CONA & Subject Access for Art Works

Overview of the CONA Depicted Subject

Patricia Harpring
Managing Editor
Getty Vocabulary Program

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Preface

- This presentation contains basic information about indexing subject matter depicted in or referenced in art works in CONA, the Cultural Objects Name Authority, a Getty Vocabulary

- Search CONA here http://www.getty.edu/research/tools/vocabularies/cona/index.html

- Further reading: Intro to Art Image Access

- For full rules, re. Subject indexing, see the CONA Editorial Guidelines: Subject http://www.getty.edu/research/tools/vocabularies/guidelines/cona_3_6_3_subject_authority.html
Part 1: Overview
Introduction

What is CONA?
Introduction to Depicted Subjects in CONA
CONA in context
Vocabularies enabling digital art history

• **CONA contains or links information about art works**
• **Is linked to the AAT, TGN, ULAN**
• **Each record in AAT, TGN, ULAN, and CONA is identified by a unique, persistent numeric ID to allow consistency over time linked to IDs in other resources (including repositories) for the same concepts or works**

**AAT, the Art & Architecture Thesaurus®** includes generic terms, relationships, sources, and notes for work types, roles, materials, styles, cultures, and techniques
(e.g., amphora, oil paint, olieverf, peintures à l’huile, acetolysis, Jadekünste, sintering, orthographic drawings, Olmeca, Rinascimento, Buddhism, watercolors, asa-no-ha-toji)

**TGN, the Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names®** includes names, relationships, and coordinates for current and historical cities, nations, empires, archaeological sites, lost settlements, and physical features; through LOD, TGN may be linked to GIS and maps
(e.g., Diospolis, Acalán, Ottoman Empire, Mogao, Ch’ien-fu-tung, Ganges River, गंगा नदी)

**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, Cai Xiang, 葵襄, Crevole Master, Altobelli & Molins, Rajaraja Museum)

**IA, the Getty Iconography Authority™** is a new resource that includes proper names, relationships, and dates for iconographical narratives, religious or fictional characters, historical events, names of literary works and performing art (e.g., Adoration of the Magi, Flood of Deucalion, French Revolution, Xibalba, Niflheim, शिवा, Shiva, Bouddha couché)

**CONA, the Cultural Objects Name Authority®** is a new resource for indexing works depicted in visual surrogates and for other purposes, linking rich metadata such as title, artist attribution, patron, materials, and location for works of art, architecture, and other cultural works, to allow a conduit for research and discovery
(e.g., The Lacemaker, La Dentellière, Merlettaia, 神奈川沖浪裏, Great Wave, Die große Welle, Chayasomesvara Temple, Ἁγία Σοφία, Hagia Sofia, Αγία Σοφία)
What is CONA

Names/titles and other information about many types of works, built and unbuilt, historical and current, extant and destroyed, groups and items

LINKS and RELATIONSHIPS
• Thesaural relationships, equivalence, associative, hierarchical
• Powerful links and relationships within a CONA, between CONA records, and to the other Getty vocabularies

Sample record

CONA ID: 700000141

Titles/Names:
Hagia Sophia (en)
Ayasofya (tr)
Αγία Σοφία (el)
Agia Sofia
Agia Sophia
Haghia Sophia
Sainte-Sophie (fr)
Santa Sofia (es)
Sancta Sophia (la)
Holy Wisdom (en)
Saint Sophia (en)
圣索菲亚大教堂（zh）

Catalog Level: item

Work Types:
church (historical)
museum
basilica

Classification: architecture

Creation Date:
original structure dated from 4th century CE, present structure built 532-537 CE; rebuilt in 12th century

Creator Display:
Anthemios of Tralles (Byzantine, ca. 474-ca. 534) and Isidoros of Meletus, the Elder (Byzantine, active mid-6th century)

Locations:
Current: Istanbul (Turkey)
Address Note: 41.008548°N; 28.979938°E

Mat & Tech: system bearing masonry, centralized plan; ashlar and brick; interior surfaces are sheathed with polychrome marble, porphyry, and mosaics

Dimensions: central dome: diameter 31 meters (102 feet); height 56 meters (184 feet)

Styles:
Byzantine | Ottoman

General Subject:
architecture Type: isness
religion and mythology Extent: purpose

Specific Subjects:
Holy Wisdom (Christian allegory)

Contributors:
VP; BWR

Sources:

Images may be under additional copyright.
Entity Relationship Diagram for CONA

- Same diagram as used for CDWA and CCO

[Diagram showing relationships between Person / Corporate Body, Geographic Places, Generic Terms, Iconography Authority, Work Records, Image Records, Source Records, and CONA, with ULAN, TGN, AAT, and Getty IA labels.]
Subject in a minimum CONA record

**CONA ID** 70000285
**Catalog Level** item
**Classification** paintings
**Work Type** painting (visual work)
**scroll** (information artifact)
**Title** Scene of Early Spring
宋郭熙早春圖 軸
**Creator** Guo Xi (Chinese painter, 1023 - ca.1085 CE)
**Creation Date** 1072 CE
**General Subject** landscapes
**Specific** | spring (season) | trees | Pinus (genus) | streams
**Current Location** National Palace Museum (Taipei, Taiwan)
**Repository Number** 000053N000000000
**Dimensions** 158.3 x 108.1 cm
**Materials & Techniques** painted scroll | Index ink | silk | paper

- Instructions are available to contributors for defaults when core data is unavailable
- The CONA ID is supplied by CONA
CONA could fill a void, linking depicted subjects

- What do end-users want? Subject access is among their top requirements
- Whereas libraries have a tradition of cataloging the subjects of works
- Many art museums typically do not index subject matter depicted in / represented by works
  - [sitters, places, events, iconographic themes, dedication of certain buildings, etc.]
  - In a survey conducted of American art museums’ data, of the core fields (agreed by consensus in CDWA, CCO, etc.), all museums included all core fields except the depicted subject [survey by OCLC (Online Computer Library Center, a nonprofit computer library service and research organization); core fields per CCO and CDWA (Categories for the Description of Works of Art)]
Do repositories record subject?

- **Issue:** One of the primary ways by which users want to retrieve information and images of art is by subject content

- However, few museums or image repositories record subject terms (although libraries and archives do)
  - How does the community overcome this problem?
  - We all recognize the problem; but there is no easy solution
Do repositories record subject?

- Repositories of objects would be best source of current data for objects; but do they index subject content?
- OCLC study: Cataloging data from 9 art museums was analyzed for compatibility to CDWA and CCO
- See D-Lib Magazine for article on the project
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<th>CDWA</th>
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- Results of analysis show the percentages of records that have correctly included data for core CCO/CDWA fields
- Most museums generally are compliant with most of the core fields
- Some are missing data due to incorrect parsing (e.g., work type, role creator, which can be extrapolated and inserted globally in export)
- Exception: Only one of the nine museums had subject indexing
The importance of recording depicted subjects

- **Issue:** Why a Subject field? Doesn’t the Title describe the Subject?
- **Resolution:** No, not necessarily.
  Titles cannot reliably indicate subject content
  And if title does include reference to subject, titles are free text so information in the title must be indexed
  - Linking to designated, controlled Subject terminology allows the variant terms and other information about the subject to be retrieved, regardless of how it is spelled in the title
    (e.g., Hercules, Heracles, Herakles, Ercole, Ἡρακλῆς, Χερκυλ)
  - Allows research queries on complex information, such as select all works where subject = Hercules [IA_1000042] and where artist was German and work was created in Italy and date between 1400-1600
Issue: Can subject be captured from existing data?

In the Title?

Resolution: Subject may often be found in title or work type

But how to index it as subject?

Automated parsing (matched against controlled subject lists) or entered by hand as subject?

Combination of auto-parsing and human editing would be best solution

Decisions must be made with homographs, uncertainty in mapping

Which "Vulture Peak"?
Add Buddha Preaching (Buddhist theme) [IA 1001358]

What are the names of the other figures?

What is "General Subject"?

CONA ID: 70008983  Work Type: embroidery

Titles: Śākyamuni preaching on the Vulture Peak
Miraculous Image of Liangzhou (Fanhe Buddha)
CONA ID: 700009299  Work Type: painting
Title: La Surprise
Artist/Maker: Jean-Antoine Watteau (French, 1684 - 1721)

• surprise
  AAT 300417323

- Issue: Can subject be captured from existing data?
  - In the Title?
  - Resolution: Subject may often be found in title or work type

- Titles will not always contain useful information about the subject
- Decisions must be made by human editors
- E.g., “surprise” should be indexed, but it does not describe the subject adequately
Issue: Can subject be captured from existing data?

Resolution:
- Yes, make a first pass using various automated resources
  - But final indexing will require human vetting
- Using organizational categories for online data, e.g., to extrapolate that subject = “cityscape”
- Using other metadata in the work record
- New: Using image-matching to find subject metadata on a similar work is being investigated

Example from Getty Museum Web site
May be surmised that these depict “cityscapes”
Can subject be captured from existing data?

Works in art libraries & special collections often have subject access.

However, as in this example, subject access is often through the group, not item-level.
Example of expert-crowd-sourcing for subject indexing

- **Issue:** Crowd sourcing for subject indexing?
- **Resolution:** Use specialist participants, as in the example
- At minimum, use responsible participants who have undergone training and have a set of instructions
- Include a method of checking the results by a centralized entity or experts in both content and indexing
The importance of recording depicted subjects

- As an example of a data model for object information, this presentation uses CONA, which is an implementation of CDWA and CCO
- Methodologies for indexing subject matter are described
- This presentation discusses the Getty Vocabularies as tools to index and provide access to subject matter
- This presentation assumes both General Subject and Specific Subject are available to the cataloger, as advised in CDWA and CCO; however, if you have only one repeatable Subject field, you may still use these guidelines, extrapolating for your simpler data structure
Part 2: How to Index Subject
SUBJECT ACCESS FOR ART WORKS
Quick Reference Guide

• Understand what is Subject: It is what is depicted in and by a work of art
  • Included are depictions of narratives; events; myth, religion, legend, and literary topics; named people;
    named places; named things
  • Included are allegorical themes or symbols
  • Utilitarian objects and architecture have Subject too, including purpose, dedication, and “isness”
• Always include a General Subject
• Include Specific Subjects when possible
• Use controlled vocabulary for indexing subjects
  • Use generic terms and proper names as appropriate
  • For Specific Subject, use AAT for generic terms, TGN for place names, ULAN for names of people and groups, CONA for names of other art works and architecture, and IA for iconography, events, and other subjects having proper names
  • Have process to add candidate terms to these resources
  • Alternatively use other sources of vocabulary, such as Iconclass or Library of Congress authorities
SUBJECT ACCESS FOR ART WORKS
Quick Reference Guide (continued)

- Remember standard methods of subject analysis
  - Consider *Description* (generic recognition of what is depicted), *Identification* (named specific things or people), and *Interpretation* (based on expert knowledge, the meaning or symbolism of the work)
  - Consider “*isness*,” for non-pictorial works
  - Consider “*aboutness*” (what a work conveys) and “*ofness*” (what the work depicts)
- Index any important words and proper names mentioned in the *Title*
- Index only the important aspects of Subject; do not index every item depicted in a busy composition
- Be as consistent as possible in assigning subject terms
  - Set a target number of terms per record, proceed in naming subjects in a prescribed manner: who-what-when-where, most important to medium important, front to back, top to bottom, etc.
  - Accept that complete consistency is not attainable, but aim for as much consistency as possible
  - Remember that subject should be queried with other fields, such as Work Type and Style, in retrieval
- Do not guess or estimate what is depicted; use only expert knowledge
  - Better to be broad & correct rather than specific & wrong
  - If two different subjects are possible based on conflicting expert opinions, index both
What Is Subject?

