Implementing Lightweight Information Describing Objects (LIDO) at the Yale Center for British Art

A case for cross-collection discovery

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Collections

• 2000 paintings and 200 sculptures from the medieval to the contemporary
• 20,000 drawings and watercolors and 30,000 prints giving a comprehensive history of British graphic art
• 35,000 rare books and manuscripts from the 16th century to the present, including the J.R. Abbey collection of “color-plate” books, sporting material, early maps and atlases, incunabules, private press and contemporary artist books, and manuscripts covering British artists of all periods.
• an archive and reference library of over 40,000 volumes supporting research in British art and related fields
Yale Center for British Art Cataloguing Systems

- The art collection is catalogued in TMS
- The holdings in the Rare Books & Manuscripts department and Reference Library are catalogued in Voyager/Orbis.

The Channel Sketchbook
Joseph Mallord William Turner, ca. 1845
Graphite and watercolor
Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection
Yale Center for British Art
Digital Access to Collections

- Upcoming YCBA cross collection online catalogue
- Upcoming Yale cross collection online catalogue (developed by the Office of Digital Assets and Infrastructure)
What is LIDO?

Lightweight Information Describing Objects

• LIDO is an XML schema intended for delivering metadata.

• For use in a variety of online services, from an organization’s online collections database to portals of aggregated resources, as well as exposing, sharing and connecting data on the web.

• Its strength lies with its ability to represent the full range of descriptive information about museum objects. It can be used for all kinds of object, e.g. art, cultural, technology and natural science. It supports multilingual portal environments.
How was LIDO created?

• LIDO is the result of an international collaboration based upon existing work and practical experience.

• LIDO was made possible through the collective efforts and support from: the CDWA Lite Advisory Committee, the Documentation Committee of the German Museums Association, the CDWA Lite – museumdat Working Group, the CIDOC-CRM Special Interest Group, and the ATHENA project.

• It combines the CDWA Lite and museumdat schemas, and has been aligned with the SPECTRUM collections management standard.

• It has an event-oriented approach which is compliant with the CIDOC CRM Conceptual Reference Model (ISO 21127).
What’s in LIDO?

• LIDO defines 14 groups of information of which only 3 are mandatory.

**Descriptive and administrative elements of a LIDO record**

- **Object Classifications**
- **Object / Work Type** *(mandatory)*
- **Classification**
- **Object Identifications**
- **Title / Name** *(mandatory)*
- **Inscriptions**
- **Repository / Location**
- **State / Edition**
- **Object Description**
- **Measurements**

- **Events**
- **Event Set**
- **Relations**
- **Subject Set**
- **Related Works**

- **Administrative Metadata**
- **Rights**
- **Record** *(mandatory)*
- **Resource**
Object/Work type (mandatory)

Vocabulary expansion

- Option 1:
  <lido:objectWorkType>
  <lido:term lido:encodinganalog="5230/5230">painting</lido:term>
  <lido:term lido:addedSearchTerm="yes" lido:encodinganalog="5230/523a">visual work of art</lido:term>
  </lido:objectWorkType>
  - encodinganalog identifies the corresponding element in the source format, for transformation control issues
  - addedSearchTerm: This solution would allow a service provider who has no access to the AAT vocabulary to include at least the additional search terms for retrieval as long as there is no free Webservice or linked data publication. This solution should definitely disappear in the long run.

