

VRA Core 4.0

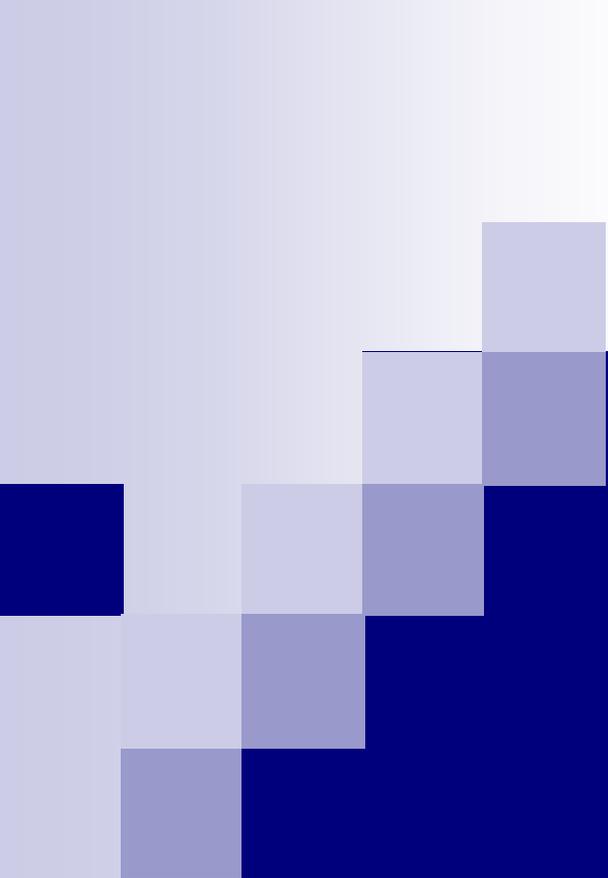
an introduction

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SEI 2009
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Descriptive metadata standard for the cultural heritage community



essential pieces of information you
would need to record in order to
identify a work or image or
collection



Core 4.0: What it is NOT

- **not a data content standard**
- **not a technical or rights metadata standard**
- **not a blueprint for a local data model**

VRA Core 4.0 **Elements**, Subelements, and Attributes

- **agent**
 - attribution
 - culture
 - dates (*type*)
 - earliestDate (*circa*)
 - latestDate (*circa*)
 - name (*type*)
 - role
- **culturalContext**
- **date** (*type*)
 - earliestDate (*circa*)
 - latestDate (*circa*)
- **description**
- **inscription**
 - author
 - position
 - text (*type*)
- **location** (*type*)
 - name (*type*)
 - refid (*type*)
- **material** (*type*)
- **measurements** (*type, unit*)
- **relation** (*type, relids*)
- **rights** (*type*)
 - rightsHolder
 - text
- **source**
 - name (*type*)
 - refid (*type*)
- **stateEdition** (*count, num, type*)
 - description
 - name
- **stylePeriod**
- **subject**
 - term (*type*)
- **technique**
- **textref**
 - name (*type*)
 - refid (*type*)
- **title** (*type*)
- **worktype**

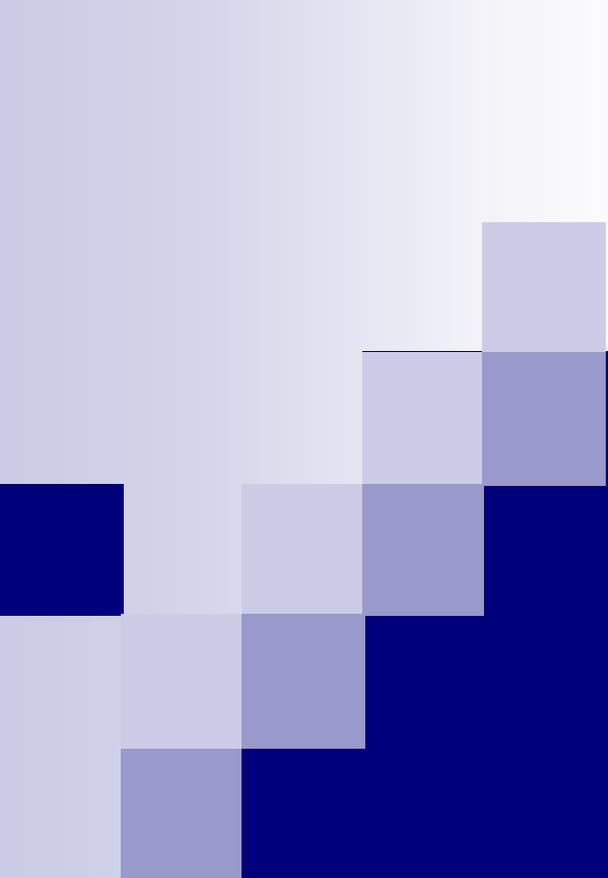
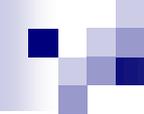