What is depicted in and by a work of art
What Is Subject?

- The subject matter of a work of art (sometimes referred to as its content)
- is the narrative, iconic, or non-objective meaning conveyed by a figurative or an abstract composition.
- It is what is depicted in and by a work of art.
- It also covers the function of an object or architecture that otherwise has no narrative content.

- Per CDWA and CCO, subject is broadly defined
- It is “Core” information
- Include for all objects, even those that have no “subject” in the traditional sense
What Is Subject?

- The subject matter of a work of art (sometimes referred to as its content)
- is the narrative, iconic, or non-objective meaning conveyed by a figurative or an abstract composition
- It is what is depicted in and by a work of art
- It also covers the function of an object or architecture that otherwise has no narrative content

- Using fields specifically dedicated to subject assures that subject matter is consistently recorded and indexed in the same place using the same conventions for *every* work represented in the database
What Is Subject?

You are probably accustomed to thinking of subject in these ways:

But these may also be “subject”:

Quick overview

- Representational, narrative
  - Tells a story
- Representational, not a story
  - Portraits, landscapes, still lifes, genre scenes, architectural drawings, allegories
- Nonrepresentational
  - Abstract
  - Decoration
  - Function
  - Implied themes or attributes
How CONA links Subjects to the Getty Vocabularies

The power of synonyms, hierarchies, associative relationships, and related information
Controlled by AAT, ULAN, TGN, CONA, and IA

Power of the synonyms and associative relationships, and biography

By linking to AAT, you have the power of synonyms, the hierarchy, associative relationships, and other links to power retrieval on Subject.

By linking to ULAN, you have the power of synonyms, biographical information, associative relationships, hierarchy for corporate bodies, and other links that may aid in retrieval.

CONA ID 70000215 Catalog Level: item
Class: paintings Work Type: painting
Title: Magdaleine Pinceloup de la Grange
Creator Display: Jean-Baptiste Perroneau (French painter, ca. 1715-1783)
*Current Location: J. Paul Getty Museum (Los Angeles, California, USA) ID: 84.PA.664

General Subject: portraits
Specific Subject:
- Pinceloup de la Grange, Magdaleine (French aristocrat, 18th century)
- Felis domesticus (species)
- single-sitter portrait

ULAN ID 500312828
Names
- Pinceloup de la Grange, Magdaleine
- Parseval, Magdaleine

Related Person
spouse of .... Pinceloup de la Grange, Charles-François

ULAN ID 500312828
Names
- Pinceloup de la Grange, Magdaleine
- Parseval, Magdaleine

Related Person
spouse of .... Pinceloup de la Grange, Charles-François

AAT ID 300265960
Terms
- Felis domesticus (species)
domestic cat (species)
house cat (species)
Felis catus (species)

*Measurements: 65 x 54 cm (25 5/8 x 21 3/8 inches)

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CONA and Subject Access to Art Works
Author: Patricia Harpring
May 2019
Power of the hierarchy

**AAT ID 300404138**

- portraits
  - animal portraits
  - chinzō
  - clipei (portraits)
  - companion portraits
  - composite portraits
  - conjectural portraits
  - double-sided portraits
  - effigies (general portraits)
  - tomb effigies [N]
  - equestrian portraits
  - eye portraits
  - forensic facial reconstructions
  - group portraits
  - conversation pieces (portraits)
  - double portraits
  - historiated portraits
  - ndop [N]
  - portrait heads
  - self-portraits
  - selfies
  - single-sitter portraits
  - stylized portraits

- By linking to AAT, you have the power of synonyms, the hierarchy, associative relationships, and other links to power retrieval on Subject
- By linking to ULAN, you have the power of synonyms, biographical information, associative relationships, hierarchy for corporate bodies, and other links that may aid in retrieval

**CONA ID 70000215**

Catalog Level: item
Class: paintings
Work Type: painting

**Title:** Magdaeline Pinceloup de la Grange

Creator Display: Jean-Baptiste Perroneau (French painter, ca. 1715-1783)

Current Location: J. Paul Getty Museum (Los Angeles, CA)

*Measurements: 65 x 54 cm (25 5/8 x 21 3/8 inches)*

Mat & Tech: oil on canvas

**Description:**
The sitter was from the provincial French region of Orléans, but the artist imbued her with Parisian characteristics. As a teenager, she married M. de la Grange, a member of the French nobility. In 1786, they arrived in Paris. Despite their years of service and years spent as a member of the military, their daughter, Madame Magdaeline, left a lasting impression in the form of this artwork. The artist portrayed her with her cat, a companion she held in high regard. The cat is known as a "Chartreux cat," descriptions of which first appeared in 18th-century France. While some at the time valued this breed as a companion animal, it was primarily bred for its fur.

**Note Source:** J. Paul Getty Museum online. (accessed 10 February 2009)

**Related Work:**
- Relationship type [cont.]: pendant of
  - [link to work]: Charles-François Pinceloup de la Grange, Jean-Baptiste Perroneau, painting, 1747, 84.PA.664

**ULAN ID**

500312828

**Names**
- Pinceloup de la Grange, Magdaeline
- Parseval, Magdaeline

**AAT ID 300404138**

Terms
- Felis domesticus (species)
- domestic cat (species)
- house cat (species)
- Felis catus (species)

**General Subject:** portraits

**Specific Subject:**
- Pinceloup de la Grange, Magdaeline (French aristocrat, 18th century)
- Felis domesticus (species)
- single-sitter portrait
TGN ID 7002473
Names
• İstanbul
• Constantinople
• Konstantinopel
• Κωνσταντινούπολις
• Константинополь
• یسلاج
• イスタンブール
•  CONSTANTINOPEL
• Κωνσταντινούπολις

Related Places
located on the Silk Road

Coordinates
Lat: 41.0110 Long: 28.9578

Hierarchies
[parents = Turkey, Ottoman Empire, Byzantine Empire, etc.]

CONA: ID 700008633
Class.: manuscripts maps
Work Type: cityscape map
Titles: Map of Constantinople
Karte von Konstantinopel
Creator: Cristoforo Buondelmonti  Date: 1422
Current Location: Bibliothèque nationale de France (Paris, France)
Dimensions 25.4 x 16.4 cm, one of 66 leaves

General Subject:
cityscapes architecture

Specific Subject:
• Constantinople (inhabited place)
• Hagia Sophia (built work)

Power of synonyms, hierarchy, relationships, coordinates, historical

• TGN for subjects that are geographic places; in turn linked to GIS and other geo-data
• CONA for subjects that are architecture or other works, includes dates, materials, patrons, etc; here an important portrayal of critical built work as it looked in 1400s
CONA ID 700008633

Class.: manuscripts maps
Work Type: cityscape map

Titles: Map of Constantinople
Karte von Konstantinopel

Creator: Cristoforo Buondelmonti  Date: 1422
Current Location: Bibliothèque nationale de France (Paris, France)

Dimensions 25.4 x 16.4 cm, one of 66 leaves

General Subject:
cityscapes architecture

Specific Subject:
- Constantinople (inhabited place)
- Hagia Sophia (built work)

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CONA and Subject Access to Art Works
author: Patricia Harpring
May 2019
The Getty Iconography Authority contains records for named events, religious/mythological iconography, fictional characters and places, themes from literature. It is linked to the other Getty Vocabularies.

### Synonyms, links, hierarchy

**General Subject:** religion and mythology  
**Specific Subject:**  
- Xibalba (Maya legendary place)  
- skeleton underworld death  
- altar  
- Baby Jaguar (Maya character)  
- Chahk (Maya deity)  
- celebration

**CONA ID 70000012**  
- Class: Precolombian art  
- Work Type: vessel  
- Title: Vessel with Mythological Scene  
- Creator Display: unknown Maya  
- Current Location: Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, New York, USA)  
- ID: 1978.412.206

**Description:** Straight-sided ceramic vessels with painted decoration comprising complex scenes were common in eighth-century Maya art. The "codex-style" painting depicts a scene in the realm of the Lords of Death, where a dancing figure holds a long-handled axe and a handstone. On a monster-head altar lies Baby Jaguar, a deity figure, and beside the altar is a dancing, a skeletal death figure. The meaning has been variously interpreted as depicting either sacrifice or celebration.
The Getty Iconography Authority contains records for named events, religious/mythological iconography, fictional characters and places, themes from literature, and linked to the other Getty Vocabularies.

**Names**
- Xibalba
- Place of Fear

**Hierarchy**
Legend, Religion, Mythology

**Related records**
- Associated with: Popol Vuh (Maya literature) [IA]
- Role: underworld (doctrinal concept) [AAT]
- Located in: Cobán (Guatemala) [TGN]

**General Subject:** religion and mythology

**Specific Subject:**
- Xibalba (Maya legendary place)
- Skeleton underworld death
- Altar
- Baby Jaguar (Maya character)
- Chahk (Maya deity)
- Celebration

Straight-sided ceramic vessels with painted decoration comprising complex scenes were common in eighth-century Maya art. The “codex-style” painting depicts a scene in the realm of the Lords of Death, where a dancing figure holds a long-handled axe and a handstone. On a monster-head altar lies Baby Jaguar, a deity figure, and beside the altar is a dancing, a skeletal death figure. The meaning has been variously interpreted as depicting either sacrifice or celebration.
How to Apply General and Specific Subject Terms

Using a controlled list and links to Getty vocabularies
What are General Subject and Specific Subject?

- **General Subject**: Required to include one general subject
  - Controlled by an extensible list, not directly linked to Getty Vocabularies but mapped to AAT
  - Purpose is to place the depicted subject in a broad category; count nouns are plural

- **Specific Subject**: Optional but highly recommended
  - Add terms to describe subject as specifically as possible
    - However, index only the most important characteristics or topics
  - Controlled by AAT, TGN, ULAN, CONA, and the IA
  - Purpose is to index subject and allow retrieval using Getty Vocabularies
  - May repeat same concept as in General Subject, but more specifically if possible
  - Avoid repeating the Work Type if possible

- You may instead use one repeatable Subject field, if your system so dictates; in this presentation, extrapolate useful information for your situation
- You may instead link to Iconclass, LOC Authorities, etc., if these terms are already incorporated in their local data
### General Subject

**General Subject:** Extensible list, mapped but not linked to AAT. For definitions see the Scope Note for the term in the AAT.