- Option 2:
  <lido:objectWorkType>
  <lido:term>painting (visual work)</lido:term>
  </lido:objectWorkType>
  - cdw:termsourceID becomes lido:conceptID as proper element instead of an attribute
  - If referring to a vocabulary by indicating the conceptID there is no need to assign the other terms. It is then an issue for the application using the LIDO data if it exploits the vocabulary for search and navigation, which requires that the vocabulary is published and the service provider is allowed to access it.
Object/Work type (mandatory)

Vocabulary expansion

- **XML provided by the data provider:**
  ```xml
  <lido:objectWorkType>
    <lido:term>painting (visual work)</lido:term>
  </lido:objectWorkType>
  ```

- **XML made available by the service provider from XML above:**
  ```xml
  <lido:objectWorkType>
    <lido:term lido:addedSearchTerm="yes">paintings (visual works) </lido:term>
    <lido:term lido:addedSearchTerm="yes">painting (visual work) </lido:term>
    <lido:term lido:addedSearchTerm="yes">schilderingen </lido:term>
    <lido:term lido:addedSearchTerm="yes">schildering </lido:term>
    <lido:term lido:addedSearchTerm="yes">peintures (visual works) </lido:term>
    <lido:term lido:addedSearchTerm="yes">peinture (visual work) </lido:term>
    <lido:term lido:addedSearchTerm="yes">pinturas (obra visual) </lido:term>
    <lido:term lido:addedSearchTerm="yes">pintura (obra visual) </lido:term>
  </lido:objectWorkType>
  ```
Title/Name (mandatory)

<cdwalite:titleWrap>
  <cdwalite:titleSet>
    <cdwalite:title cdwalite:pref="preferred" cdwalite:type="Repository title"> Study for the Head of a Screaming Pope </cdwalite:title>
  </cdwalite:titleSet>
  </cdwalite:titleWrap>

<lido:objectIdentificationWrap>
  <lido:titleWrap>
    <lido:titleSet>
      <lido:titleSet lido:type=”Repository title”>
        <lido:appellationValue lido:pref="preferred" xml:lang="eng">La Primavera / Spring</lido:appellationValue>
      </lido:titleSet>
    </lido:titleSet>
  </lido:titleWrap>
</lido:objectIdentificationWrap>
Title/Name (mandatory)

- No LIDO published controlled vocabulary for title types yet.
- Will provide controlled vocabularies and recommendations for a number of LIDO elements and attributes, particularly the type attributes.
Record (mandatory)

<lido:recordInfoSet>
</lido:recordInfoSet>
Events

- Events are an important part of the LIDO schema because the Object Classifications and Object Identifications sections do not mention artists, creation dates, or places of discovery.

### Descriptive and administrative elements of a LIDO record

- **Object Classifications**
  - Classification
  - *Object Identifications*

- **Title / Name** *(mandatory)*

- **Inscriptions**

- **Repository / Location**

- **State / Edition**

- **Object Description**

- **Measurements**

- **Events**
  - Event Set
  - *Relations*
    - Subject Set
    - Related Works

- **Administrative Metadata**
  - Rights
  - Record *(mandatory)*
  - Resource
Events

• LIDO assumes that cultural objects relate to actors (constituents), dates, or places in 2 ways:

  • Possibility 1: The object was present at an event (creation, excavation, use, …)
    - the event involves and/or is carried out by some actors/constituents
    - the event happened at some time
    - the event happened in some place

  Or

  • Possibility 2: The object refers to an event:
    - it depicts the event
    - it is about the event
Events

Events include the creation, collection, and use of an object. Events are associated with dates, places and actors. These can all be represented in a consistent way within the schema and allow for better searching, retrieval, and display in the portal.

- Event Identifier
- Event Type
- Role in Event
- Event Name
- Event Actor
- Culture
- Event Date
- Period
- Event Place
- Event Method
- Materials / Technique
- Thing Present
- Event Related
- Event Description
Events

- Basic Event Types include:
  - Acquisition
  - Collecting
  - Commissioning
  - Creation
  - Designing
  - Destruction
  - Excavation
  - Exhibition
  - Finding
  - Loss
  - Modification
  - Move
  - Part addition
  - Part removal
  - Performance
  - Planning
  - Production
  - Publication
  - Restoration
  - Transformation
  - Type assignment
  - Type creation
  - Use
The art of illumination and missal painting : a guide to modern illuminators : illustrated by a series of specimens, from richly illuminated mss. of various periods, accompanied by a set of outlines, to be coloured by the student according to the theories developed in the work / by H. Noel Humphreys.