Image Cataloging before VRA Core 4.0

- **catalogers worked closely with primary users to produce rich but idiosyncratic records**
- **original cataloging without benefit of standards**
- **data exchange less important**
- **experimentation with MARC and CDWA**

Standards Menu:

- **Data structure standards (metadata element sets):**
 - *MARC, EAD, Dublin Core, CDWA, VRA Core*
- **Data value standards (vocabularies):**
 - *LCSH, LCNAF, TGM, AAT, ULAN*
- **Data content standards (cataloging rules):**
 - *AACR (→RDA), ISBD, CCO, DACS*
- **Data format/technical interchange standards (metadata standards expressed in machine-readable form):**
 - *MARC, MARCXML, EAD, CDWA Lite XML, Dublin Core Simple XML schema, DC Qualified XML schema, VRA Core XML schema*



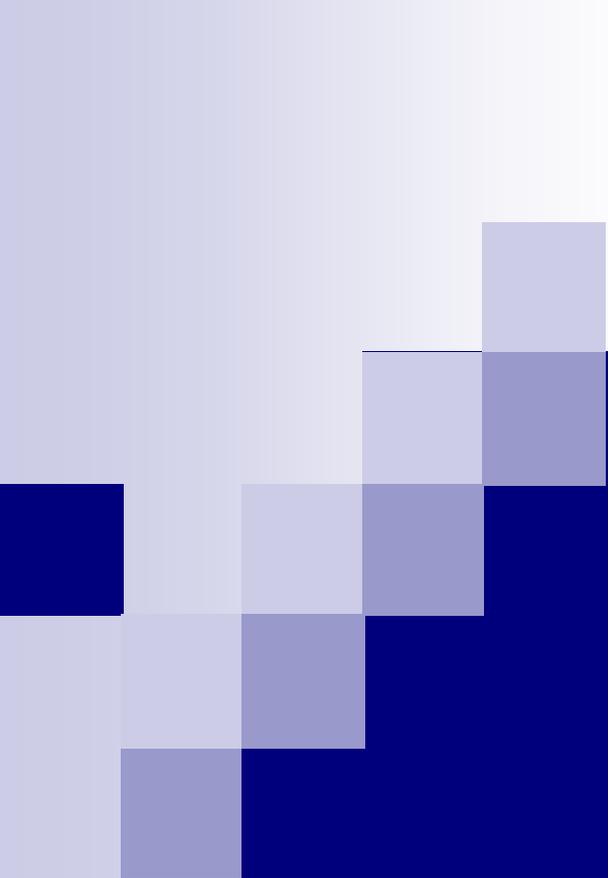
Development of the VRA Core

- 1996 – **1.0** – based on CDWA
- 1996 – **2.0** – identified need for content standard origin of CCO
- 2000 – **3.0** – tested against existing data as part of the UCAI project
- 2006 – **4.0** (beta) – development of xml schema
- 2007 – **4.0** (final)



Record Type: Core Entities

RECORD TYPE=work, image, collection



Core defines a *work* as a

unique entity such as an object or event.

