

## Getty Vocabularies: Issues Surrounding Diversity and Inclusion

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**Abstract:** Getty Vocabularies contain structured terminology for art, architecture, decorative arts, archival materials, visual surrogates, art conservation, and bibliographic materials. Compliant with international standards, they provide authoritative information for catalogers, researchers, and data providers. They contain coreferences to other resources where topics overlap. However, the Getty Vocabularies are unique in their global coverage of the defined domain, in citing published sources and contributors, in allowing interconnections among historical and current information, in accommodating the sometimes debated and ambiguous nature of art historical information, and in allowing complex relationships within and between Vocabularies. Thus they are not simple 'value vocabularies'; the Getty Vocabularies are also rich 'knowledge bases' in themselves. Although each Vocabulary requires a small set of minimum data, the data model allows for rich data that may be exploited for research and discovery. The Vocabularies grow through contributions from institutions and projects comprising the expert user community.

Getty Vocabularies provide terminology in use by the community, they do not prescribe *how* to use terms – beyond suggestions in the Scope Note. Getty Vocabularies do not prescribe, but instead assist in decision-making by providing contextual information. For example, rich 'preferences' inform users: For a concept or record, which term is most commonly used in authoritative scholarly publications? For each language, which term is preferred? Which term is preferred by each contributor? Which is preferred by each source? Additional flags in the Vocabulary record may further classify terms. While historical, obsolete, and even objectionable terms are not deleted (since they provide access) for research and discovery, terms deemed pejorative or objectionable may be labeled 'avoid use' for new indexing, and terms particular to a given culture may be noted.

In a global environment where we strive to be more open and equitable, while maintaining high standards for scholarship and research, Getty Vocabularies can be tools to facilitate such goals for art history and related disciplines. A primary goal of the Getty Vocabulary Program is to make the Vocabularies more multilingual, multicultural, and inclusive, focusing also on diversity, equity, unbiased and antiracist terminology, and accessibility. This presentation lays out a selection of the issues surrounding the accomplishment of these goals. Among the issues are how to keep up-to-date and equitable in choosing preferred terms with unbiased connotations; how to include biographical information without violating the privacy of the individual; how to include antiracist and correct post-colonization content; and how to facilitate content for diverse audiences. We do not yet have all the answers – flexibility is key. Successful resolutions will require a process over months and years, in concert with the expert contributor and user communities.