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.

**What is a controlled vocabulary?**

A controlled vocabulary is an ordered 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 similar terms to similar concepts.

**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 systems. By using an available vocabulary in the system, users can choose an appropriate term to describe an object or concept. These terms are already logically related in the vocabulary and as a result, a concept in the controlled vocabulary is not repeated elsewhere.

**Available COAR Vocabularies**

- **Resource Types**
  - The concept-URI must be included and optionally one or more labels associated with the concept.

- **Access Rights**
  - It is based on 8 languages.

**Upcoming Vocabularies**

- **Version Types**
  - Version type vocabulary expresses a specific version.
  - It is a work in progress and was published at the end of 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.

**COAR (Confederation of Open Access Repositories)**

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