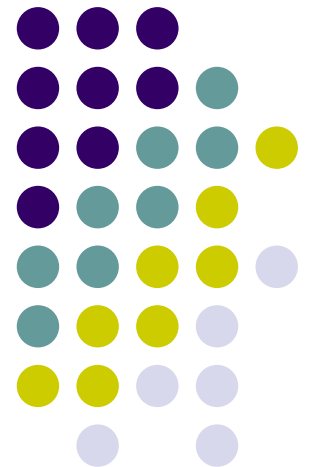


Terminology Resource Discovery for the UK Heritage sector



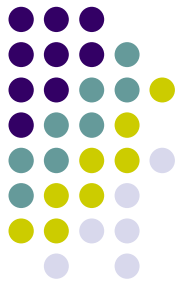
edmund.lee@english-heritage.org.uk





The users

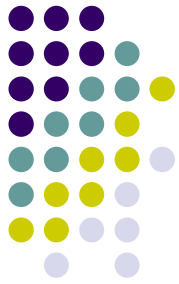
- Cultural resource managers (200+)
 - National and local authorities
 - Professional and independent sector
- Museum curators (6000+)
 - National collections
 - County collections
 - Thematic collections
 - Independent collections




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

INSCRIPTION



INSCRIPTION - List of Wordlists - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by English Heritage

Part of: 



[Acknowledgements](#) [List of Wordlists](#)

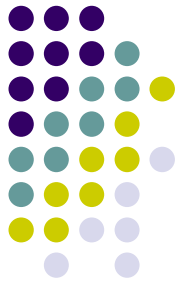
List of Wordlists

The wordlists shown below are organised by the MIDAS unit of information that they relate to. Click on a Wordlist Title to see a full description of the wordlist. Descriptions of wordlists in **Dark Green** are not available at the moment. A [key to the wordlist descriptions](#) is provided below. Consult the [MIDAS Units of Information Dictionary](#) for further details of MIDAS unit definitions.

MIDAS Unit of Information (* = Candidate unit)	Wordlist	Status
Archive / Source Type	Archaeological Archive Types	Operational
	Thesaurus of Resource Description	Draft
Artefact Type*	mda Archaeological Objects Thesaurus	Operational
Civil Parish	English Civil Parishes	Operational
Component*	English Heritage Components Thesaurus	Operational
Condition	REP93 Condition	Operational
Constructional Material	RCHME Thesaurus of Building Materials	Operational
County	English County List	Operational

Done Internet 12:17

INSCRIPTION



The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window with the following content:

mda Archaeological Object Thesaurus *Version:* 1.0
[Comment on](#) *Date:* 2002

Midas Unit: Aretefact Type

Description:
The thesaurus was developed by the *mda Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Working Party*, formed in 1995, to establish guidance and common principles for the recording of object names within the archaeological profession and related disciplines, also providing an interface with other national and international standards developed for this purpose. Archaeological objects can be defined as: "any physical evidence, usually portable, resulting from past human activity and human interaction with the environment, or environmental remains, that can be recovered through archaeological fieldwork".

It is hoped this 'general purpose' thesaurus, which includes provision for the development of additional levels of detail as required, will facilitate and encourage data exchange and co-operation between all individuals and institutions involved in the retrieval, research and curation of archaeological objects. Suggestions for additions and amendments to the thesaurus are welcomed.

Format: Thesaurus **Status:** Operational

Type / Width: Character (50) **No. of Terms:** c.2200

Coverage (Date): All periods

Coverage (Area): Britain and Ireland

NB. A small number of foreign terms are included due to their common usage and frequent occurrence within museum collections.

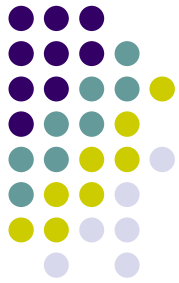
Update procedure:
Candidate terms submitted to the Archaeology Terminology Working Party.

Candidate terms and comments can be submitted online via the [mda website](#).

Revisions published annually for digital copies, and biennially for hard copies.

The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows the Start button, several open applications (Inbox, Westshi..., Contract, Present..., ECDLP..., Microso..., INSCRI...), and the system clock showing 12:18.

WordHoard



The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window displaying the website 'mda - wordHOARD'. The browser's address bar shows the URL 'mda - wordHOARD - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by English Heritage'. The website has a green header with the 'mda' logo, contact information (+44 (0)1223 415760 T, mda@mda.org.uk E), and a 'FIND US' button. The main content area features a navigation menu with 'HOME', 'ADVICEPOINT', 'ABOUT US', 'RESOURCES', 'ARCHIVE', 'DIRECTORY', and 'MAGAZINE'. Below the navigation, there is a section titled 'wordHOARD' with a sub-section 'UK Terminology Initiatives'. This section includes a paragraph of text and two sub-sections: 'Working Groups' and 'In-house Projects', each with a list of bullet points.

mda - wordHOARD - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by English Heritage

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Home Search Favorites Media Mail Print

mda +44 (0)1223 415760 T
mda@mda.org.uk E
FIND US

HOME ADVICEPOINT ABOUT US **RESOURCES** ARCHIVE DIRECTORY MAGAZINE

SUPPORTING THE MANAGEMENT AND USE OF COLLECTIONS **RESOURCES**

wordHOARD

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

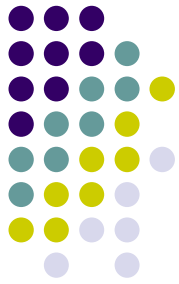
- [Archaeological Object Name Thesaurus Working Group](#)
- [Ethnographic Terminology Working Group](#)
- [SHIC Working Party](#)
- [Railway Terminology Working Group](#)
- [Inland Waterways Terminology Working Group](#)
- [Road Transport Terminology Working Group](#)

In-house Projects

- [British Museum, London](#)
- [Horniman Museum, London](#)
- [Museum of London](#)
- [National Army Museum](#)

start | Internet | 12:14

WordHoard



mda wordHOARD - Description of Selected Terminology Sources - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by English Heritage

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Home Search Favorites Media

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*):

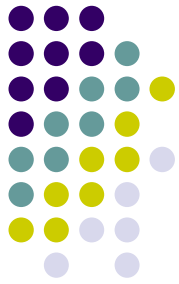
- 1 COMMUNITY LIFE
- 2 DOMESTIC AND FAMILY LIFE
- 3 PERSONAL LIFE
- 4 WORKING LIFE

Done Internet

start | Inbo... | Westshi... | Contract | Present... | ECCLPr... | Microso... | mda wo... | 12:16

Problems

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





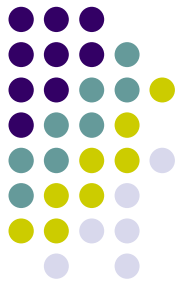
New approach

- 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