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Reconciling Local Descriptive Terminology with Getty AAT for the NGA Image Collections

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International Terminology Working Group Meeting
Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles

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Background

NGA Image Collections:

- Hold 16 million image resources for Western art and architecture.
- Maintained local AAT subject terms for access, but faced challenges in upkeep.
- Implemented a new practice of using Getty AAT to enhance accessibility in the LOD environment.



Objective

- To reconcile local AAT terms with Getty AAT terms and URIs using batch processing for 56,443 bibliographic records.

Old Practice	650_7 \$a value (Local AAT term) \$2 aat Example: 650 _7 \$a Paintings (visual works) \$2 aat
New Practice	650_7 \$a value (Getty AAT term) \$2 aat \$0 URI Example: 650 _7 \$a Paintings (visual works) \$2 aat \$0 http://vocab.getty.edu/aat/300033618

Project Workflow

#	Step	Description	Tool
1	Export Data from Alma	Exported 56,443 bibliographic records. (Total 175,924 local AAT terms in the 650 fields)	
2	Extract Local AAT Index	4,902 local index terms identified.	Alma Analytics
3	Reconcile Local Index terms against Getty AAT	Used OpenRefine to reconcile terms. Recorded reconciled Getty AAT terms and URIs in an Excel file.	OpenRefine / Excel
4	Compare Terms & Add URIs	Compared terms in bibliographic records with Getty AAT terms in Excel. If matched, added Getty AAT URI to 650 \$0 in the bib records.	Python
5	Quality Control	Conducted by Image Collections staff	
6	Import Updated Data to Alma		

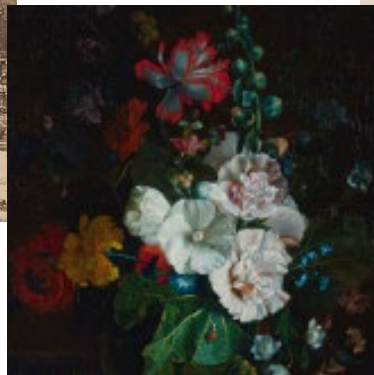
Results

Reconciliation Status:

- 3,017 (62%) index terms reconciled
- 1,885 (38%) index terms not reconciled

Getty URIs Added:

- 104,478 (60%) of 650 fields in bibliographic records updated



Results - Continued

Reasons for Non-Reconciliation:

- 1) Simple errors in local terms (typos, whitespace, and extraneous characters)
- 2) Differences between local terms and Getty AAT terms
 - **Spelling Variants:** banjoes vs. banjos, craters vs. kraters
 - **Singular & Plurals:** Franciscan vs. Franciscans
 - **Broad & Narrow Terms:** bellpeople vs. bellboys
 - automobiles vs police cars / racing cars, etc.
 - cells vs vaulting cells, cells vs prison cells, etc.
 - **Compound Words:** barber shops vs. barbershops, boat yards vs. boatyards
 - cage cups vs. cage-cups
 - **Same Spelling, Different Meanings:** braziers vs. braziers (cooking, heating equipment)
or braziers (metalworkers)

Positive Outcomes

- Increased accessibility and linking of records through Getty AAT
- Established workflow for revising other 6** headings to incorporate Getty Vocabulary terms and URIs

Challenges

- Large number of outliers that do not match Getty AAT terms
 - ☐ Human catalogers' expertise needed for case-by-case review
- Maintenance of AAT terms after import and continued standardized use of terms/URIs in Alma

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Thank you!

Sarah Osborne Bender, Head of Library Technical Services

For more information, please contact Soo Bae, j-bae@nga.gov