The COAR Controlled Vocabularies Interest Group is developing a set of controlled vocabularies for the bibliographic metadata elements to offer a uniform standard terminology for describing content. COAR Vocabularies are multilingual and governed by an international editorial board. Currently available vocabularies are:

- **Resource Type Vocabulary** version 1.1
- **Access Rights** draft v. 1

**What is a controlled vocabulary?**

A controlled vocabulary is an organized arrangement of words and phrases used to index content and/or to retrieve content through browsing or searching. It typically includes preferred and variant terms and has a defined scope or describes a specific domain.

**Why is it important?**

The use of controlled vocabularies for bibliographic metadata ensures that everyone is using the same word to mean the same thing. It enhances the interoperability across repositories and with other related systems such as harvesters, CRIS systems, data repositories and publishers. Vocabularies capture the richness of variant terms, and promote consistency in preferred terms and the assignment of the same term to similar content.

**Why use vocabularies?**

It helps with search and discovery of content. Vocabularies are beneficial during the indexing process so that data providers and repositories apply the same term to refer to the same concept (e.g., person, place or thing) in a consistent way. They can consolidate many different synonyms into one controlled term, increasing the number of useful hits returned by the search.

**How to use COAR vocabularies?**

The COAR Controlled Vocabularies can be integrated into repository metadata. Once an enabled vocabulary in the system, users can choose an assigned term for a concept. The system automatically applies the same term(s) to refer to the same concept, e.g., person, place or thing in a consistent way. They can consolidate many different synonyms into one controlled term, increasing the number of useful hits returned by the search.

**Available COAR Vocabularies**

- **Resource Types**
  - Identifies the genre of a research resource.
  - Currently available in 13 languages, containing more than 50 concepts and using SKOS format.
  - Concepts are organized from a generic down to a granular level.

- **Access Rights**
  - Declares the degree of 'openness' of a resource.
  - Based on info:eu-repo.
  - Four concepts with URIs and labels available in 8 languages.

**Upcoming Vocabularies**

- **Version Types**
  - Expresses a specific version of a resource.
  - Planned for release at the end of 2017.

- **Date Types**
  - Tags an event in the life cycle of a resource.
  - Under discussion in the Editorial Board and the Interest Group.