Development & Dissemination of
The Faceted Thesaurus of Chinese Cultural Heritage (FTCCH)

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The Metadata Standards for Digital Preservation of Cultural Heritage Project (The Metadata Project)

- Supported by the State Administration of Cultural Heritage (SACH), Duration: 2014-2016

- Main Tasks: Forming 61 Professional Standards on different categories of Metadata for museum and cultural heritage fields

- The Faceted Thesaurus of Chinese Cultural Heritages (FTCCH)
  - a thesaurus takes AAT’s Framework but only concepts/terms related to Chinese cultural objects
  - monolingual → bilingual or multilingual
  - Use AAT’s IDs number of =EQ concepts/terms;
  - Contribution to AAT in the future
• Under centralized management by National Technical Committee 289 on Cultural Heritage of Standardization Administration of China (SAC/TC289)
• Will be issued by SACH in 2018

- Standard format modification
- Draft standard for comment

- Standard examination by correspondence (20+ institutions)
- Joint examination (no less than 5 experts)

- Examination & verification (7-9 experts with SAC/TC289)
- Draft standard for approval
**Core Elements Set**

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<td>3.</td>
<td>identifier</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Location</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Creation ( creator, creationDate, creationPlace )</td>
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<td>materials</td>
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<td>measurements</td>
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<td>9.</td>
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<td>19.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>inscriptionsOrMarks</td>
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controlled data value from FTCCH or other authorities
Methodology Framework for the FTCCH

The Faceted Thesaurus of Chinese Cultural Heritages

- Basic Framework and guidelines from Getty AAT
- Concepts Records and methods from AAT-Taiwan
  - MOU between USTC & Academia SINICA
  - (MOU between the Getty & the SACH)

- Related National Standards in China:
  - GB/T 13190.1-2015 Information and documentation-Thesauri
  - GB/T 3860-2009 Guidelines for determining the subjects and selecting the descriptors

- Contents of Chinese Cultural Heritages
  - Concepts/Terms
  - Images
Facets & Hierarchies of FTCCH ver1.0

- Associated Concepts: 546
- Physical Attributes: 177
- Styles & Periods: 332
- Agents: 382
- Activities: 2876
- Materials: 336
- Objects: 2800
- Brand Names: 1300
- Chinese dynastic Periods
- Chinese prehistoric cultures & periods
- Chinese (culture or style)
- Ornament areas
- motives
- patterns
- Design Elements
- architecture
- ceramics
- painting
- textile
- Processes and Techniques
- by composition
- by origin
- by function
- Built Environment
- Furnishings & Equipments
- Object Genres
- Object Groupings & Systems
- Visual & Verbal Communication
- components

- 5 Facets & 23 Hierarchies: 4300+ concepts
- 336 local concepts: mapping analysis with AAT
- 2800+ concepts from AAT-Taiwan
- 1300+ concepts from NPM(Taiwan) controlled vocabularies (only terms)
- 100+ Chinese musical instruments concepts from museum documentation (only terms)

Have Required fields

7
Presentations for the FTCCH Dissemination

- **Jul.2016** Shanxi Museum, Taiyuan
  Topic: Constructing the knowledge of cultural objects: Perspective of Smart Museum

  Topic: Subject Matter on Digital Cultural Objects Cataloguing

- **Jan,2017** Annual Conference of the Alliance of Innovation Science for Culture Heritage Conservation, Tianjin
  Topic: Analyzing and indexing the subject of cultural objects in internet environment

- **May.2017** Internet + Chinese Civilization Conference for Museums in Northeast China, Jilin, Changchun
  Topic: Subject of cultural objects: concepts and application

- **Jun.2017** Internet + Museum Knowledge Service and Innovation Conference for Museums in Southwest China, Guangxi, Nanning
  Topic: Analyzing and indexing the subject of cultural objects in internet environment

- **Jul.2017** Information Technology Training Course by Beijing Municipal Administration of Cultural Heritage, Beijing
  Topic: Subject of cultural objects: concepts and application
Key Points of the Dissemination Presentations

- **Initiatives:**

  1. Museum’s local CMS or Collection database should refer to the international standards of data structure, data contents and data value in its descriptive metadata.

  2. Some key elements of collections metadata schema should be indexed by controlled vocal.

  3. The Core elements set of cultural objects metadata should contain the “subject” element.
Comparison Examples

Record from SACH’s Union Catalogue

Object ID in the Survey

Period: 东汉(25~220)
Classification: 銅器
Level: 単件
Material: 銅
Dimensions: 長45，高34.5 (cm)

Very limited information about the object itself

An attempt record using CONA Core Element & Indexing with controlled vocal.

- Catalog level: 單件
- Classification: 銅器
- Work Type: 銅器 (視覺作品)
- Title: 銅奔馬，馬超龍雀，馬襲烏鴉，鷹鷂掠馬，馬踏飛隼，凌雲奔馬
- Creation Date: 東漢
- Subject: 馬 燕 龍雀(風神鳥) 鷹 鷂 隼 車馬儀仗 天駟(馬神) 軍官 陪葬品
- Current Location: 甘肅省博物館
- Dimensions: 45*13*34.5 (cm)
- Materials & Techniques: 銅 鑄造

Bronze Galloping Horse
Challenges & Problems

● For the Thesaurus itself:
  ■ not supported by a long–term program yet
  • no editorial system
  • no regular work team and mechanism

● For the Museum & Cultural Heritage Field in China
  ■ Lack of data literacy: Museum people commonly recognize less the demand and importance of data standards (metadata, controlled vocab, etc.) for cultural objects
  ■ Incompletely understanding to “digitization”: still be fascinated on display techniques and ignore the basic data quality issue.
FTCCH support projects in the near future

- Professional Standard Project: FTCCH & its Editorial Rules

- Knowledge Database Project of the Smart Museum Program (SACH)
- The Internet+ Chinese civilization 3-year Action Project (SACH)
- Collaborative Research Projects with Beijing Municipal Administration of Cultural Heritage: 2 Pilot Museums
  - The Capital Museum
  - The Beijing Stone Carving Art Museum
THANK YOU

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