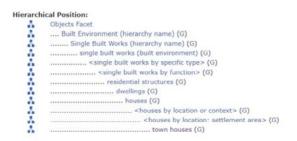
Access Methods for Resources of Material Culture: **Genres and Forms**

Ralph Hartsock

International Society for Landscape, Place, and Material Culture Salt Lake City, Utah, October 20, 2017







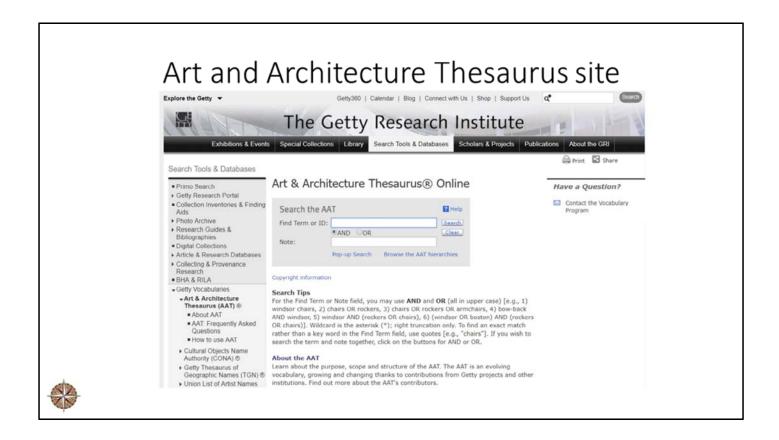
This paper will focus on one portion of this access, the various Genre/Form projects that describe isness as opposed to aboutness.

Library of Congress Authority Files





Controlled vocabularies have been a part of the Library of Congress Subject Headings and other systems for decades. Several of these subjects denote what the resource *is* rather than what the content is *about*. In recent years, there has been an effort to edit these, separating the genres and forms from subjects, and adding such other data as demographics. At the 2016 ISLPMC meeting in Bowling Green, Kentucky, Dr. Daniel Bonenberger evaluated side passage townhouses and the lack of access to this terminology in the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) collections of the Library of Congress (LOC).



Rather than "reinvent the wheel," the Library of Congress used as one of its models, the *Art & Architecture Thesaurus*, developed by the Getty Museum, and published by Oxford University Press. This tool is available on the web site of the Getty Museum

(http://www.getty.edu/research/tools/vocabularies/aat/).

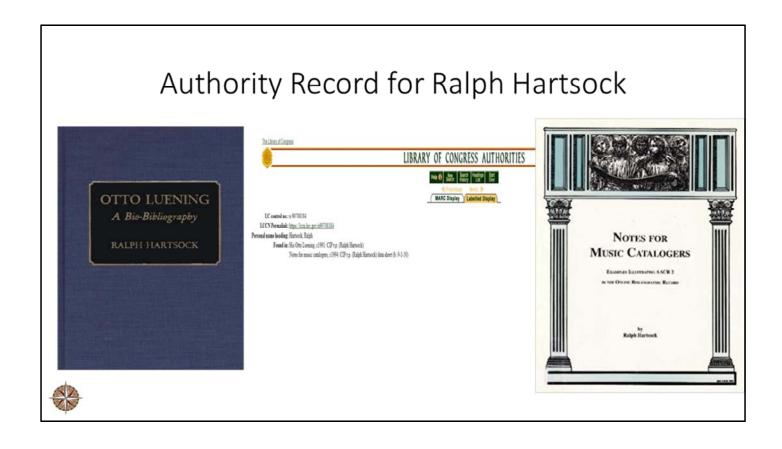
Library of Congress, along with some library associations, has undertaken the development of several areas of knowledge.

Genre Form Projects to Date

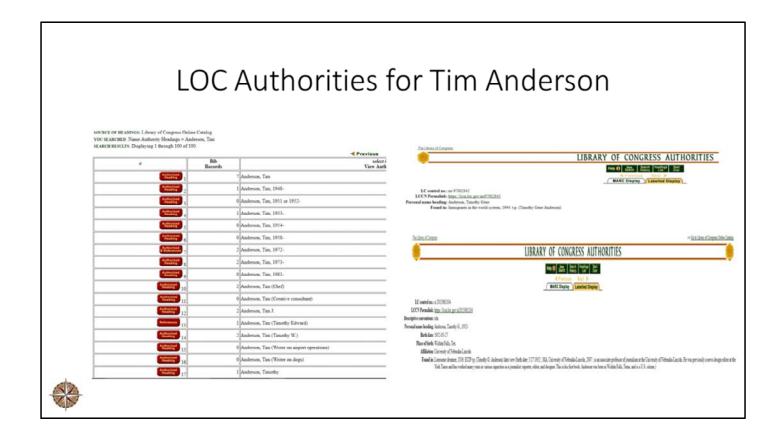
- Cartographic materials
- general materials
- Law
- Literature
- Moving images
- Music
- Non-musical sound recordings
- · Religious materials



By April of 2017, projects for the following areas had been completed: cartographic materials, general materials, law, literature, moving images, music, non-musical sound recordings, and religious materials. There are mechanisms that allow the addition of terms to the Library of Congress Genre Form Term list (LCGFT), given literary warrant.