#### Code | Description
--- | ---
30001 | undetermined
30002 | not applicable
30101 | advertising and commercial
30102 | allegory
30103 | animals
30104 | apparel
30105 | architecture
30108 | landscape architecture
30111 | activity
30201 | botanical
30205 | biographical
30301 | cartographic
30302 | ceremonial objects
30303 | cityscapes
30305 | calligraphic
30306 | costume
30401 | didactic and propaganda
30405 | documentary
30411 | decorative arts
30488 | engineering
30501 | events
30600 | fine arts
30801 | funerary
30805 | fantasy
30811 | furnishings
30812 | furniture
30701 | genre
30710 | games and sports
30801 | history and legend
30802 | human figures
30851 | humor and comedy
30901 | interior architecture
30902 | installation
30906 | industry
31201 | landscapes
31202 | literary
31301 | machines and equipment
31302 | military
31304 | marines
31310 | monuments and memorials
31320 | musical
31401 | nonrepresentational art
31402 | figurative art
31403 | abstract art
31404 | conceptual art
31406 | numismatic
31406 | philatelic
31411 | natural objects
31412 | natural phenomena
31413 | agriculture
31414 | labor
31501 | utilitarian objects
31502 | object components
31511 | ornament
31551 | documents
31552 | law
31563 | science
31554 | philosophy
31601 | performance art
31602 | portraits
31805 | performing arts
31701 | violence
31801 | religion and mythology
31901 | seascapes
31902 | still lifes
31903 | sites
31910 | satire
31922 | structures
31925 | symbols
31935 | text
31936 | textile
31938 | travel
31961 | various subjects
31985 | found objects
31967 | time-based works

- **Required to include one general subject term from the extensible list.**
- **Recommended to also include specific subjects as warranted, using AAT, TGN, ULAN, IA, and CONA itself for works depicted in works.**
General Subject and Specific Subject

Minimum and fuller

CONA 700009292 Work Type: Etching
Title: Rom, 1859
Creator: Post, Karl Borromäus, 1834-1877, printmaker.
Creation Date: 1859
Physical Desc.: 1 print etching; sheet 44.5 x 55.5 cm, mount 44.5 x 62.9 cm
Location: GRI Special Collections Accession Number: P850003

Minimum subject = one term from General Subject
Fuller subject = additional terms from Getty Vocabularies, based on Title and authoritative information from the object record or expert analysis

General Subject: • landscapes [General ID 31201]

Specific Subject:
• view (visual work) [AAT 300015424]
• naturalistic landscape (visual work) [AAT 300417313]
• Rome (Lazio, Italy) [TGN 7000874]
General Subject and Specific Subject

Utilitarian or functional work = *isness*
Other subject? Having only one term, for General Subject is okay, fulfills minimum requirement

**CONA ID 700000119** Catalog Level: Item Class:: musical instruments

*Work Type:* viola da gamba

*Title:* Viola da Gamba

*Creator Display:* Richard Meares (English, 17th century)

*Current Location:* Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, New York)

*Creation Location:* London (England)

*Role:* creator

*Creation Date:* ca. 1680

*Subject:*

- object (utilitarian)
- music

*Culture:* English

*Measure:*

- length of body: 65.3 cm (25 3/4 inches)

*Material & Techniques:* wood


*Description:* Viols, the most esteemed bowed instruments of the late Renaissance, were only gradually replaced by the violin family after the invention of violins in the late 16th century. Viols are characterized by a deep, rich, mellow tone quality. They are typically played between the knees, and are held vertically. The sound is warmer and quieter than that of violins, which were the dominant instrument during the Renaissance and Baroque eras. Viols became less popular after the mid-18th century.

- General Subject should be included, even if there is no figurative or narrative content
- Objects of cultural heritage, e.g., musical instruments, textiles, ceramics, furniture, numismatics, stained glass, tools, artifacts

**General Subject:** utilitarian objects

**Indexing Type:** *isness*
General Subject and Specific Subject

Specific does not repeat General Levels of indexing subject (discussion later)

CONA ID 700008606 Class: sculpture  *Work Type: statue
*Title: Guanyin, Bodhisattva of Compassion
*Creator Display: unknown Chinese
*Current Location*: Museum of Fine Arts (Boston, Massachusetts, USA) 20.590
*Role: sculptor  Person: unknown Chinese

**General Subject:**
- human figures [General ID 30802]
- religion and mythology [General ID 31801]

**Specific Subject:**
- man (male human) [AAT 300025928]  description
- Guanyin (Buddhist bodhisattva) [IA 1000085]  identification
- royal ease [AAT 300391241]  identification
- compassion [AAT 300393159]  interpretation

Guanyin is the Bodhisattva of Compassion, represented in the pose of “royal ease” and richly ornamented. A Bodhisattva is one who has attained enlightenment, but chooses to remain among humankind to help others achieve it ...
General Subject and Specific Subject

Specific does not repeat General
Important elements indexed, only if certain
CONA ID 700002134 Class*: paintings Work Type*: painting
Title*: Still life with flowers and fruit

General Subject: • still lifes • botanical

Specific Subject:
• flower piece [AAT]
• fruit piece [AAT]
• apples (fruits) [AAT]
• grapes (berry fruit) [AAT]
• chrysanthemums (genus) [AAT]
• basket (container) [AAT]

Description, identification, interpretation
What the work is “of” and “about”
still lifes = fruit piece, flower piece

Specific Subject does not necessarily repeat “still lifes” of General, but notes more specific types of still life

the tablecloth, sketchy in the apples, and short and dense in the flower petals.
General Subject and Specific Subject

Literary source cited, location identified

CONA ID 700000099  Classification: paintings  *Work Type: screen
*Titles: Irises at Yatsuhashi (Eight Bridges)
Eight-Planked Bridge (Yatsuhashi)
*Creator Display: Ogata Korin (Japanese, 1658-1716)
*Creation Date: probably done sometime between 1711 and 1716
*Current Location: Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, New York, USA )
*ID: 53.7.1-2
*Dimensions: pair of six-panel folding screens; each 179.1 x 371.5 cm (5 feet 1 1/2 inches x 12 feet 2 1/4 inches)
*Role: painter
*Subject:
landscape
bridge
iris
love
longing
journeying
Ise Monogatari (Japanese literature, poems)

*Mat & Tech: and Techniques: ink, color, and gold-leaf on paper, using tarashikomi (color blending technique)

Inscriptions: right hand screen: Korin’s signature with honorary title “hokkyo”; round seals read “Masatoki

Style: Edo (Japanese)
Culture: Japanese
Description: Represents a popular episode in the 10th-century “Ise Monogatari” (The Tales of Ise) series of poems on love and longing. In this episode, a young aristocrat comes to a place called Eight Bridges (Yatsuhashi) where a river branched into eight channels, each spanned by a bridge. He writes a poem of five lines about irises growing there. The poem expresses his longing for his wife left behind in the capital city.


General Subject:
- landscapes
- allegory

Specific Subject:
- Tales of Ise (poems, Kino Tsurayuki, 10th century) [IA]
- Yatsuhashi (Aomori, Japan) [TGN]
- bridge (built work) [AAT]
- iris (plant) [AAT]
- love (emotion) [AAT]
- longing [AAT]
- journeying [AAT]
General Subject and Specific Subject

Subject may be historical event

CONA ID 700008610 Class: paintings  Work Type: painting
Title: George Washington Crossing the Delaware
Creator display: Emanuel Gottlieb Leutze (American, 1816-1868)
Creation Date: 1851
Current Location: Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, New York)
Gift of John S. Kennedy (97.34)

General Subject: history and legend
Specific Subject:
- Battle of Trenton (American history, 1776) [IA]
- George Washington (American general and president, 1732-1799) [ULAN]
- Delaware River (United States) [TGN]
- winter [AAT]
- boat [AAT]
- military [AAT]
General Subject and Specific Subject

Architecture: Whole or part, or generic depicted
Literary source cited

CONA ID 700008607 Catalog Level: item  Class: prints
Work Type: engraving
Title: Capital and base of a column (Vitruvius II)
Creator: Hans Beham
Creation Date: 1543  Qualifier: publication
Current Location: Auckland Art Museum (Auckland, New Zealand); Department - International Art

General Subject: •architecture

Specific Subject:
•column (architectural element) [AAT]
•capital (column component) [AAT]
•base (object component) [AAT]
•acanthus (motif) [AAT]
•De Architectura (treatise, Vitruvius, 1st century BCE) [IA]

• Description, identification, interpretation
• What the work is “of” and “about”
• architecture, specific elements depicted
General Subject and Specific Subject

Architecture: Work indexed IS a built work = isness
Other subject? Extent = dedication and purpose

CONA ID 700000158 Class: Roman architecture
Work Type: temple rotunda church

Titles: Pantheon
Santa Maria ad Martyres
Santa Maria Rotunda

General Subject: architecture Indexing Type: isness
religion and mythology Extent: purpose
Specific Subject:
• worship [AAT] Extent: purpose
• Roman Planetary Gods (Roman deities) [IA]
  Extent: dedication
• Queen of Martyrs (Christian theme) [IA]
  Extent: dedication

• For architecture, indicate architecture and also use
  Indexing Type isness to clarify this is a built work,
  not a representation of a built work (in sync with Work
  Type). (Indexing Type is discussed later.)
• Use Specific Subject to index a dedication of
  churches, temples, monuments (e.g., Notre Dame,
  Lincoln Memorial)
• (For a simple dedication, for which the person is not a subject, use
  Related People and Corporate Bodies with Role “dedicatee”)

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CONA and Subject Access to Art Works
author: Patricia Harpring
May 2019
What is Subject Extent?

Optional: not required

- When there are multiple subjects, a term indicating the part of the work to which these subject terms apply.
- May also indicate terms referring to content or characteristics of the work not “subjects” per se, but not covered in other fields.

**Subject Extent:** Extensible list.

For definitions, see [CONA Editorial Guidelines: Subject Extent](#).

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<th>Description</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>33355</td>
<td>work depicted</td>
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### General Subject and Specific Subject: Extent

Include subjects on various parts of the work

<table>
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<tr>
<th>CONA ID 700006921</th>
<th>Classification: antiquities</th>
<th>Work Type: amphora</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title: Panathenaic Prize Amphora with Lid</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creator: attributed to the Painter of the Wedding Procession; signed by</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**General Subject:**
- religion and mythology **Extent:** overall
- utilitarian objects **Indexing Type:** isness
- ceremonial objects **Indexing Type:** isness

**Specific Subject:**
- Panathenaia [AAT] **Extent:** related event
- prize [AAT] **Extent:** purpose
- Athena Promachos (Greek theme) [IA] **Extent:** side A
- human females [AAT] **Extent:** side A
- Nike (Greek deity) [IA] **Extent:** side B
- victor [AAT] **Extent:** side B
- competition [AAT] **Extent:** side B

- Use of Extent
- Different parts of the work have different subjects
- Not required, but available if known
General Subject and Specific Subject: Extent

Include topics or proper names contained in inscriptions. For language, use Subject Extent = language.

Cona ID: 700008847  Record Type: Movable Work Catalog Level: item

Titles:
- Bell of Zhou (preferred, C, U, RP, English-P, U, U)
- Zong Zhou Zhong (Bell of Zhou) (C, U, English, U, U)
- 宗周鐘 (C, U, Chinese, U, U)
- Cloche zhong dite Zong Zhou (C, U)

Work Types:
- zhong (bells) [300404743] (preferred)
- bronze (visual work) [300047333]

Creator: unknown Zhou; patron: King Li of Zhou

Note: Considered among the most important musical instruments cast under the royal decree of King Li of Zhou. In the Zhou Dynasty, bronze bells emerged. Perhaps the oldest class is a small clappered bell called ling (鈴), but the best known is certainly the zhong (鐘), a suspended, clapperless bell. The long and remarkable inscription on this bell relates how King Li of the Western Zhou Dynasty led a successful military campaign against the southern states.

Inscription: … The inscription relates how King Li of the Western Zhou Dynasty led a successful military campaign against the southern states.

Here proper name in inscription is also the patron; repeat link to him as related person with Creator.

General Subject:
- ceremonial objects  Extent: purpose

Specific Subject:
- ceremonial sound device [AAT]  Extent: purpose
- King Li of Zhou (Chinese king, died 828 BCE) [ULAN] Extent: text
- military campaign [AAT]  Extent: text
- Chinese (language) [AAT]  Extent: language
General Subject and Specific Subject: Groups

Include subjects for group-level description, depending on whether item-level description too

CONA ID 70000859 Record Type: collection
Class: photographs European art
Work Type: albumen prints
Title: Views of Paris and Environs and the Exposition Universelle
General location: Getty Research Institute, Research Library, Los Angeles, California, USA

General Subject:
- architecture
- various subjects

Specific Subject:
- views (visual works) [AAT]
- Paris (France) [TGN]
- Exposition universelle de 1889 (International exposition, Paris, 1889) [IA]
- Château de Versailles (Versailles, France) [CONA]
- Parc de Saint-Cloud (Paris, France) [TGN]
- Parc du Champ-de-Mars (Paris, France) [TGN]
- travel [AAT]

• For a collection or group
• General Subject includes various subjects
• For Specific Subject, either record subjects of all or the most important works in the group
• In addition, or instead, if there will be item-level records, include subjects for items in works for individual works
General Subject and Specific Subject: Design elements

Minimum: Include one General Subject
May include design elements, patterns, etc.