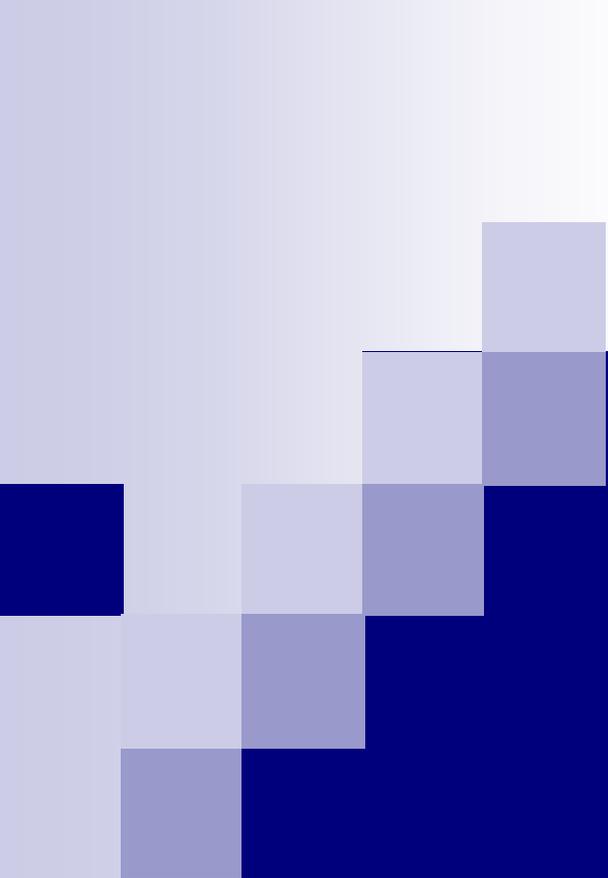
- **painting, sculpture, or photograph**
- **building or other construction in the built environment**
- **an object of material culture, or a performance**

- **simple or complex**
- **component parts that are related to the larger work in a whole/part or hierarchical fashion**

Core Entities: Work

“...unique entity such as an object or event.”





Core defines an *image* as

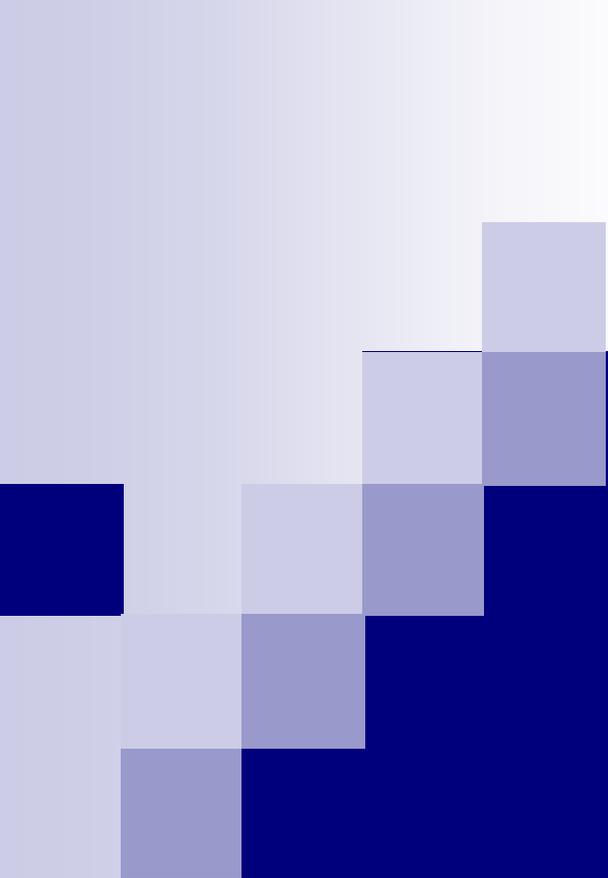
a visual representation of a work in either whole or part

“The representation serves to provide access to the work when the work itself cannot be experienced firsthand. In image collections, such representations typically are found in the form of slides, photographs, and/or digital files.”

Core Entities: Image

“...a visual representation of a work in either whole or part.”





Core defines a *collection* as

an aggregate of work or image records

“may be comprised of multiple items that are conceptually or physically arranged together for the purpose of cataloging or retrieval”

Core Entities: Collection

“...an aggregate of work or image records”

