

Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN)

Discipline Authority List proposed for the Humanities (2006) Derived from the Art & Architecture Thesaurus

This paper has been prepared from a research report produced in 1994 by Kerridwen Harvey for CHIN¹. The present document relates exclusively to the "Discipline" field and proposes a list of terms that should be used for that field in Artefacts Canada.

Discipline is a field particularly useful in the context of organizing large-scale databases like Artefacts Canada. Discipline is defined as a "branch of learning" which relates to the specialization of the museum or museum collections. This definition allows a museum to choose one or multiple entries for this field. A museum may designate all of its records with one discipline, or it may divide its collections and assign different areas of its collections different disciplines.

A Proposed Authority List for Discipline, derived from the Art & Architecture Thesaurus

The following list of 43 terms is proposed as an authority for the Discipline field in the Humanities. The 43 terms (called "descriptors" here) are a subset of the over 300 terms in the Discipline hierarchy in the second edition of the *Art & Architecture Thesaurus*² (AAT). Notes on broader terms, narrower terms, related terms, and scope notes are then provided to give the user some context in which to understand the meaning of the term, showing where a term falls in relation to others. Terms are thus at various "levels", indicated by indentation. A museum might wish to use a very broad term in the Discipline field (e.g., history) or a more narrow term (e.g., industrial history), or it may wish to use both terms (ie., history; industrial history).

You will note that some of the terms in the proposed authority list do not relate to humanities disciplines but rather to disciplines in the physical sciences. The terms were selected based on their perceived usefulness for contributors to Artefacts Canada: Humanities, some of which have collections that are not strictly "humanities collections" but are not natural science collections either.

The AAT is not available in French. CHIN has translated the terms in this list and would appreciate your feedback (1-800-520-2446).

1. Harvey, Kerridwen (1994) National Databases Cleanup Project, Final Report, May, 1994. CHIN, 24 p.

2. *Art & Architecture Thesaurus*, 2nd ed., published on behalf of The Getty Art History Information Program by Oxford University Press, New York and Oxford, 1994. Available online at www.getty.edu

Proposed Discipline Authority List (extracted from the AAT)

Alphabetical order of terms	Hierarchical order of terms
aeronautics	aeronautics
agriculture	aviation
anthropology	agriculture
archaeology	horticulture
architectural history	anthropology
art	ethnology
astronomy	material culture
aviation	physical anthropology
chemistry	paleoanthropology
church history	social anthropology
classical archaeology	archaeology
decorative arts	classical archaeology
earth sciences	ethnoarchaeology
ethnoarchaeology	industrial archaeology
ethnology	underwater archaeology
film (performing arts)	architectural history
fine arts	art
forestry	decorative arts
heraldry	fine arts
history	church history
history of religion	film (performing arts)
horticulture	forestry
industrial archaeology	history
industrial history	industrial history
local history	local history
maritime history	maritime history
material culture	military history
medicine	oral history
military history	social history
musicology	urban history
naval architecture	heraldry
numismatics	numismatics
oral history	philately
paleoanthropology	history of religion
philately	medicine
physical anthropology	musicology
physical sciences	naval architecture
physics	physical sciences
social anthropology	astronomy
social history	chemistry
underwater archaeology	earth sciences
urban history	physics
video	video

Proposed Discipline Authority List (extracted from the AAT)

Descriptor	aeronautics
Narrower Term(s)	aviation
Scope Note	Science and practice of flight.
Descriptor	agriculture
Narrower Term(s)	horticulture
Scope Note	Science or art of cultivating the soil, harvesting crops, and raising livestock.
Descriptor	anthropology
Narrower Term(s)	ethnology material culture physical anthropology social anthropology
Scope Note	The scientific study of human history in its biological, linguistic, and social aspects.
Descriptor	archaeology
Narrower Term(s)	classical archaeology ethnoarchaeology industrial archaeology underwater archaeology
Scope Note	Study of human history through the remnants of material culture, environment, and animal remains.
Descriptor	architectural history
Use For	architecture, history of history of architecture history, architectural
Scope Note	Study of the development over time of the human built environment.
Descriptor	art
Narrower Term(s)	decorative arts fine arts
Scope Note	Use with reference to the study or practice of the fine arts or the fine and decorative arts together.
Descriptor	astronomy
Broader Term	physical sciences
Scope Note	The science that deals with the material universe beyond the earth's atmosphere.
Descriptor	aviation
Broader Term	aeronautics
Scope Note	Branch of aeronautics which includes the design, production, and operation of aircraft, particularly heavier-than-air aircraft.
Descriptor	chemistry
Broader Term	physical sciences

Scope Note	Branch of physical science that deals with the composition and properties of the elementary substances of which all bodies are composed, the laws that regulate their combination, and the various phenomena that accompany their exposure to diverse physical conditions.
Descriptor	church history
Use For	history, church
Scope Note	Study of the history of the Christian Church and its sects and branches.
Descriptor	classical archaeology
Broader Term	archaeology
Use For	archaeology, classical
Scope Note	Field of archaeology that deals with the culture and artifacts of the ancient Greek and Roman civilizations.
Descriptor	decorative arts
Broader Term	art
Use For	applied arts arts, applied arts, decorative arts, minor minor arts
Scope Note	Traditional Western designation for those arts involving the creation of works that serve utilitarian as well as aesthetic purposes, or involving the decoration and embellishment of utilitarian objects.
Descriptor	earth sciences
Broader Term	physical sciences
Use For	sciences, earth
Scope Note	The sciences concerned with the nature, origin, evolution, and behavior of the solid earth, its waters, and the air that envelops it, including the geologic, hydrologic, and atmospheric sciences.
Descriptor	ethnoarchaeology
Broader Term	archaeology
Scope Note	Study of contemporary societies from a materialistic perspective, focusing on variability rather than typical and categorical behaviour, with the purpose of interpreting the past of those societies.
Descriptor	ethnology
Broader Term	anthropology
Scope Note	Use for the scientific, historic, or comparative study of the origins, characteristics, and functions of human cultures and societies.
Descriptor	film (performing arts)
Use For	cinema motion pictures (performing arts)
Scope Note	Use for the study and practice of filmmaking and motion pictures as an art and form of expression.
Descriptor	fine arts