**General Subject:**
nonrepresentational art

**Specific Subject:**
square (shape) [AAT]  **Extent:** design element
line (geometric concept) [AAT]  **Extent:** design element
orange (color) [AAT]  **Extent:** design element

CONA ID 700008601 Catalog Level: item  Class: prints and drawings  Work Type: lithograph
Title: White Line Square XII
Creator: Josef Albers

General Subject should be included, even if there is no figurative or narrative content
Nonrepresentational art
May include design elements, motifs, including color if important

Measurements: 53.3 x 53.3 cm (21 x 21 in.)
Description: Edition 125 plus 10 AP, 5 TP, RTP, PPII, 2 GEL, 5 PP;
Collaboration and Supervision Kenneth Tyler; Processing and Proofing Kenneth Tyler; Edition Printing James Webb, Fred Ganis, Octavio Pereira
What is Indexing Type?
A classification of the level of subject description indicated by the indexing terms, for use if necessary to distinguish between what a work is "of" and what it is "about."

- Three levels of analysis
  (“indexing type”)
  - Objective description
  - Identification of subject
  - Interpretation of the meaning or theme

What is Indexing Type?

- **description**
  For terms that index the work according to the generic elements of the image or images depicted in, on, or by it. These are elements that may be recognized by a viewer having little or no knowledge of a particular theme or the iconography depicted. Used in both General Depicted Subject (e.g., a viewer without specialized knowledge may recognize a human figure) and Specific Depicted Subject (e.g., child (people by age group) [AAT 300025945]). Description is usually analogous to *ofness*.

- **identification**
  For terms that name the subject depicted in or on a work: its iconography. Iconography is the named mythological, fictional, religious, or historical narrative subject matter of a work, or its non-narrative content in the form of persons, places, things, from the real world or iconographic themes. Identification requires knowledge of the subject depicted. Used primarily in Specific Depicted Subject (e.g., an image of a child may be identified as Eros (Greek god) [IA 1000613]). Identification may be analogous to either *aboutness* or *ofness*.

- **interpretation**
  For terms that refer to the meaning or theme represented by the subject matter or iconography of a work. Interpretation requires access to expert analysis or knowledge of common themes, such as represented in allegory or symbols. Used primarily in Specific Depicted Subject (e.g., an image of Eros symbolizes love (emotion) [AAT 300055165]). Interpretation is usually analogous to *aboutness*.
Description, Identification, Interpretation

- **Three levels of analysis**
  - Objective **description**
  - Identification of named subject
  - Interpretation of meaning or theme

### General Subject:
religion and mythology

### Specific Subject:
- woman [AAT]
- baby [AAT]
- men [AAT]
- vessels [AAT]

**Description, Identification, Interpretation**

CONA ID: 700002178  Work Type: Painting
Title: *Adoration of the Magi*
Creator: Mantegna; Italian; Date: 1495-1505  Material & Technique: distemper on linen
Dimensions: sight size: 19 1/8 x 25 7/8 inches
Location: J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles. 85.PA.417
Three levels of analysis

- Objective description
- Identification of subject
- Interpretation of meaning or theme

Description, Identification, Interpretation

General Subject: religion and mythology

Specific Subject:
- Adoration of the Magi [IA]
- Mary [IA]
- Jesus [IA]
- Joseph [IA]
- Magi [IA]
- Melchior [IA]
- Caspar [IA]
- Balthasar [IA]
- gifts [AAT]  kings [AAT]
- gold [AAT]  magi [AAT]
- frankincense [AAT]
- myrrh [AAT]

Adoration of the Magi [IA]
Mary [IA]
Jesus [IA]
Joseph [IA]
Magi [IA]
Melchior [IA]
Caspar [IA]
Balthasar [IA]
gifts [AAT]  kings [AAT]
gold [AAT]  magi [AAT]
frankincense [AAT]
myrrh [AAT]
Description, Identification, Interpretation

General Subject:
- religion and mythology

Specific Subject:
- Epiphany [AAT]
- Races of Man [IA]
- Ages of Man [IA]
- deity [AAT]
- death [AAT]

Three levels of analysis
- Objective description
- Identification of named subject
- Interpretation of meaning or theme

Title: Adoration of the Magi
Author: Mantegna; Italian;
Date: 1495-1505
Material & Technique: distemper on linen
Dimensions: sight size: 19 1/8 x 25 7/8 inches
Location: J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles. 85.PA.417

General Subject: religion and mythology
Specific Subject: Description, Identification, Interpretation
What is Indexing Type?
A classification of the level of subject description indicated by the indexing terms, for use if necessary to distinguish between what a work is "of" and what it is "about."

another way of considering subject, according to what the subject is of, what it is about, or what it is

- **isness** = what a work is, what class it belongs to
- **aboutness** = what a work conveys
- **ofness** = what a work depicts

Isness, Aboutness, Ofness

- **Isness**
  For terms that equal the work described or the class to which it belongs, relevant particularly to distinguish when the subject term is the work, as opposed to descriptive of the subject portrayed in the work. Used primarily in General Depicted Subject. For example, if you are cataloging a cathedral as a built work, General Depicted Subject term architecture has Indexing Type isness; if you are cataloging a drawing of a cathedral, architecture has Indexing Type *description*.

- **Aboutness**
  If more familiar with aboutness than the Panofsky-inspired terms, cataloging institutions may use this flag to indicate what the work is about. It may analogous to either identification or interpretation.

- **Ofness**
  If more familiar with ofness than the Panofsky-inspired terms, cataloging institutions may use this flag to indicate what the work is of. It may analogous to either description or identification.
Part 3: Issues and Resolutions in Indexing Subject
Specificity and Exhaustivity

What are they?

- **Specificity** refers to the degree of precision or *granularity* used (e.g., *campanile* rather than *tower*).

- **Exhaustivity** refers to the degree of depth and breadth that the cataloger uses, often expressed by using a larger number of index terms or a more detailed description.

- The greater the level of specificity and exhaustivity in catalog records, the more valuable the records will be.
- However, practical considerations often limit this.
Where to set limits on Specificity and Exhaustivity

- **Issue:** How many terms are required?
- **Resolution:** One subject term is required, a general subject designation (from controlled list).
- although it is strongly encouraged to include specific subject terms too (from AAT, TGN, ULAN, CONA, and IA, or other published authorities)
- As a last resort, “undetermined” may be sometimes allowed in if no subject can be extrapolated

- **Issue:** Is it useful to index every item in the scene? If not, where do you draw the limit?
- **Resolution:** Do not index all items depicted! Too many indexing terms are almost as bad as none, because bad retrieval results happen.
- Index only the most important or most prevalent parts of the subject depicted or intended.
How specific? How many terms?

- Minimum record: One term for General Subject is required
- Indexing Type is not required, but is particularly recommended for “isness”
- Also recommended to index information in the title, here “Vulture.” The species of vulture is known as probable from accompanying authoritative material.

CONA ID 700008567 Classification ceramics
Work Type vessel
Title: Vulture Vessel
Creator Display: unknown Aztec Cultural Group: [ULAN 500202913]
Creation Date 1200/1521

General Subject
utilitarian objects
Indexing Type: isness

Specific Subject
vulture [AAT]
Sarcoramphus papa (species) [AAT] Extent: probably
How specific? How many terms?

Establish rules regarding the number of terms to assign and method of analyzing

Include subjects named in Title and any other important subjects

- In this example, General Subject and name of sitter are critical, in the Title
- Costume is also important subject element, according to contributor
- But indexing too many details of the composition are unhelpful
- Will user want to retrieve this work when looking for “carpet” or “hands”?
CONA ID 700008611 Catalog Level: item  Class: paintings Work Type: painting

Title: Dante and Beatrice  
Creator: Henry Holiday (British, 1839 - 1927)  
Current Location: Walker Art Gallery (Liverpool, England)

General Subject: •literary  •portraits

Specific Subject:  
• Dante Alighieri (Italian poet, 1265-1321) [ULAN]  
• Beatrice Portinari (Florentine, 1266–1290) [ULAN]  
• Vita Nuova (literary work, Dante, 1295) [IA]  
• historiated portraits [AAT]  
• Eleanor Butcher (British, 1844-1894) [ULAN]  
• Milly Hughes (British, 19th century) [ULAN]  
• Kitty Lushington (British, 1867-1922) [ULAN]  
• Ponte Vecchio (bridge, Florence, Italy) [CONA]  
• Ponte Santa Trinità (bridge, Florence, Italy) [CONA]  
• Arno River (Tuscany, Italy) [TGN]
Adjust your approach

- Consider the characteristics of the collection
- Available human resources, time, available technology
- Needs of end-users in retrieval
- Accommodate expert and non-expert alike
- Index subject in the title
- Indexing every minor object in a work is not helpful

- Establish rules regarding the number of terms to assign and method of analyzing
  - description - identification - interpretation
  - major elements to minor ones, etc.
  - foreground to background, top to bottom

How specific? How many terms?

CONA ID 700008646 Work Type: painting
Title: Death and the Miser
Creator: Hieronymus Bosch (Netherlandish, ca. 1450-1516)

General Subject: literary theme
Specific Subject:
- Ars Moriendi (instructional literature, 1415 and 1450) [IA]
- miser [AAT]
- Death (allegorical character) [IA]
- death [AAT]
- skeleton (animal component) [AAT]
- man (male human) [AAT]
- angel (spirit) [AAT]
- devils (spirits) [AAT]
- sparver bed [AAT]
- deathbed [AAT]
- avarice [AAT]
Adjust your approach

- Consider the characteristics of the collection
- Available human resources, time, available technology
- Needs of end-users in retrieval
- Accommodate expert and non-expert alike
- Index subject in the title
- Indexing every minor object in a work is not helpful

- Establish rules regarding the number of terms to assign and method of analyzing
  - description - identification - interpretation
  - major elements to minor ones, etc.
  - foreground to background, top to bottom

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- man (male human) [AAT]
- angel (spirit) [AAT]
- devils (spirits) [AAT]
- sparver bed [AAT]
- deathbed [AAT]
- avarice [AAT]

Why index “sparver bed”? True, not important to the iconography; but a) it is such an excellent depiction of this type of Medieval bed in use, that it may be of interest to furniture historians, and b) it is an important (not trivial) element of the composition.
How specific?
How many terms?

Whole/part
Hierarchical relationships

Example of a volume containing photographs, each cataloged as an item and linked to the whole
• Album has general and overall subject indexing, not every subject in the album because
• Individual subjects would be indexed at item-level

CONA ID 700008356     Work Type: album (book)
Title: Delhi
Creator: Felice Beato (British, 1832-1909)
Date: ca. 1857

General Subject:
• architecture
• various subjects

Specific Subject:
• portraits [AAT]
• topographical views [AAT]
• architectural views [AAT]
CONA ID 700008616 Catalog Level: item
Class: prints and drawings  Work Type: print
Title: Pomegranate with Blue Morpho Butterflies
Creator: Maria Sibylla Merian
Creation Date: ca. 1705
Current Location: The Royal Collection (London, England)

General Subject: • animals • botanical
Specific Subject:
• pomegranate (fruit) [AAT]
• Punica granatum (species) [AAT]
• butterflies [AAT]
• Blue Morpho (general) [AAT]
• Morpho menelaus (species) [AAT]
• caterpillar [AAT]
• Banded Sphinx Moth (species) [AAT]

• Be only as specific as warranted by authoritative info
• Broad and accurate is better than specific but incorrect
• e.g., “butterflies” is better than incorrectly labeling it “Morpho menelaus”

• In this case, the repository has identified the type of butterfly in the title and the species elsewhere
• Wings have different coloration on top and underside, same species of butterfly
• Expert information indicates that the caterpillar however is another species, of moth
How to index when a subject is unknown or uncertain?