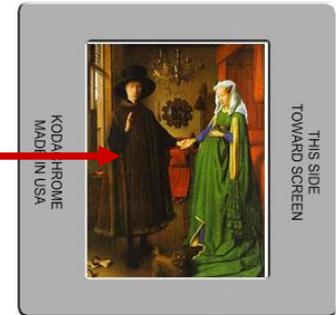


Record Establishment: Relationships

work to work

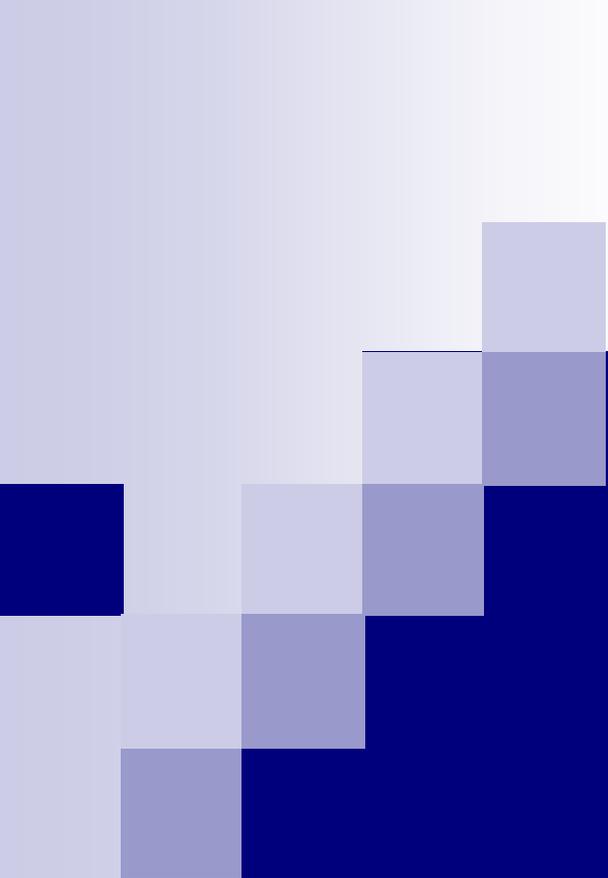


work to image



collection to work
or image





Core Basic #1

The same element set may be used to describe a work, an image, or collection



Field Name	Value	Record Type
Image ID	517098	I
Agent	Charles Robert Ashbee, British, 1863-1942	W
Title	Writing Desk	W
Dates/Events	ca. 1902	W
Object Types	writing desk	W
Material	walnut with copper mounts	W
Technique	metalworking; cabinet-making	W
Dimensions	140 x 82 x 45 cm	W
Location	Galerie Historismus (Paris, France)	W
Style/Period	Arts and Crafts	W
View	front view	I
Description	Executed by the Guild and School of Handicrafts	W
Subjects	secretary (furniture)	W

Establishing Record Types



Field Name	Value	Record Type
Image ID	517098	I
Title	Gold Jug	W
Dates/Events	8th century BCE	W
Object Types	jug	W
Material	Gold	W
Style/Period	Late Assyrian	W
View	Detail views of base	I
Description	Recovered from Tomb III, Northwest Palace, Nimrud	W
Subjects	goldwork; archaeological objects	W
Work ID	10193	W
Source	Jahrbuch des Romisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseums Mainz vol. 45 1998, 1998, Abb. 52	I

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VRA Core Element: Agent

AGENT

Subelements: name, culture, dates, earliest, latest, role, attribution

Definition: The names, appellations, or other identifiers assigned to an individual, group, or corporate body that has contributed to the design, creation, production, manufacture, or alteration of the work or image. When more than one agent is cited, the *extent* attribute may be used to qualify the role subelement for one or both names. In the case of a named individual, group, or corporate body, the culture subelement refers to the nationality or culture of the individual, group, or corporate body in the name subelement. In cases where no identifiable individual, group, or corporate body can be named, creation responsibility is assumed by the culture subelement. To record the cultural context within which a work, collection, or image was created, independent of the nationality or culture of the creator, use the CULTURAL CONTEXT element.

Restricted schema data values for agent name *type* attribute: *personal, corporate, family, other*

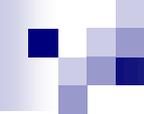
Restricted schema data values for agent dates *type* attribute: *life, activity, other*

Data value encoding for earliestDate and latestDate subelement: data values should be formulated according to ISO 8601 standards for data content (<http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/~mgk25/iso-time.html>), i.e. YYYY, YYYY-MM, or YYYY-MM-DD. For artists still living, use the value *present* in the latestDate subelement.

Comment: Use of a Personal and Corporate Name Authority, from which these data values may be derived, is recommended. See *CCO Part 3, A1: Personal and Corporate Name Authority* for a more thorough discussion about the role of a name authority in the creation statement.

