Vesper: cooperative cataloguing for subject indexing in art and heritage libraries

By Karen Andree

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Anet

Network of *scientific* libraries in Belgium

- Library University of Antwerp & external libraries

- Library System = Brocade

- Common
  - software
  - opac
  - library practices (manuals for cataloguing,…)
  - metadata records

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Subject of my talk

- Cooperative cataloguing (topic of this conference)
- Subject indexing of publications
- Art & Architecture Thesaurus® (standard)
- Presenting database Vesper:
  - copy cataloguing tool
  - online
  - open use for everybody
  - Tool for cooperation (set up at Anet)

Art & Architecture Thesaurus®

- Hierarchical art vocabulary
  - General terms, main scope is material culture (art, heritage,…)
  - Multilingual
  - Vast (200000+ terms)

- By Getty Research Institute
- Widespread use in museums for object description
- Standard → editing (sources, approvement)

- Examples:

sketching, sculptors, copper alloys, proofs (printed matter), acid-free, green, medieval, satire,….

Art & Architecture Thesaurus®

Anet as user

- AAT is integrated in Brocade (authority file type)
- Updates from Getty

- → Main purpose is adding subjects to publications

   E.g. Subject of 4-906536-01-8 *technical art history*
   (technical art history =http://vocab.getty.edu/page/aat/300379540)

- Limitation: libraries with art and heritage scope. E.g. Not a biomedical library

Vesper: database

Publications with their AAT keywords are shared online:

Key information is:

1) ISBN, ISSN, OCLC id, DOI (Unique publication Identifier)
2) Unique Getty AAT Identifiers

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Vesper: demo

Web form: https://anet.be/aat/vesper.phtml

Vesper: demo

Web form

Vesper: demo

Web form

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Vesper: demo

The publication '*Un art populaire*' has 3 AAT-keywords

Vesper: demo

Web form

Vesper: demo

Web form

Vesper: demo

Web form

Vesper

Currently sharing:

- Anet data:

313.505 titles with AAT concepts

- Contributor data:

48488 titles with AAT concepts

(RKD – Nederlands Instituut voor Kunstgeschiedenis)

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Vesper: advantages?

- AAT is standard
- Subject indexing is expensive
- Cataloguers work with:
  - Specialized subjects
  - Expertise tool (=AAT)
  - $\rightarrow$ share expertise
- Multilinguality: e.g. receive German data from German libraries?

$\rightarrow$ For <u>expertise</u> is cooperative cataloguing the solution

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Vesper: advantages?

What about the use of AAT for description of publications?

Using terminology of material culture AND its documentation makes sense

- E.g. try finding information
about specific things

First hurdle = how is it called:
→ define it
→ find relevant information

Vesper: advantages?

The 'question' of subject indexing

Controversal because:

- Subjectiveness in both cataloguing and searching fase
- Thus not popular for innovative initiatives

→ Vesper is gathering and publishing different approaches in subject indexing

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Vesper: visualising different approaches in subject indexing

E.g. 4-906536-01-8

Rubens and his workshop : The Flight of Lot and his Family from Sodom

- RKD keywords = *restauration*
- Anet keywords = *studios (work spaces),*

  technical art history

Vesper is presenting keywords of the different deliverers

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Vesper: visualising different approaches in subject indexing

Future: data analyses possible!

Questions we might be able to investigate:

- What 'are' important keywords?

- How are libraries performing in assigning key words?

- Is one content determination better than the other?

- Can we point out authoritive libraries for certain domains?

Etc.

Vesper: data delivery

Become partner!!!

- Delivery in csv

- Required fields
  - Publication Identifier (ISBN, ISSN, OCLC- id, DOI)
  - AAT concept Identifier (e.g. 300056472)

- 'Nice' to have:
  - title publication
  - AAT preferred descriptor (English)

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Libraries sharing data

Rubenianum Research Institute

Middelheim Documentation Centre

Hendrik Conscience Heritage Library

KMSKA Library

Plantin-Moretus Library

VAi Library

Den Bell Special Library

Academic libraries of:

University of Antwerp

University of Hasselt

AP University of Applied Sciences and Arts Antwerp

KdG University of Applied Sciences and Arts Antwerp

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Check out Vesper at
https://anet.be/aat/vesper.phtml

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More information?
Data delivery?
Feedback?

karen.andree@uantwerpen.be

helpdesk@anet.be

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Thank you!

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