London : H. O. Bohn, York Street, Covent Garden, 1848.
Events

Yale University was one of the first institutions in the United States to collect Egyptian antiquities, with the purchase in 1888 of more than 1,000 artifacts from Victor Clay Barringer, a probate court judge in Egypt. The Barringer Collection still constitutes one of the finest and largest segments of the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History’s Egyptian holdings.
Events

• LIDO offers expanded schema compared to CDWA Lite:

• Events of interest to YCBA:
  o Provenance
  o Publication (bibliography)
  o Restoration (Conservation history)
  o Exhibition (Exhibition history)
  o ?
Subject

- Extent Subject (which part of the object refers to the subject)
- Subject Concept (links to classification schema)
- Subject Actor (links to authority files via Actor set)
- Subject Date
- Subject Place
- Subject Event
- Subject Object

Self-Portrait, William Hogarth, ca. 1735
YCBA, Paul Mellon Collection
Full Support of Multilingualism

• xml:lang mandatory for default language on high-level elements descriptiveMetadata and administrativeMetadata

• Two possibilities to provide multi-lingual entries:
1- Repeat the high-level elements with different xml:lang attributes for fully multi-lingual resources
   <lido:descriptiveMetadata xml:lang="eng">
   Or
2- Repeat text-level elements with different xml:lang attributes for providing translations only for just a few elements
   <lido:termMaterialsTech lido:type="material">
   <lido:term>poplar</lido:term>
   <lido:term xml:lang=""francais">peuplier</lido:term>
Conclusion

- LIDO supports the YCBA rich descriptive metadata from library, archive and museum collections. LIDO allows YCBA to fulfill its educational mission by offering deep cataloguing on its online collection catalogue (provenance, bibliography, exhibition history, conservation history).

- LIDO vocabulary expansion will hopefully alleviate some LAM vocabulary integration issues, especially where controlled vocabularies are concerned. This is a tremendous help institutionally but also a powerful resource for the upcoming Yale wide cross collection discovery portal.

- Finally, having a common metadata schema to map to simplifies the maintenance of metadata crosswalk.
Conclusion

• LIDO supersedes the CDWA Lite v1.1 schema and serves as the harvesting schema for contributing museum information for resource discovery.
• LIDO provides for elements not supported in CDWA Lite.
• LIDO provides references to controlled vocabularies and authority files (enhances CCD digital content integration-normalization issues)
• It supports multilingual portal environments.
• An important part of its design is the concept of events taken from the CIDOC CRM Conceptual Reference Model.
• Event-oriented approach of CIDOC-CRM allows for generalizing the format of CDWA Lite for use with various object data.
• Works across metadata schemas (LAMs) and software systems: not just North American ones.
Single Search Best Practices


- Heather Caven, Victoria & Albert Museum
- Emmanuelle Delmas-Glass, Yale Center for British Art
- Dennis Meissner, Minnesota Historical Society
- Youn Noh, Yale Office of Digital Assets & Infrastructure
- Paul Pival, University of Calgary
- Leah Prescott, Getty Research Institute
- Margaret Savage-Jones, Wellcome Trust
- Francesco Spagnolo, The Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life, UC Berkeley
- Ching-Hsien Wang, Manager of Library and Archives System Support, Office of Chief Information Officer, Smithsonian Institution
References

- LIDO will have a mailing list / forum very soon

- Examples:
  - http://www.bam-portal.de
  - EU-funded projects using LIDO as delivery format to Europeana (www.europeana.eu):
    - ATHENA: www.athenaeurope.org
    - MIMO: http://www.mimo-project.eu
    - Judaica Europeana: http://www.judaica-europeana.eu
  - German National Library
  - Finnish National Library
  - ycba.yale.edu

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