wordHOARD - Description of Selected Terminology Sources - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by English Heritage
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Social History and Industrial Classification (SHIC): a subject classification for museum collections
(SHIC Working Party. Second edition. Cambridge: mda, 1994)
Background
The first edition of SHIC was published in 1983 by the University of Sheffield's Centre for English Cultural Tradition and Language. It grew out of the need felt by many museums, notably Beamish, for a subject classification scheme which was wider in scope than the existing MERL system developed at the Museum of English Rural Life in Reading. The aim was to cover a wide spectrum of the social and industrial field and to satisfy the diverse needs of the museums involved and of the wider museum profession.
The SHIC Working Party acknowledges the influence of several other classification systems, particularly the Central Statistical Office's Standard Industrial Classification and the ICOM Costume Committee's Vocabulary of basic terms for cataloguing costume.
General Scope
SHIC does not provide lists of object names, but rather is intended to allow the grouping together of objects, images and anything else which belong to the same area of human activity. It does not group material by generic type.
Organization
SHIC is a decimal classification system which takes as its starting point four primary headings (Sections):
1 COMMUNITY LIFE
2 DOMESTIC AND FAMILY LIFE
3 PERSONAL LIFE
4 WORKING LIFE
Done
Internet
start
Inbox - ...
Westshi...
Contract
Present...
ECDLPr...
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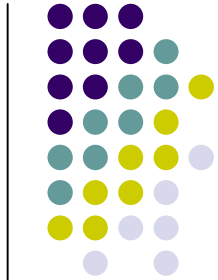
Problems

- Too static
- Unstructured content
- Difficult to maintain
- Duplication of effort



New approach

- NKOS standard based descriptions
- Web enabled database
- Registered editors add and maintain descriptions of their own resources
- Better searching facilities

Issues

- Addition to NKOS metadata
  - Extent
- Machine or human readable (or both)
- Editorial control
- Mappings as well as primary resources

What makes a ‘good’ KOS?

- Relevant coverage
- Available in a suitable format
  - Digital format
  - License / IPR issues
- Actively managed
- Compliant to standards
- Interlinked to other KOSs

  - Metadata needs to convey all of the above