CCO: Part TWO: Chapter 2: *Creator Information*

Not Required; Repeatable

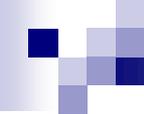


Agent

Definition: The names, appellations, or other identifiers assigned to an individual, group, or corporate body that has contributed to the design, creation, production, manufacture, or alteration of the work or image.

Restricted schema data values for agent name
type attribute: personal, corporate, family, other

Restricted schema data values for agent dates
type attribute: life, activity, other



VRA Core 4.0 Outline

Elements, **Subelements**, Attributes

agent

attribution

culture

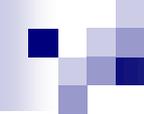
dates

earliestDate

latestDate

name

role



VRA Core 4.0 Outline

Elements, Subelements, **Attributes**

agent

attribution

culture

dates (type)

earliestDate

latestDate

name (type)

role

VRA Core Subelement: Agent

Global Attribute

VRA Core Element	XML element	XML sub-element	XML attribute	XML sub-element	Data example (display value in bold)
AGENT	agent				School of Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640)
		name			Rubens, Peter Paul
			<i>type</i>		personal
			<i>vocab</i>		ULAN
			<i>refid</i>		500002921
		culture			Flemish
		dates			1577-1640
			<i>type</i>		life
				earliestDate	1577
				latestDate	1640
		dates			
			<i>type</i>		activity
				earliestDate	1590
				latestDate	1640
		role			painter (artist)
			<i>vocab</i>		AAT
			<i>refid</i>		300025136
		attribution			School of

Record Structure: Display vs. Indexing

CREATOR

Display

Frederick Catherwood

Index

Catherwood, Frederick

DATE

Display

***Fourth Dynasty, reign of King
Khafre (2575-2465 BCE)***

Index earliestDate:

-2575

Index latestDate:

-2465

VRA Core Element	XML Element	XML sub Element	XML Attribute	XML sub Element	data example (display value in bold)
Agent	agent				Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (American architectural firm, established 1939)
		name			Skidmore, Owings & Merrill
			<i>type</i>		corporate
			<i>vocab</i>		ULAN
			<i>refid</i>		500045910
		culture			American
		dates			from 1939
			<i>type</i>		activity
				earlDate	1939
				lateDate	
		role			architectural firm

VRA Core Element: Title

TITLE

Attributes: type

Definition: The title or identifying phrase given to a Work or an Image. For complex works or series the title may refer to a discrete component or unit within the larger entity (a print from a series, a panel from a fresco cycle, a building within a temple complex) or may identify only the larger entity itself. Record multiple titles in repeating instances of the title element. Indicate the preferred title with `pref="true"` and alternate titles with `pref="false"`. For an Image record this category describes the specific view of the depicted Work or Collection, and corresponds to the CCO View Description. Data Values: formulated according to data content rules for titles of works of art.

Restricted schema values for WORK title type: brandName, cited, creator, descriptive, former, inscribed, owner, popular, repository, translated, other

Restricted schema values for IMAGE title type: generalView, or partialView.

VRA Core 2.0: W2 Title; V7 Visual Document View Description

VRA Core 3.0: Title CDWA: Titles or Names-Text; Related Visual Documentation-Image View; Related Visual Documentation-Image View Type Dublin Core:
TITLE

CCO: Part TWO: Chapter 1: Object Naming

Not required; Repeatable

VRA Core Element: Title



Arnolfini Marriage

Type Attributes

VRA Core Element	XML element	XML attribute	Data example (display value in bold)
TITLE	title		Arnolfini Marriage
		<i>type</i>	cited
		<i>pref</i>	true
		<i>source</i>	Grove Dictionary of Art Online
	title		Portrait of Giovanni (?) Arnolfini and his Wife ("The Arnolfini Portrait")
		<i>type</i>	repository
		<i>pref</i>	false
		<i>source</i>	National Gallery of Art (London, GB)