- **Issue:** Sometimes the subject is not documented. The indexer can guess, but does not have authoritative warrant for what is the subject. Okay?

- **Resolution:** As with all indexing, better to be accurate and broad rather than incorrect and specific
- Do not guess or index based on your own or other non-expert opinion
- If you are not an expert on the subject, you must have authoritative information from a reliable source
- You may index multiple possible subjects if scholarly opinion is divided
- You may index multiple possible subjects authoritative opinion on the subject content has changed over time, list current and historical to allow retrieval
Subject is unknown or uncertain

**CONA ID**: 700000118  
**Work Type**: mola

**Title**: Kuni Mola

**Creator**: unknown Kuni

**Date**: ca. 1922

**Location**: National Museum of the American Indian (Washington, DC) 19/8402

**Dimensions**: 52 x 69 cm

**Mat & Tech**: cotton appliqué

**General Subject**:  
- apparel  
- Indexing Type: isness  
- animals

**Specific Subject**:  
- squirrels [AAT]  
- tree [AAT]  
- branches (plant components) [AAT]  
- cages [AAT]  
- Nature [AAT]  
- dreams [AAT]  
- creation (doctrinal concept) [AAT]  
- tree of life (general motif) [AAT]  
- Balu wala (Kuna theme) [IA]  
- Olouaipilele (Kuna deity) [IA]  
- sun god [AAT]  
- felling (activity) [AAT]

- Do not guess
- Broad and accurate is better than specific but incorrect
- e.g., do not identify the abstract animals as “squirrels” unless you are certain due to authoritative sources
Subject is unknown or uncertain

General Subject:
religion and mythology
human figures

Specific Subject:
Guanyin [IA]
Avalokiteshvara [IA]
Maitreya [IA]
bodhisattva [AAT]
compassion [AAT]

• When subject is uncertain due to scholarly debate, list multiple possibilities (Guanyin or Maitreya)
• Since Title mentions Avalokiteshvara (Indian counterpart of Guanyin) that is also indexed
• Descriptive Note field may be used to explain the controversy
Subject is unknown or uncertain or has changed

Another situation warranting multiple possible subjects is to index former subjects

General Subject: portraits
Specific Subject:
- Francesco Guardi (Italian noble, born 1514) [ULAN] Extent: probably
- Cosimo I de’Medici, Grand duke of Tuscany (Italian grand duke, patron, 1519-1574) [ULAN] Extent: former
- single-sitter portrait [AAT]
- halberdier [AAT]
- noble (aristocrat) [AAT]
When to use Indexing Type:
Description, Identification, Interpretation, Isness, Aboutness, Ofness

- **Issue:** Should you indicate Indexing Type? Description, Identification, Interpretation, Aboutness, Ofness, Isness. Why and when?

- **Resolution:** If possible, flag the indexing type applicable to the term, particularly when the distinction is relevant
  - “Isness” is always useful to know, to distinguish a thing from depictions of a thing
  - If you do flag Indexing Type, you need not flag every term
  - If you cannot flag Indexing Type, it is still helpful to use the method mentally to analyze subjects when indexing
CONA ID 700008561  Catalog Level: item  Class.: paintings  
Work Type: painting  
Titles: Three Peonies  
牡丹  
Creator: Yün Shou-p’ing (1633-1690)  Style/Period: Ch’ing dynasty  
Location: National Palace Museum (Taipei, Taiwan)  
Mat & Tech: album leaf, ink and colors on paper  
Dimensions: 28.5 x 43.0 cm  
Descriptive Note: Three peonies are distinguished by their colors and positions. The peony is considered the king of flowers in China, symbolizing wealth and prosperity.

General Subject  
botanical

Specific Subject:  
• Paeonia (genus) [AAT]  
• wealth [AAT]  
• prosperity [AAT]  
Indexing Type: interpretation

Note: Three peonies are distinguished by their colors and positions. The peony is considered the king of flowers in China, symbolizing wealth and prosperity.
When to use Indexing Type

**CONA ID** 700000096  
**Work Type** · painting

**Title:** Autumn: On the Hudson River  
**Date:** 1860

**General Subject** · landscapes  
**Specific Subject**
- hunters [AAT]  
- autumn [AAT]  
- dawn [AAT]

- Hudson River (United States) [TGN]  
- Storm King Mountain (Orange county, New York, USA) [TGN]

- peace [AAT]  
- harmony [AAT]  
- Nature [AAT]

**Description:**
Looking southeast toward the distant Hudson River and the flank of Storm King Mountain. A small stream leads from the foreground, where three hunters and their dogs gaze into the sunlight at dawn. All along the meandering tributary there are signs of man’s peaceful coexistence with nature.

**Copyright** J. Paul Getty Trust
When to use Indexing Type

Description
Identification
Interpretation
May be used as a systematic method for analysis, even if the three levels are not labeled.

CONA ID 70000104 Work Type painting
Title: Les Demoiselles d'Avignon
Creator-Display Pablo Picasso (Spanish, 1881-1973)
Creation Date 1907
Style: Cubist
Dimensions 243.84 x 236.22 cm (8 feet x 7 feet 8 inches)
Materials and Techniques oil on canvas

Description
In this epoch-making work, which prefigured Cubism, Picasso amalgamated the simplified iconic forms with Cézanne's reduction of the underlying structure of natural forms. The artist modeled several faces on African masks and iconic Iberian forms.

Current Location Museum of Modern Art (New York, New York, USA)

General Subject
human figures

Specific Subject
women (human females) [AAT]
nudes (representations) [AAT]
fruit (plant components) [AAT]
mask (costume) [AAT]
African (culture and style) [AAT]
Iberian (culture and style) [AAT]
Carrer d'Avinyó (Barcelona, Spain) [TGN]
brothel [AAT]
prostitution [AAT]
When to use Indexing Type

General Subject:
animals
religion and mythology
literary theme
allegory

Specific: Subject:
Pelecanus (genus) [AAT]
blood (animal material) [AAT]
feeding [AAT]
De Avibus (Hugh of Fouilloy) [IA]
Psalms [IA]
eucharist [AAT]
Resurrection of Christ (New Testament narrative) [IA]

Type: interpretation
When to use Indexing Type

- Other appellations for works that have no *title* per se
- May repeat the Work Type

**CONA ID** 700008560

**Classification** tools and implements | Pre-Columbian art

**Work Type** bannerstone

**Title** Bannerstone

**Creator** unknown Woodland (Native American)

**Creation Date** Late Archaic (1000 BCE/1000 CE)

**General Subject** utilitarian objects

**Current Location** Gordon Hart Collection (Bluffton, Indiana)

**Dimensions** 9.7 x 5 cm (3 7/8 x 2 inches)

**Mat & Tech** banded slate

| banded slate

**Descriptive Note** Formed part of an atlatl (spear-thrower); it is carefully made and of decorative material and thus was probably a status symbol.
When to use Indexing Type

• Subject for furniture and decorative arts
• may include “isness” to distinguish from depictions of a thing
• Need not repeat Work Type in Subject, even though it is in the Title

CONA ID: 700000145  *Work Type: globe
Title: Terrestrial Globe
Creator Display: globe made by Jean-Antoine Nollet (French, 1700-1770); map engraved by Louis Borde (French, active 1730s-1740s); wood stand painted with vernis Martin (possibly applied by the Martin brothers’ studio)
Creation Date: Subjects: object (utilitarian) cartographic Earth
Culture [link]: French*Current Location [link]: J. Paul Getty Museum (Los Angeles, California, USA) ID:86.DH.705.1
Measurements: 109.9 (height) x 44.5 (diameter of globe) x 31.8 cm (depth of the stand) (43 1/4 x 17 1/2 x 12 1/2 inches)

General Subject:
utilitarian objects
Indexing Type: isness
cartographic
Specific Subject:
Earth (planet) [TGN]

CONA ID 700008596 Work Type: drawing
Title: Pennsylvania German Dish
Creator: rendered by Albert Levone
Creation Date: ca. 1935
Current Location: National Gallery of Art (Washington, DC)
Mat & Tech: watercolor, graphite, and gouache on paperboard
Dimensions: overall: 34 x 28 cm (13 3/8 x 11 in.)
Original IAD Object: om(?) 237
Index of American Design; 1943.8.8102 Description: Pennsylvania German Folk Art from the Index of American Design.

Dishes made by Pennsylvania German potters came in a variety of sizes and shapes. This oval one with scalloped edges was elaborately decorated by the sgraffito technique. Notice the bold floral design that contrasts with the light strokes of lettering that form a delicate border. Splashes of green worked into the glaze heighten the color of the red clay that is exposed. The dish was made by Samuel Troxel. The inscription reads: “From clay and many skills, the potter fashions what he will, July the 19th 1823.”

Related Work: Pennsylvania German Dish

General Subject:
another work
utilitarian objects
Indexing Type: description
Specific Subject:
Pennsylvania German Dish [CONA]
floral patterns [AAT]
sgraffito (maiolica) [AAT]
For non-narrative works
Is there a subject?

• **Issue:** What if the work has no apparent pictorial iconography?
• **Resolution:** Works without iconographical or narrative subject content should also be assigned a subject term
• General subject term could be, for example, “architecture” or “utilitarian objects,” extrapolated from work type
• Purpose, function, dedication are recorded as “subjects”
Is there a subject?

- **General Subject:** furnishings  
  **Indexing Type:** isness  
  nonrepresentational art

- **Specific Subject:**  
  interior design [AAT]  
  Extent: purpose  
  children [AAT]  
  Extent: theme

- **General Subject should be included even if there is no figurative or narrative content**
- **what is it “of” or “about”**
- **Specific Subject is not required**
- **in this case, the repository notes it as “interior design” as subject, indicating purpose, of sorts**
- **intended to invoke the idea of ‘children,’ created for a kindergarten**
Is there a subject?

• General subject = work type “isness”
• Type and Extent may be used, but not required
• Specific Subject: not required, but may be purpose

CONA ID: 700000090 Work Type: house
Titles: Case Study House No. 21  Bailey House

General Subject: architecture  Indexing Type: isness

Specific Subject: dwelling [AAT]  Extent: purpose
Is there a subject?

- General Subject should be included, even if there is no figurative or narrative content
- Nonrepresentational art
- May include design elements, motifs

**CONA ID 70000009**

**Catalog Level:** item
**Class:** sculpture

**Modern art**

**Work Type:** sculpture

**Title:** Unique Forms of Continuity in Space

**Title Type:** descriptive

**Creator Display:** Umberto Boccioni, (Italian, 1882–1916)

**Current Location:** Museum of Modern Art (New York, New York, USA)

**ID:** unavailable

**Role:** sculptor: Boccioni, Umberto

**Creation Date:** designed in 1913, cast in 1931 [controlled]

**Qualifier:**
- Design Start: 1913
- End: 1913

**Qualifier:**
- Casting Start: 1931
- End: 1931

**Subject [links]:**
- nonrepresentational art
- human figures
- motion [AAT]
- nude (representation) [AAT]
- female [AAT]
- space (general physical property) [AAT]
- striding [AAT]

**Measurements:**
- 111.2 x 88.5 x 40 cm (43 7/8 x 34 7/8 x 15 3/4 inches) [controlled]
- Value: 111.2 Unit: cm Type: height
- Value: 88.5 Unit: cm Type: width
- Value: 40 Unit: cm Type: depth

**Mat & Tech:** and Techniques: cast and hammered bronze

**Description:**

The Futurist ideals were dynamism, progress, and motion in the new machine age. In this sculpture, the rush of air displaced by its forward movement is represented as space in visible extensions sprouting like wings from the figure’s limbs. The primary subject is not the nude, but movement itself. According to Boccioni, an invisible fourth dimension existed as a higher realm of existence where space and time merged.

