

Controlled Vocabularies

Repository Interoperability

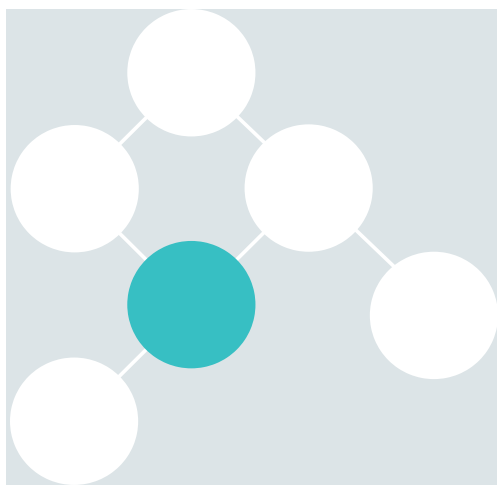


The COAR Controlled Vocabularies Interest Group is developing a set of controlled vocabularies for the bibliographic metadata elements to offer a uniform standard terminology for describing content.

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

FAO of the United Nations provides technical support for the Controlled Vocabularies



01 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.

02 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 terms to similar content.



03 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.

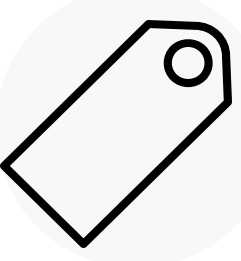
04 How to use COAR vocabularies?

The COAR Controlled Vocabularies can be integrated into repository systems. From an enabled vocabulary in the system, users can choose an appropriate concept. It is not necessary to include broader concepts as they are already logically related in the vocabulary. When referring to a concept from the controlled vocabulary the concept-URI must be included and optionally one or more labels associated with the concept.



Available COAR Vocabularies

Resource Types




Resource type vocabulary identifies the genre of a research resource.

It is currently available in 13 languages, contains more than 50 concepts and uses SKOS format.

The concepts of the vocabulary are organized from a generic down to a granular level.

Access Rights



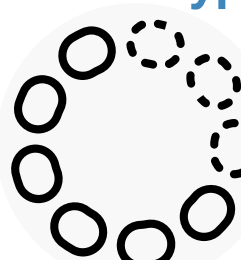
Access rights vocabulary declares the degree of 'openness' of a resource.

It is based on info:eu-repo. The vocabulary indicates the access status of a resource.

Four concepts with URIs and labels are available in 8 languages.

Upcoming Vocabularies

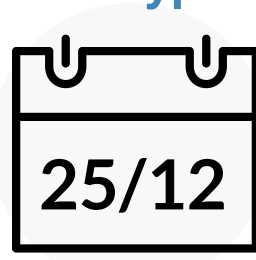
Version Types



Version type vocabulary expresses a specific version of a resource.

It is a work in progress and it is planned to be released at the end 2017.

Date Types



Date type vocabulary tags an event in the life cycle of a resource.

It is under discussion in the Editorial Board and the Interest Group.