VRA Core Element: Title XML

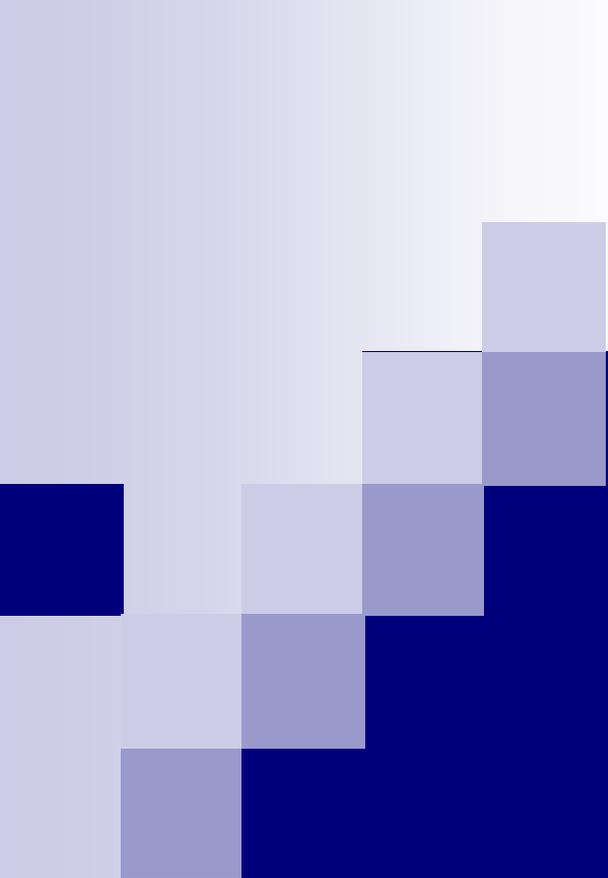
```
<titleSet>
```

```
  <display>Arnolfini Marriage</display>
```

```
  <title type="cited" pref="true" source="Grove  
Dictionary of Art Online">Arnolfini  
Marriage</title>
```

```
  <title type="repository" pref="false"  
source="National Gallery of Art (London,  
GB)">Portrait of Giovanni (?) Arnolfini and his  
Wife ("The Arnolfini Portrait")</title>
```

```
</titleSet>
```



Core Basic #2

Global attributes may be applied to any element /subelement

dataDate	refers to the date and/or time a particular piece of data was captured
extent	refers to the part of the work, image or collection being described by the element or sub-element that it modifies
href	refers to a hypertext reference that provides a link to another electronic resource
pref	indicates that a particular data value is the preferred value when multiple data values for the same element or sub-element exist
refid	refers to id numbers or codes coming from the local institution or resource named in the source attribute
rules	refers to any data content standards used to construct the value recorded in the element (e.g. AACR2, CCO)
source	refers to the local, print, or electronic source from which information is derived for a specific element (e.g. Grove Dictionary of Art).
vocab	refers to the controlled vocabulary source from which the term or phrase is derived (e.g. AAT, LCSH)
xml:lang	refers to the language in which the information is recorded in the system

LOCATION

Attributes:

type

Subelements:

name

Attributes: *type*

refid

Attributes: *type*

Description: The geographic location and/or name of the repository, building, site, or other entity whose boundaries include the Work or Image. Inclusion of a *type* attribute distinguishes between different kinds of locations, e.g. repository locations, creation locations, discovery locations, etc. The optional *extent* attribute may also be used here to further specify or disambiguate geographic term types. Note that repository id numbers (museum or private collection accession or inventory numbers) formerly contained in the Core 3 ID Number element, are here mapped to the Location **refid** subelement. Inclusion of these alphanumeric strings that pinpoint a particular work within a particular location serves to disambiguate identically titled works by the same artist held by the same repository (e.g. Raphael, "Madonna and Child.") Repeatable subelements allow for the inclusion of multiple museum inventory numbers if an object id number has changed over time. For id numbers that are independent of repository, such as *catalog raisonné* numbers, use the **TEXTREF** element. **Data Values (controlled):** TGN, BHA index, LCSH, *Grove Dictionary of Art* Location Appendix. Use of a separate Locations Authority, with data values populated from controlled vocabulary sources, is recommended. See CCO A2: *Geographic Place Authority* for further discussion about the role of a Geographic Place Authority

Restricted schema data values for location *type* attribute: creation, discovery, exhibition, formerOwner, formerRepository, formerSite, installation, intended (for unrealized projects), other, owner, performance, publication, repository, site (use for current locations for architecture and archaeology)