Is there a subject?

- Subject may include design elements, symbols and themes
- May represent a named person, event, etc.

**General Subject:**
utilitarian objects **Indexing Type:** isness
textile **Indexing Type:** isness

**Specific Subject:**
sunflower (genus) [AAT]
acanthus (motif) [AAT]
leaf scrolls [AAT]
fruit (plant components) [AAT]
flowers (plant components) [AAT]
Louis XIV (French king, 1638-1715) [ULAN]

**Indexing Type:** interpretation
Is there a subject?

- Performance art also has Subject
- Objects, props, people, function, as well as the meaning or symbolism of the performance

**General Subject:**
performance art

**Specific Subject:**
- men (male humans) [AAT]
- Vietnam War (Asian-Western event, 1954-1975) [IA]
- death [AAT]
- remorse [AAT]
Is there a subject?

- Subject may include function
- Work Type *pwo mask* is already captured in another field
- Restate the obvious? A mask does represent a face
- Okay to add additional indexing terms to clarify for retrieval

**CONA ID 700008608**

**Work Type:** *pwo mask*

**Title:** Face mask (pwo)

**General Subject:**
- human figures
- apparel  **Extent:** isness
- ceremonial objects  **Extent:** purpose

**Specific Subject:**
- face (animal component)  [AAT]
- face mask  [AAT]
- female  [AAT]
Written vs. pictorial subject

- General Subject:
  - botanical
  - literary

- Specific Subject:
  - herbal (reference source) [AAT]
  - De medicina ex animalibus
    (Sextus Placitus, Roman, ca. 370 CE) [IA]
  - Stachys officinalis (species) [AAT]
  - medicines [AAT]

- Inscription: Discussion of the plant betony (vetonica, genus Stachys), which, according to the text, has a wide variety of uses, including curing nightmares, sore eyes, toothaches, stomachaches, nosebleeds, and constipation.
Relying upon Subject Authority vs How to index subject of the work at hand

- Subject of the work at hand (vs. subject as a topic as represented in the Iconography Authority)

  - **Issue:** In the Work record, do you need to include specific topics related to the subject, if those specific topics are already part of the authority record?

  - **Resolution:** Yes. For the work at hand, index those aspects of the subject that are apparent or important
    - Particularly where those terms represent aspects of the subject that are unusual or particular for the work at hand
Subject as depicted in the Work vs subject in the Authority

CONA ID: 700008887  Work Type: colossal sculpture
Titles: Reclining Buddha
Creator: unknown Chinese Buddhist
Creation Date: 9th century, Middle Tang period (781-847)
Location: Qianfodong (Gansu province, China)

General Subject
religion and mythology
human figure

Specific Subject
Reclining Buddha (Buddhist theme) [IA]
nirvana (Buddhist doctrinal concepts) [AAT]

Redundant linking?
• Try for consistency, but variations are inevitable in indexing
• E.g., The character “Buddha” is linked to the theme “Reclining Buddha” in IA
  It need not, but may, be repeated here
• “nirvana” should also be included in IA for Reclining Buddha, but may be repeated here
• Other fields will be implemented in retrieval, not only Subject. What about size “colossal,” is that Subject?
• It is recorded in Work Type and in Dimensions and need not be repeated here
Let's consider an example

- **Issue**: Not all aspects of a subject topic are necessarily portrayed in every work having that subject.
- E.g., Adoration of the Magi, cast of characters, animals, allegorical themes.
Subject as depicted in the Work vs subject in the Authority

Adoration of the Magi example

Iconography specific to this work that is not standard for all Adoration of the Magi depictions:
- Journey of the Magi at top
  method of representation = continuous representation
- Jerusalem = Siena
- horses as major compositional element
• Are the Three Ages of Man portrayed in this work? **Yes**

• Are the Three Races of Man portrayed? **No**

• Are they kings or magi?
• Both kings and astrologers with Phrygian caps
• Unbeliever rustic groom contrasted with believers Magi and retinue
Subject as depicted in the Work vs subject in the Authority

- This later painting has both Three Ages of Man and Three Races of Man

CONA ID 700008647
Work Type: painting
Creator: Benvenuto di Giovanni (Sienese, 1436 - before 1517)
Title: The Adoration of the Magi
Date: ca. 1470/1475
Mat & Tech: tempera on panel
Dimensions: 182 x 137 cm (71 5/8 x 53 15/16 in.)
Current Location: National Gallery of Art (Washington, DC); Andrew W. Mellon Collection; 1937.1.10
Subject as depicted in the Work vs subject in the Authority

- This one also has both Three Ages of Man and the Three Races of Man.
- Structure of the stable (new order, the Church) built upon ancient ruins (the old order, Paganism).

CONA ID 700008648  Work
Type: painting
Creator: Peter Paul Rubens
Title: Adoration of the Magi
Date: 1624
Mat & Tech: oil on panel
Current Location: Koninklijk Royal Museum of Fine Arts (Antwerp, Belgium)
Subject as depicted in the Work vs subject in the Authority

Adoration of the Magi example

- This one also has both Three Ages of Man and the Three Races of Man
- Notably no animals, no other elements of the story other than the figures and gifts
- Part of subject here is method of representation = close-up view is reference to Roman reliefs

CONA ID 70000217
Work Type painting
Creator: Mantegna
Title: Adoration of the Magi
Current Location: J. Paul Getty Museum
Subject as depicted in the Work vs subject in the Authority

*Adoration of th*

- This one has Adoration of the Magi and the Journey of Magi
- Animals include not just ox, ass, horses, camels, but a peacock (incorruptible flesh, symbol of eternal life)
Subject as depicted in the Work
vs subject in the Authority

CONA ID 700008651
Work Type: plaque
Title: Ivory plaque with the Adoration of the Magi
Current Location: British Museum (London, England); 1904,0702.1; M&M 1904,7-2.1
Creation Location: Eastern Mediterranean region
Dimensions: 21.700 x 12.400 x 1.200 cm; from the centre of a 5-part diptych
Date: Early Byzantine, early 6th century CE
Mat & Tech: relief panel
Desc. Note: This panel presents a solemn hieratic image of the Adoration of Christ. The Virgin Mary, shown with wide staring eyes and larger in scale than the other figures, dominates the composition. The Christ child, held between her legs, makes the gesture of blessing. Beside the Virgin are an angel holding a cross-staff and the three Magi (Wise Men) dressed in Oriental costume – tight trousers, short tunics and Phrygian caps. They present their gifts as sacred offerings with veiled hands.

In brief:
- If you know it, include it
- But do not index specific subject data unless you have authoritative sources for the information
- Better to be general and correct rather than specific and incorrect

Balthasar, Gaspar, Melchior are characters in Western art, but not in all Christian art

Syrian Christians’ names for the Magi are Larvandad, Gushnasaph, and Hormisdas

Are you sure of which characters are intended here?
- If not, better to index *Adoration of the Magi* as a Specific Subject
- But do not name the Magi unless you are certain, based on authoritative sources
Linking to the appropriate term within a vocabulary record

- **Issue:** Will your system allow you to choose not only the vocabulary record, but also the term?

  The vocabulary will have one preferred term that is used as a default, and other synonyms that refer to the same concept, person, place, work, or iconographic subject; must you use the default preferred?

- **Resolution:** If possible, link to the term that matches the source material or subject, not necessarily the Preferred term.

  If not possible, the Preferred term for the authority is okay.

  But given that Subject is typically used for both indexing and also for display, it is desirable to have a system that will allow you to link to the appropriate synonym for your work at hand.
Linking to a particular term

CONA ID: 700008295  Work Type: painting
Title: Modern Rome – Campo Vaccino
Creator: Joseph Mallord William Turner (English, 1775–1851)
Date: 1839  Mat & Tech: oil on canvas
Dimensions: 36 1/8 x 48 1/4 in. (unframed), 48 1/4 x 60 3/8 x 4 3/8 (framed)
Current Repository: J. Paul Getty Museum (Los Angeles, California); 2019.6

- Use the term/name that is appropriate for the subject depicted
- Examples: Plural or singular, English or Latin, current or historical term/name
- Example: The title names the Roman Forum by a historical name, appropriate for the time when the scene was depicted

General Subject
Cityscape

Specific Subject
Campo Vaccino [Roman Forum] (Rome, Italy) [TGN]
Ruins [AAT]

TGN 7006946

<table>
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<th># P</th>
<th>H</th>
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<td>V</td>
<td>H</td>
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</table>

- Campo Vaccino is a variant term/name for Roman Forum
- Terms are identified by unique numeric IDs
- The combination of TGN ID plus the Term ID distinguish Campo Vaccino [meaning “cow pasture”]
Linking to a particular term

CONA ID: 70000134  Work Type: sculpture
Title: Tomb Figure of a Bactrian Camel
Creator: unknown Chinese

General Subject: ceremonial objects  Type: isness animals

Specific Subject:
Bactrian camel (species)  [AAT]
funerary object  [AAT]  Extent: purpose

- Use the term/name that is appropriate for the subject depicted
- Example: May prefer to index with the “Common term” for the species rather than the Latin binomial, which is the preferred name/term

AAT 300343842

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</table>
Another work depicted:
Record as subject or associative relationship?

- **Issue:** If the Work depicts another work, should this be recorded as Subject or as Associative Relationship?

- **Resolution:** Always link the work depicted as Subject (ideally using CONA).
  - If the work is a critical depiction of the work, link it also as a related work using Associative Relationships.
  - Remember that link via Associative Relationships is reciprocal. Is this a link that should always be displayed in the second work’s record? If not, do not make an Associative Relationship.
Depicted Subject or Associative Relationship?

- Subject of a work is another work
- No associative relationship necessary in most cases

**CONA ID 700009297  Work Type: etching**
**Title:** The Victory Banquet
**Series/Portfolio:** The Conquests of the Emperor of China (Les Conquêtes de l’Empereur de la Chine)

**General Subject:** events
**Specific Subject:**
- Central Asian campaign (Manchu campaign, ended 1760) [IA]
- Pavilion of Purple Radiance (Ziguangge) (Beijing) [CONA]
- banquet (feast) [AAT]
- victory [AAT]
- avarice [AAT]
Depicted Subject or Associative Relationship?

No Associative Relationship between the two

- Subject of a work is another art work
- Here the referenced work is not actually depicted in the first work, do not link as related works (Associative Relationship); for that and other reasons, record only as reference in Subject

**General Subject:**
- human figures
- satire

**Specific Subject:**
- Mona Lisa (Leonardo da Vinci, Louvre) [CONA]
- dollar (paper money) [AAT]
- valuation [AAT]
- avarice [AAT]
**General Subject:** • another work

**Specific Subject:**
• Bulto, sculpture (visual work); possibly Fray Andrés García (1760-1799) [CONA]
• Isadore the Farmer, Saint (Spanish saint, Madrid, died 1130) [ULAN]
• bulto [AAT] • angel (spirit) [AAT]
• farming [AAT] • miracle [AAT]
• plow [AAT] • oxen [AAT]

**Relationship Type:** depicts

**Related Work:** CONA ID 700008613
Bulto; possibly Fray Andrés García; 18th century; Location: Lost

**The drawing**

**CONA ID 700008612**
Catalog Level: item
Class: prints and drawings
Work Type: rendering
Title: Bulto
Creator: rendered by Eldora P. Lorenzini

Eldora P. Lorenzini (American, 1910-1993)

Current Location: National Gallery of Art (Washington, DC).
Index of American Design; 1943.8.16638

Mat & Tech: watercolor, pen and ink, and graphite on paper

Dimensions: overall: 55.9 x 40.2 cm (22 x 15 13/16 in.)