A few examples will illustrate this. First, Ralph Hartsock. Library of Congress has cataloged several publications by people surnamed Hartsock. The member of ISLPMC is the first named Ralph. Thus, no other distinguishing characteristics (year of birth, occupation) are added. The literary warrant for this record consists of the first two monographs he authored. Our library colleague has found that another person named Ralph Hartsock lives in Maryland, near Baltimore. Both interested in weather, but the Marylander takes current measurements (temperature, precipitation) while the librarian writes of historic weather (Weather on April 12, 1861, the beginning of the Civil War).



Our colleague Tim Anderson, of Ohio University, provides another example. This is the set of choices catalogers face when they determine which "Tim Anderson" authored the material they are cataloging. Tim did offer Ralph his year of birth, but in the published work, he wrote as Timothy Gene Anderson. Were he to have published as Tim Anderson, the birth year would be necessary to distinguish him from many of these other persons, and even if he published as Timothy G., a date would be needed to distinguish him from a journalism professor in Nebraska.

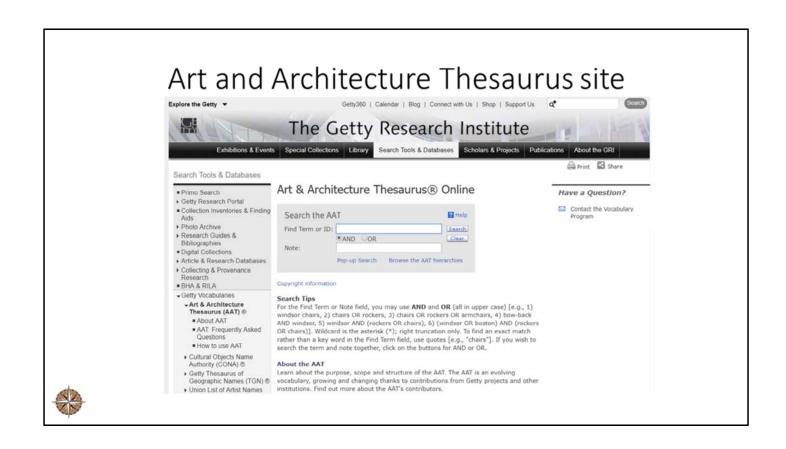
Cartographic Materials

Astronautical charts (sh2009025007) Atlases (sh2009025008) Bathymetric maps (sh2009025009) Cartographic materials (sh2009025006) Celestial globes (sh2009025012) Comparative maps (sh2009025010) Globes (sh2009025011) Linguistic atlases (sh2009025026) Military maps (sh2009025013) Mine maps (sh2009025014) Nautical charts (sh2009025015) Physical maps (sh2009025016) Relief models (sh2009025024) Remote-sensing images (sh2009025023) Road maps (sh2009025017) Statistical maps (sh2009025018) Strip maps (sh2009025019) Topographic maps (sh2009025020) Tourist maps (sh2009025021) World maps (sh2009025022)

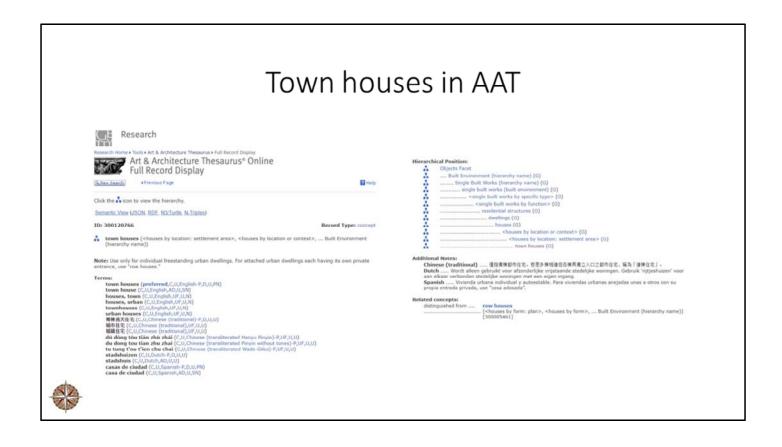


This same principle of consistency applies to genres and forms.

Here are the genres used for cartographic objects.