Broader Term	art
Use For	arts, fine
Scope Note	Traditional Western designation for those arts involving the creation of works as aesthetic or intellectual expressions intended primarily for visual contemplation or enjoyment.
Descriptor	forestry
Scope Note	The science, management, and cultivation of forests for timber production and other uses.
Descriptor	heraldry
Scope Note	Field of knowledge dealing with coats of arms, including their depiction and use, determination of who is entitled to display them, the genealogy of families having coats of arms, and the maintenance and interpretation of heraldic records.
Descriptor	history
Narrower Term(s)	industrial history local history maritime history military history oral history social history urban history
Scope Note	Discipline that studies the chronological record of events, such as affecting a nation, community, individual, object, or place, based on a critical examination of source materials and usually presenting an explanation of their causes.
Descriptor	history of religion
Use For	religion, history of
Scope Note	Use for the comparative historical study of the nature and structure of the world's religions and their diverse manifestations over time in different societies and cultures.
Descriptor	horticulture
Broader Term	agriculture
Scope Note	Intensive and extensive cultivation of garden plants including fruits, vegetables, flower crops, and landscape and nursery crops.
Descriptor	industrial archaeology
Broader Term	archaeology
Use For	archaeology, industrial
Scope Note	Field of archaeology dealing with the sites, structures, and artifacts of the industries and processes of industrialization of former times.
Descriptor	industrial history
Broader Term	history
Use For	history, industrial
Descriptor	local history

Broader Term	history
Use For	history, local
Scope Note	Field of history concerned with topics that are distinctly localized in subject matter and source materials, generally covering specific neighborhoods, communities, counties or other specific subdivisions of larger geopolitical bodies.
Descriptor	maritime history
Broader Term	history
Use For	history, maritime
Scope Note	Branch of history concerned with any and all aspects of seafaring in any context, such as commerce, exploration, warfare, and culture.
Descriptor	material culture
Broader Term	anthropology
Use For	culture, material
Scope Note	Study of the physical objects made by a people for satisfaction of their needs, especially those articles required for sustenance and perpetuation of life.
Descriptor	medicine
Scope Note	Use generally for the study of human diseases and injuries, including their causes, treatment, and prevention, and with the diagnosis and management of patients.
Descriptor	military history
Broader Term	history
Use For	history, military
Scope Note	Branch of history covering organized warfare and military institutions in general, as well as specific wars, personalities, engagements, units, weaponry, uniforms and other military artifacts.
Descriptor	musicology
Scope Note	Scientific and orderly investigation and study of music and related areas, including history, theory, music education, acoustics, psychology, and social and cultural aspects.
Descriptor	naval architecture
Use For	architecture, marine architecture, naval marine architecture
Scope Note	Art or science of designing and building ships and other waterborne craft.
Descriptor	numismatics
Scope Note	Study of coins, tokens, medals, paper money, and objects closely resembling them in form or purpose.
Descriptor	oral history
Broader Term	history
Use For	history, oral
Scope Note	History in which historical information is recorded, or histories are

presented, in the form of audible speech or song.

Descriptor **paleoanthropology**
Broader Term physical anthropology
Scope Note Branch of anthropology dealing with fossil remains of the human species and its predecessors.

Descriptor **philately**
Scope Note Study of postage stamps, revenue stamps, stamped envelopes, postmarks, post cards, covers, and similar materials relating to postal or fiscal history; also the collection of such materials.

Descriptor **physical anthropology**
Broader Term anthropology
Narrower Term(s) paleoanthropology
Use For anthropology, physical somatology
Scope Note Comparative study of human physical evolution, variation, and classification, especially through measurement and observation of living people as well as human remains.

Descriptor **physical sciences**
Narrower Term(s) astronomy
chemistry
earth sciences
physics
Use For sciences, physical
Scope Note Division of the natural sciences that systematically studies inanimate matter and energy apart from the vitality of living beings.

Descriptor **physics**
Broader Term physical sciences
Scope Note Science that studies the laws determining the structure of the observable universe and the interaction between its fundamental constituents, such as matter and energy, with the broad goal of explaining natural phenomena.

Descriptor **social anthropology**
Broader Term anthropology
Use For anthropology, cultural anthropology, social anthropology
Scope Note Branch of anthropology focusing on the origins, history, and development of human societies and social structure, including in its scope aspects of archaeology, ethnology, and ethnography.

Descriptor **social history**
Broader Term history
Use For history, social
Scope Note History that concentrates on the sociocultural aspects of the life, customs, trends, and institutions of a people.

Descriptor	underwater archaeology
Broader Term	archaeology
Use For	archaeology, marine archaeology, submarine archaeology, underwater marine archaeology submarine archaeology
Scope Note	Branch of archaeology that deals with the recovery of ancient objects found beneath the sea, as shipwrecks or remains from submerged human settlements, and with the techniques of underwater exploration, excavation, and retrieval.
Descriptor	urban history
Broader Term	history
Use For	cities, history of history of cities history, urban
Scope Note	The history of cities and towns, the urbanization of human life, and all aspects of urban life over time.
Descriptor	video
Scope Note	Use for the study and practice of creating works of video art.