Original IAD Object: 11" high; 10 3/4 wide

**Subject:**
• still life
• religion & mythology
  • bulto
  • St. Isadore

**Source:** Folk Arts of the Spanish Southwest from the Index of American Design
Object 16 of 25

**Description:**
Isidore, the patron saint of farmers and protector of crops, was a farm laborer employed by a wealthy landowner near Madrid in the early twelfth century. According to legend, Isidore spent so many hours in prayer that he was in danger of falling behind with his farming chores. As a reward for his exceptional piety, divine intervention dispatched an angel to

**The sculpture**

**CONA ID 700008613**
Catalog Level: item
Class: sculpture
Work Type: sculpture
Title: Bulto
Creator: attributed to Fray Andrés García (1760-1799)
Locations: Lost

Display Materials: painted wood

Dimensions: as recorded when rendered by The Index of American Design: 11" high; 10 3/4 wide

Depicted Subject or Associative Relationship?

- Subject of a work is another art work
- You may also link to separate record for a related work
- Link as Associative Relationship only if critical
- In this case, the original is lost, so the rendering is the only depiction of the lost work
Depicted Subject or Associative Relationship?

**the photograph**

- **General Subject:**
  - another work
  - architecture

- **Specific Subject:**
  - Eiffel Tower (watchtower; architect: Gustave Eiffel; 1887-1889) [CONA]
  - Belle Époque [AAT]

- **Extent:**
  - style

---

**the built work**

- **CONA ID:** 1000000256
  - Cat.Level: item
  - Classification: architecture
  - Work Type: observation tower

- **Title/Name:** Eiffel Tower
  - Alternate Title/Name: Tour Eiffel
  - Former Title/Name: Three-Hundred-Metre Tower

- **Creator Display:** architect: Gustave Eiffel (French, 1832-1923)
- **Current Location:** Paris (France)
- **Role:** architect

- **Creation Date:**
  - Start: 1887
  - End: 1889

- **Subject:**
  - industrial exposition
  - International Exposition of 1889

- **Measurements:**
  - height: 300 m (984 feet)

- **Mat & Tech:**
  - wrought iron, exposed iron construction

---

- One work is depicted in another work = Subject
- While not all depictions should have a reciprocal link to the other work as Associative Relationships, in this case the photograph documents an important phase of construction and may be important to have a reciprocal link.
Subject is what is mentioned in title & what the work actually depicts. About *method of representation* for architectural drawings.

**CONA ID:** 700008510  **Work Type:** drawing  
**Title:** Plan and Elevation of the façade of San Lorenzo

- **General Subject:** architecture, another work
- **Specific Subject:** Model for the façade of San Lorenzo in Florence (model (representation); Michelangelo completed 1555) [CONA]  
  San Lorenzo (church; Filippo Brunelleschi; ca. 1422-1461; Florence, Italy) [CONA]
- **Extent:** context  
  church [AAT]  
  façade [AAT]  
  elevation [AAT]  
- **Extent:** method of representation  
  plan [AAT]
- **Extent:** method of representation

• In this case, drawing is of the model  
• But title mentions the church, so also linked to that, **Extent** = context  
• Use Subject to record the important concepts *method of representation* and *purpose* for architectural drawings  
  May be flagged with **Extent**
Façade is a component for a built work, designed, but not constructed

May be both:
Model has as Subject the unbuilt façade
Model has Associative Relationship to façade

Subject and Associative Relationship
• This façade was never constructed, but church exists; this model is a rare record for the concept of the unbuilt façade
• Ideally linked to a separate record for the unbuilt façade; but if that record is not created, link to San Lorenzo the church
Design drawing linked by associative relationship
Not by subject, both linked to ULAN person record

- In this case, the painting is not Subject of drawing
- Drawing = part of creative process = linked through Associative Relationship
- The Subject of both the drawing and the painting is Madame Moitessier in ULAN

**General Subject:**
- costume
- portraits

**Specific Subject:**
- Moitessier, Inès (French sitter, born 1821) [ULAN]
- dress [AAT]
- hands [AAT]
Rubbing has as subject the tombstone
Do not make an associative relationship

**the rubbing**
CONA ID: 1000017914 Work Type: rubbing
Title: Rubbing of the Inscribed Epitaph of Cui Youfu

- In this case, the tombstone is the subject
- Do not make Associative Relationship = many such rubbings
- Rubbing contains no unique view of the tombstone
- Multiples? Multiples are the concept of a work, indicating multiple works printed from same plate, e.g., Rembrandt
- This is not treated as a printing plate, because was not created with the intention to be a multiple, thus no “idea” or concept of the tombstone is cataloged; but all rubbings linked to the tombstone as Subject; more appropriate to treat it as a artistic visual surrogate

**the tombstone**
CONA ID: 1000017915 Work Type: tombstone
Title: Inscribed Tombstone of Cui Youfu of the Tang Dynasty

- Inscribed Tombstone of Cui Youfu (tombstone; Henan Museum; 8th century) [CONA]
- Cui Youfu (Chinese Tang Dynasty official, 721-780) [ULAN]
- epitaph [AAT]
Part 4: Subject Indexing
Training Exercises
Subject Indexing: Exercise 1

CONA ID 700008600 Class: paintings
Work Type: painting
Creator: Claude Monet (French, 1840-1926)
Title: Bordighera
Creation date: 1884
Mat & Tech: oil on canvas
Dimensions: 25 5/8 x 31 13/16 in. (65 x 80.8 cm)
Style etc.: Impressionist  Type: style
Inscription: Inscribed, lower left: Claude Monet 84
Location: Art Institute of Chicago (Chicago, Illinois): Potter Palmer Collection, 1922.426

Suggested subjects

**General Subject:** landscapes

**Specific: Subjects**

- Bordighera (Liguria, Italy) [TGN]
  
  **Extent:** background

- trees [AAT]

• Based on the information at hand, index the subject

The town is in the background, but mentioned in the title so should be indexed as subject
Subject Indexing: Exercise 2

Based on the information at hand, index the subject.

CONA ID 700008631  Classification weapons  Object Type arrowhead
Title  Arrowhead
Creator: Archaic (North American)
Date: Archaic period (ca. 8,000/4,000 BCE)
Current Location: Chicago History Museum (Chicago, Illinois, USA)
Repository Number X.282
Mat & Tech: flint (rock)
Materials/Techniques  flint (rock)
Descriptive Note: Fragment of sand-colored flint chiseled or roughened into the shape of an arrowhead point. Stone-hewn arrowheads such as this were common hunting tools and weapons of Native American peoples during the Archaic Period.

Suggested subjects

General Subject: utilitarian objects
Indexing Type: isness

Specific: Subjects
• [none necessary]
Subject Indexing:
Exercise 2

CONA ID 700008622  Catalog Level  item
Classification sculpture | antiquities
Work Type statuette
Title Female Figure of the Kilia Type
Creator unknown Anatolian
Creation Date 2800/2200 BCE
Style/period: Chalcolithic
Current Location J. Paul Getty Museum, Getty Villa Malibu (Los Angeles, California, USA)  Repository Number 88.AA.122
Dimensions 14.3 cm height (5 5/8 inches)
Mat & Tech marble

Note: Chalcolithic female figures were probably connected with the cult of a fertility goddess. In the third millennium B.C., female figures were made throughout the Mediterranean, including the area of modern Turkey previously known as Anatolia. This figure represents a highly stylized standing nude female with flipper-like arms. Her bulbous head, long neck, and flat body are characteristic of the Kilia type of female figurines, named after the village in Turkey where the first examples were found. The facial features are only schematically rendered, but areas such as the eyes would originally have been enhanced by paint.

Suggested subjects

General Subject: human figures
Specific: Subjects
• woman (female human) [AAT]
• fertility [AAT]
Subject Indexing: Exercise 3

CONA ID: 700008509 Class: photographs
Work Type: photograph
Title: Lincoln on the Battlefield of Antietam
Creator: Alexander Gardner (American photographer, 1821-1882)
Date: 1862
Material: albumen print
Dimensions: 8 5/8 x 7 3/4 inches
Location: J. Paul Getty Museum (Los Angeles, CA); 84.xm.482.1

Descriptive Note: Twenty-six thousand soldiers were killed or wounded in the Battle of Antietam on September 17, 1862, after which Confederate General Robert E. Lee was forced to retreat to Virginia. Lincoln stands tall, front and center in his stovepipe hat, with Allan Pinkerton and General John McClernand.

Suggested subjects

General Subject: history and legend portraits
Specific: Subjects
- Battle of Antietam (American Civil War, 1862) [IA]
- Antietam National Battlefield Site (Sharpsburg, Maryland) [TGN]
- Abraham Lincoln (American president, 1809-1865) [ULAN]
- John A. McClernand (American Union general, politician, 1812-1900) [ULAN]
- Allan Pinkerton (Scottish American detective, spy, 1819-1884) [ULAN]
- army camp [AAT]
Subject Indexing: Exercise 4

CONA ID: 700002850
Catalog Level item
Classification vessels
Work Type vase
Titles: Blue and White Glazed Globular Vase
       Blue and White Glazed Globular Vase with Dragon Pattern in Yongle’s Reign of the Ming Dynasty
       明 永樂 青花龍紋天球瓶
Creator unknown Chinese
Creation Date 1403/1424 CE
Current Location National Palace Museum (Taipei, Taiwan) Repository Number: 012547N000000000
Dimensions 42.9 cm high and 9.7 cm diameter; foot diameter 15.8 cm
Mat & Tech: blue and white porcelain

In title – unless inscribed on the work -- “Yongle’s Reign of the Ming Dynasty” is about style-culture and creation date, more than Subject; record in appropriate fields

Suggested subjects

General Subject: utilitarian objects
Indexing Type: isness
Specific: Subjects
• dragon [AAT]
CONA ID 700008605  Class: manuscripts
Work Type: illumination
Titles:
• Shah Jahan on Horseback: Leaf from the Shah Jahan Album, period of Shah Jahan (1628–1658)
• Shah Jahan Dressed for the Hunt  Type: former
Creator: Painting by Payag (Indian, active ca. 1591–1658); Calligrapher: Mir ‘Ali Haravi (d. ca. 1550)
Mat & Tech: Ink, colors, and gold on paper
Dimensions: 15 1/3 x 10 1/10 in. (38.9 x 25.7 cm)
Note: Shah Jahan is shown in an idealized fashion with the holy nimbus, or halo, encircling his turbaned head. The fashion of depicting the ruler with a halo is seen from the period of Jahangir onward in Mughal art, when increasingly formalized portraiture comes to characterize Hindustani court art.