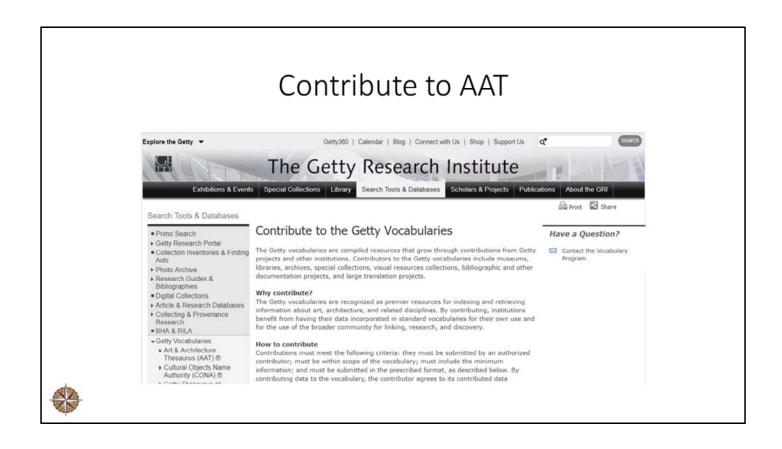


Let us return to the Art and Architecture Thesaurus (AAT) for a search.

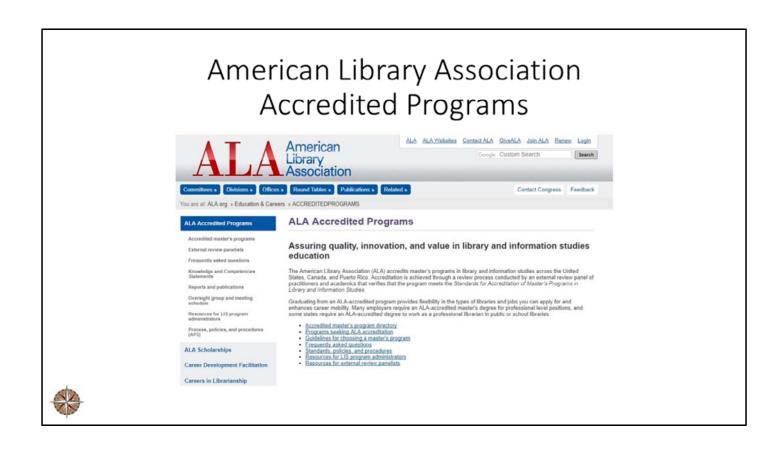


Each term is vetted, and through this examination, catalogers assign a scope note, and label any similar terms and their distinctive differences. First the hierarchy of town houses. The term is two words, and usually plural. Read from the bottom up, town houses are houses, with broader terms of dwellings, residential structures, single built works, within the Built Environment. The scope note further describes these units and further distinguishes these from row houses: "Use only for individual freestanding urban dwellings. For attached urban dwellings each having its own private entrance, use "row houses.""

Row houses are different from town houses, as shown by the scope note: "Urban dwellings attached in a series of three or more. For individual freestanding urban dwellings use "town houses.""



How can the term "Side Hall Townhouses" or "Side Halls" be added. There are mechanisms in all Genre/Form Projects to add terms. Many fields, including music, have been Euro-centric in their approach in the past. From the website of "Contribute to the Getty Vocabularies": "Thousands of AAT terms are added and edited every year. As of July 2017, the AAT contains around 60,000 records and 375,000 terms. Among these, there are 15,420 candidate records still *in process*."



So how do we translate this into improved access to the resources? The American Library Association accredits schools of Library or Information Science regularly.

(http://www.ala.org/educationcareers/accreditedprograms/)

American Library Association Museum Studies

- Cultural Heritage Information Management
 - · Wayne State University
 - · University of Michigan
- Museum Studies
 - Kent State University
 - · Pratt Institute
 - · Florida State University



• Many have Archival management and special Collections specialties.



Some of these universities teach specialized degrees in Archival management, Museum Studies, or Cultural Heritage
Information Management. More often now, three dimensional objects are processed into Libraries' Special Collections.

Three Dimensional Objects at UNT

Leon Breeden's Cowboy Boots



Willis Conover's Mug





Two examples from the University of North Texas Music Library are the coffee mug used by Voice of America broadcaster Willis Conover, along with tapes and over 10,000 jazz CDs, and the cowboy boots worn by Leon Breeden, conductor of the One O'Clock Lab Band prior to their tour of Russia.

Library of Congress







Ralph Hartsock proposes a partnership between those colleges that teach Material Culture, Schools of Library and Information Science that teach Museum Studies, and the Library of Congress. This can be a triple win. Architects in search of particular types of dwellings can locate their desired materials more quickly and easily. Library Science students preparing for their professional careers, are able to enter metadata, that improves access, and hone their skills. The Library of Congress, which houses these collections, has help in creating the access to them. Short of this, creating access already has a controlled vocabulary, that of the Art and Architecture Thesaurus. No need to reinvent the wheel.