Restricted schema data values for location name *type* attribute: corporate, geographic, other, personal

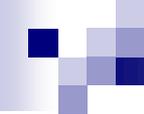
Restricted schema data values for location refid *type* attribute: accession, barcode, shelfList, other **VRA Core 2.0** W9 Repository Name; W10 Repository Place; V5 Visual Document Owner

VRA Core 3.0 Location, ID Number **CDWA:** Current Location-Repository Name/Geographic Location; Current Location-Repository Numbers; Context-Architectural-Building/Site, Context-Architectural-Building/Site-Placement, Context-Archaeological-Discovery/Excavation Place; Related Visual Documentation-Image Repository; Related Visual Documentation-Image Repository Numbers **Dublin Core:** CONTRIBUTOR, COVERAGE

CCO: Part TWO: Chapter 5: *Location and Geography*

Not Required; Repeatable

VRA Core Element: Location

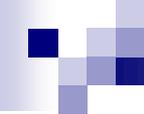


Location

Description: The geographic location and/or name of the repository, building, site, or other entity whose boundaries include the Work or Image.

Restricted schema data values for location *type* attribute: creation, discovery, exhibition, formerOwner, formerRepository, formerSite, installation, intended (for unrealized projects), other, owner, performance, publication repository, site (use for current locations for architecture and archaeology)

Restricted schema data values for location name *type* attribute: corporate, geographic, other, personal



VRA Core 4.0 Outline

Elements, **Subelements**, Attributes

location (type)

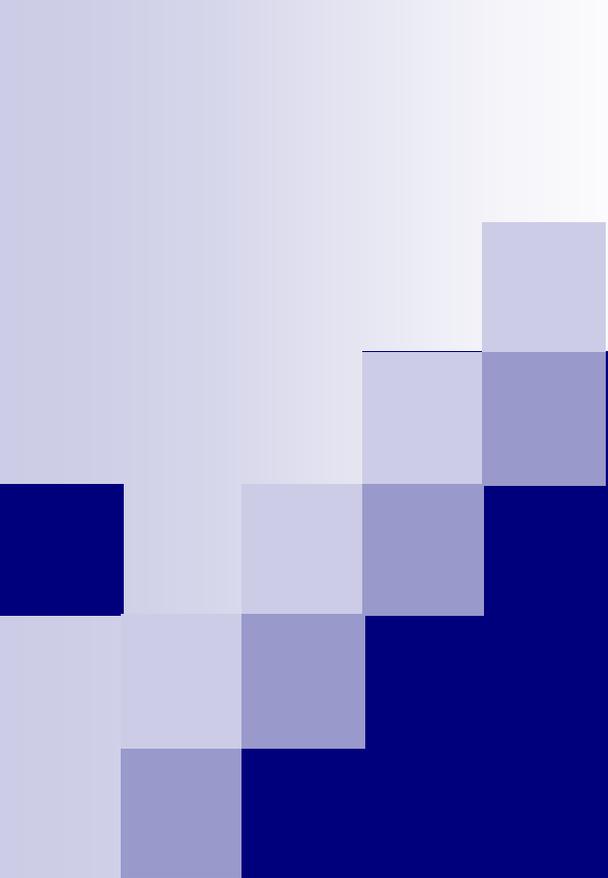
name (type)

refid (type)

VRA Core subelement: location

VRA Core Element	XML element	XML attribute	XML subelement	XML attribute	Data example (display value in bold)
LOCATION	location				Musée du Louvre (Paris, FR) Inv. MR 299
		<i>type</i>			repository
			name		Musée du Louvre
				<i>type</i>	corporate
				<i>xml:lang</i>	fr
			refid		Inv. MR 299
				<i>type</i>	accession
			name		Paris
				<i>type</i>	geographic
				<i>vocab</i>	TGN
				<i>refid</i>	7008038
				<i>extent</i>	inhabited place
			name		France
				<i>type</i>	geographic
				<i>vocab</i>	TGN
				<i>refid</i>	1000070
				<i>extent</i>	nation
	location				discovered Milos (GR)
		<i>type</i>			discovery
			name		Milos, Nisos
				<i>type</i>	geographic
				<i>vocab</i>	TGN
				<i>refid</i>	7010922
			name		Greece
				<i>type</i>	geographic
				<i>vocab</i>	TGN
				<i>refid</i>	1000074





Core Basic #3

What Are You Cataloging?