Subject Indexing: Exercise 5

Suggested subjects

General Subject: portraits
Specific: Subjects
• equestrian portrait [AAT]
• Shah Jahan (Mughal emperor of India, 1592-1666) [ULAN]
• ruler [AAT]
• horse (species) [AAT]
• halo (glory) [AAT]
• hunt [AAT]
Subject Indexing: Exercise 6

CONA ID 700000053 Class: architecture Work Type: skyscraper
Titles: Willis Tower Date: renamed 16 July 2009
Sears Tower Type: former
Creator: Skidmore, Owings and Merrill (American, established 1939), for Sears Roebuck and Company (American retail company, founded 1886); Role: architect: Graham, Bruce Role: owner: Willis Group Holdings (British insurance brokerage firm, founded 1828)
Role: tenant United Airlines
Creation Date: completed in 1973
Current Location: Chicago (Illinois, USA) Address: 233 South Wacker Drive
Dimensions: height to the top of the roof 442 m (1,450 feet); height to the highest occupied floor 436 m (1,431 feet); 110 stories; 418,064 square m of office and commercial space (4.5 million square ft)
Mat & Tech: steel frame, clad in bronze and aluminum
Descriptive Note: Overlooks the west side of Chicago’s downtown Loop. Built to consolidate several Sears offices. In 2009, the London-based insurance brokerage Willis Group Holdings secured the naming rights as part of an agreement to lease space. Now the corporate headquarters of United Airlines.

Suggested subjects

General Subject: architecture
Indexing Type: isness
Specific: Subjects
• office building [AAT]
Extent: purpose
Subject Indexing: Exercise 7

CONA ID 700009304  Work Type: wall painting
Creator: unknown Aboriginal Australian
Title: Gwion Gwion Figures
Creation Date: around 5,000 Before Present
Current Location: Kimberley region (Western Australia, Australia)
Dimensions: unavailable
Mat & Tech: pigment on stone
Note: Portrays Gwion Gwion figures, human figures ornamented with accessories such as bags, tassels and headdresses.

**Suggested subjects**

**General Subject:** human figures
religion and mythology

**Specific: Subjects**

• Gwion Gwion [AAT]
Subject Indexing:
Exercise 8

CONA ID 700008563 Work Type: screen print
Title: Brushstroke
Creation Date: 1965
Dimensions: sheet: 58.4 x 73.6 cm (23 x 29 inches)
image: 56.4 x 72.4 cm  framed: 76.7 x 92.2 x 4.4 cm
Mat & Tech: color screen print on heavy, white wove paper
Note: Lichtenstein depicted the gestural expressions of the painting brushstroke itself, as a comment on Abstract Expressionism.
Current Location: National Gallery of Art (Washington, DC);
Gift of Roy and Dorothy Lichtenstein; 1996.56.139
Inscriptions: lower right in graphite: rf Lichtenstein H.C. G Leo Castelli Gallery

Suggested subjects

General Subject: figurative art
object component
Specific: Subjects
• brush stroke [AAT]
• satire (artistic device) [AAT]
• Abstract Expressionism [AAT]
Extent: theme

Based on the information at hand, index the subject
CONA ID 700008851  Work Type painting | leaf  
Titles: Sitting on Rocks Gazing at Clouds
宋  李唐  坐石看雲
Assis sur des rochers en regardant les nuages
Creator: Li Tang (Chinese painter, 1050s-after 1130)
Creation Date 12th century
Culture: Song dynasty
Mat & Tech: album leaf, ink and colors on silk
Current Location National Palace Museum (Taipei, Taiwan)
Dimensions 27.7 x 30 cm
Note: Cleverly arranged diagonal composition, based on this imaginary diagonal line; also an interesting relationship of contrasts between void and solid. Two figures in the lower right wear wide robes and dangle their feet in the water, admiring the beautiful scenery in the upper left. The idealized scenery is filled with trees, the rugged cliffs painted with blue-and-green colors and ink washes, to which ochre has been added for variation.

Subject Indexing: Exercise 9

- Based on the information at hand, index the subject

Suggested subjects

**General Subject:** landscapes

**Specific: Subjects**
- idealized landscape [AAT]
- trees [AAT]
- clouds [AAT]
- figures (representations) [AAT]

If you knew what the text said, you would index the subject of the text as well. However, this is not indicated in the material at hand, do not guess.
Subject Indexing: Exercise 10

CONA ID 700000122 Work Type: rolltop desk
Title Roll-Top Desk
Creator David Roentgen (German, 1743-1807, active in Paris), with Pierre Gouthière and François Rémond
Creation Date ca. 1785
Current Location J. Paul Getty Museum (Los Angeles, California) ID: 72.DA.47
Dimensions 66 1/4 x 61 3/8 x 35 3/16 inches
Mat & Tech: veneered with mahogany, with gilt bronze
Note: Made in the Neoclassical style, this monumental rolltop desk is fitted with numerous complicated mechanical devices. The images on the plaque refer to the Sciences.

Suggested subjects

General Subject: utilitarian object
Indexing Type: isness
Specific: Subjects
sciences (modern discipline) [AAT]
Extent: secondary

• Based on the information at hand, index the subject

• No specific subject is necessary
• However, you may mention the subject on the plaques since it is in the Note
Subject Indexing: Exercise 11

CONA ID 700008581  Work Type: vase
Title: Vase
Date: 1127-1279  Culture: Southern Song dynasty
Location: British Museum (London, England)  Repository number: PDF.233
Location: Longquan (Asia, China, Zhejiang (province))
Materials: porcelain Longquan Ware; stoneware, porcelain-type, blue-green glaze
Dimensions: Height: 410 millimetres
Descriptive Note: Vase shaped after an ancient jade called a cong. Longquan porcelain jar having an archaic jade cong form, with rectangular sides and short cylindrical neck. The jar has grey-green glaze. There are moulded sectional grooves in imitation of carved jade. Connoisseurs regard the finest Longquan wares as those with bluish glazes made in the late twelfth and early thirteenth centuries such as this vase which is shaped after an ancient ritual jade object. It was made at a kiln in or around the market town of Longquan in the southern part of Zhejiang province.

Suggested subjects

General Subject: utilitarian object
Indexing Type: isness
Specific: Subjects
cong (ceremonial vessel) [AAT]

• The vessel is in the shape of another more ancient vessel type, which is made of another material
• Thus “cong” is the subject, not the Work Type
• So far as known from the text, this is not a copy of “another work”
Appendix A: Using the VCS editorial system for CONA subjects

- VCS is the editorial system used by the Getty Vocabulary Program
- Included here are screen captures and instructions
CONA Work: Depicted Subject fields

Links to General Subject extensible list and Specific Subject links to CONA, ULAN, TGN, AAT, and I.A.

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<th>Outside Iconography</th>
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<th>Other Displays</th>
<th>Events</th>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Madonna and Child</td>
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Details of Work Record
CONA ID
700000178

References to Iconclass, Library of Congress Authorities, or other published authorities are possible

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<th>Other Displays</th>
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</tbody>
</table>
Iconography Authority

- The Getty Iconography Authority contains records for subjects not in the AAT, ULAN, TGN, or CONA
- The Getty IA includes records for named events, religious/mythological iconography, fictional characters and places, themes from literature
- Includes variant names, sources, hierarchical and associative relationships; links to AAT, TGN, ULAN, and CONA

Detail of Getty IA record IA ID 1000021
Iconography Authority

Associative relationships in I.A., also links to AAT, TGN, and ULAN

- The Getty Iconography Authority contains records for subjects not in the AAT, ULAN, TGN, or CONA
- The Getty IA includes records for named events, religious/mythological iconography, fictional characters and places, themes from literature
- Includes variant names, sources, hierarchical and associative relationships; links to AAT, TGN, ULAN, and CONA

Hierarchy example:

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<td>Religion/Mythology</td>
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General Subject

- General Depicted Subject chosen from controlled list in CONA
CONA allows you to list Indexing Type and Subject Extent, if applicable and supported by incoming data

[Editors: Generally, do not take time for this]
Subjects from ULAN

- ULAN is used to record artist and repository of the CONA object

- But is also linked to Depicted Subject, in order to control names of any person or corporate body that is a subject of the work
Subjects that are historical people (vs. fictional) are controlled by ULAN

Issue: Scope of ULAN was originally artists, architectural firms, repositories
Facet for non-artists has been added in ULAN, to record patrons and sitters, etc.; legacy ULAN had already included many patrons, rulers, etc., so precedent existed
Subjects from TGN

- TGN is used to record the geographic location of a work in CONA
- But is also linked to Depicted Subject, to control names of any existing or historical place depicted in the work
Title: Boy Viewing Mount Fuji
CONA ID 700008643 Work Type: painting
Creator: Katsushika Hokusai, (Japanese, 1760-1849)
Date: 1839, Edo period
Mat & Tech: ink and color on silk
Dimensions: height: 127.0 width: 69.2 cm
Location: Freer Sackler Museums, Smithsonian Institution; Washington (DC); Gift of Charles Lang Freer; F1898.110

- Physical features (e.g., mountains) and administrative places (e.g., cities, empires) are controlled by TGN
Subjects from AAT

- AAT is used to record the work type, materials, style, etc. of a work in CONA
- But is also linked to Depicted Subject, to control generic terms describing the subject
- AAT and all of the Getty vocabularies are thesauri; the variant terms and hierarchical links may be used in retrieval of the works
Terms in other languages and hierarchy of “Nature” in the AAT may be used to retrieve van Gogh’s Irises in CONA.
• **Issue:** Are required generic subject terms (i.e., non-proper names) within scope of AAT?
  - Yes. The scope of AAT allows generic terms for subject access
  - For example, physical activities

• This is an example of how adding works to CONA requires adding new terms/names to AAT, TGN, and ULAN, as well as to the Getty IA
Subjects from the Getty Iconography Authority

- The Getty Iconography Authority (IA), contains names/terms and other information for iconography and other subject terminology not contained in the other linked vocabularies
- The IA includes proper names for events, religion/mythology, fictional characters, named animals, themes from literature, and fictional places

- E.g., mythological and fictional places (e.g., Xibalba), characters (e.g., Zeus), the names of specific events, (e.g., American Civil War), or iconographic themes (e.g., the Adoration of the Magi)
• Getty Iconography Authority is a thesaurus in structure
• Includes equivalence, hierarchical, and associative relationships
• Links to AAT, ULAN, TGN, other Getty IA records
• In Getty IA, links are made to ULAN and other vocabbs.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Avalokiteshvara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UF</td>
<td>Guanyin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UF</td>
<td>观音菩萨</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UF</td>
<td>Kannon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language Code</th>
<th>Source</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rel Type</th>
<th>Label</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>role/attribute</td>
<td>bodhisattva (&lt;Buddhist doctrinal concepts&gt;, &lt;doctrinal concept&gt;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*unique ID of record type*
*descriptive note date for subject*
*names multiple languages qualifier*
*unique ID of name languages source*
*links to sources to AAT, TGN, ULAN, CONA IA*
Subject may be another art work in CONA

- CONA Depicted Subject fields link to other CONA records
- (separately from Associative Relationships, which are also links between CONA records)
Subject for this photograph of the Eiffel Tower under construction is the built work, Eiffel Tower

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Subject</th>
<th>Specific Subject</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>P</td>
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<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>Depicted Label</th>
<th>CONA ID</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Eiffel Tower (built work)</td>
<td>700000116</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
• Variant names for the built work can now be used to retrieve the record for the photograph through the link.
Subjects from other sources

- CONA allows references to other sources of subject, such as Iconclass or LC subject headings
- For contributors who are already using these sources for subject indexing
- These references are in the Depicted Subject of the Work record (not in the Getty IA)
### Iconclass

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Depicted Subject</th>
<th>Outside Iconography</th>
<th>Culture/Style</th>
<th>Other Displays</th>
<th>Events</th>
<th>Subject Contribs/Sources</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Media</th>
<th>Addl Subject Fields</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hercules</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### LC subject headings

<table>
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<th>Outside Iconography</th>
<th>Culture/Style</th>
<th>Other Displays</th>
<th>Events</th>
<th>Subject Contribs/Sources</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Media</th>
<th>Addl Subject Fields</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Little Bighorn, Battle of, Mont., 1876</td>
<td>sh 85077676</td>
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</table>