Work Type

Definition: Identifies the specific type of WORK, COLLECTION, or IMAGE being described in the record.



manuscript



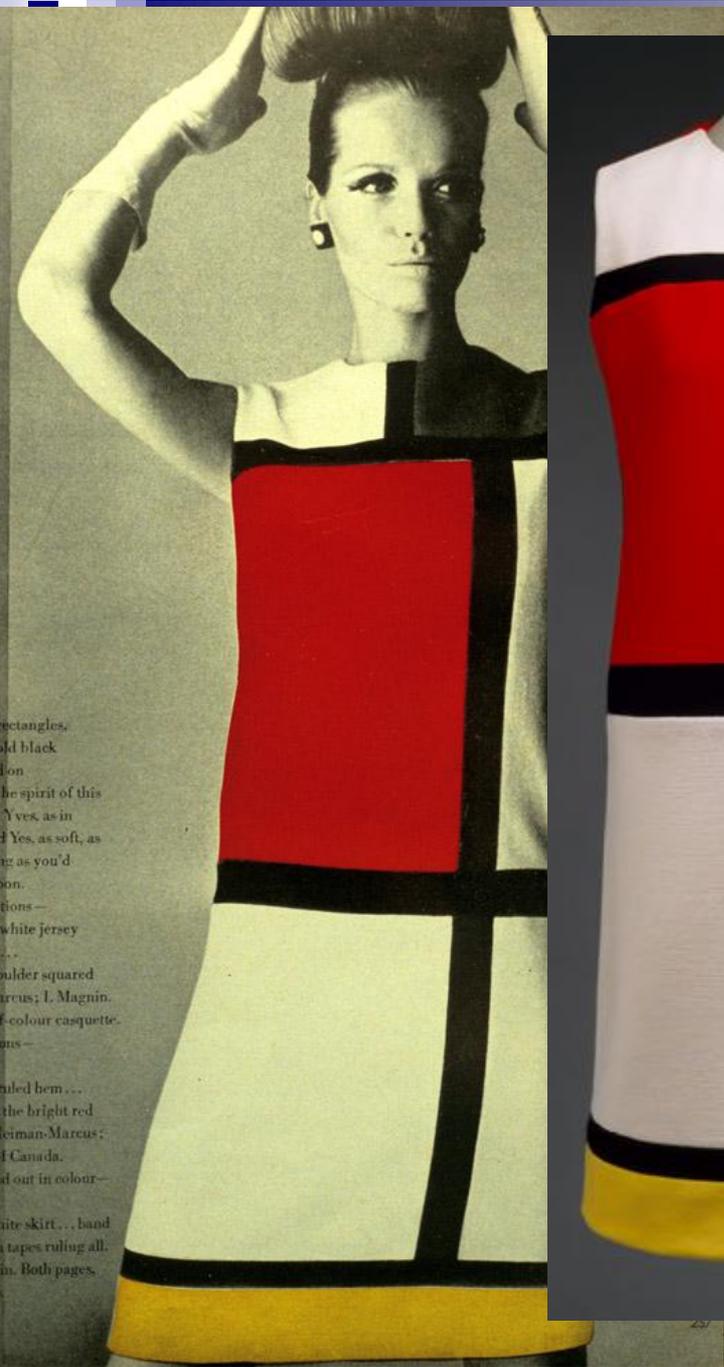
Built work



photograph



painting

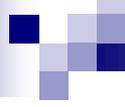


"Mondrian" day dress, autumn 1965

Yves Saint Laurent (French, born Algeria, 1936)
Wool jersey in color blocks of white, red, blue, black,
and yellow

Gift of Mrs. William Rand, 1969 (C.1.69.23)

Mondrian day
dress, Yves
Saint Laurent,
Vogue
Magazine, slide
collection, MMA
Costume
Institute, 1965,
layout, fashion
photograph



Other Useful Elements

Material - The substance of which a work or an image is composed.

Style/Period - A defined style, historical period, group, school, dynasty, movement, etc. whose characteristics are represented in the Work or Image.

Subject - Terms or phrases that describe, identify, or interpret the Work or Image and what it depicts or expresses.

Rights - Information about the copyright status and the rights holder for a work, collection, or image.