**Title:** Controlled Vocabularies

**Subtitle:** Repository Interoperability

**Introduction:**

The COAR (Confederation of Open Access Repositories) Task Group is developing a set of controlled vocabularies for the metadata elements to offer a uniform standard and terminology for describing content.

**COAR Vocabularies are multilingual and developed by an international editorial board. Currently available vocabularies are:**

- Resource Type Vocabularies version 1.1
- Access Rights draft v. 1

**Why is it important?**

The use of controlled vocabularies for metadata enables the retrieval of metadata in a machine-readable format, thus improving the interoperability across repositories and other information systems. COAR Vocabularies capture the richness of relevant terms and promote consistency in preferred forms and the assignment of the same terms is similar content.

**Why use vocabularies?**

It helps with search and discovery of content. Vocabularies are beneficial during the metadata creation process where vocabularies are applied and during the discovery and searching process. Vocabularies are also used in the metadata creation process.

**How to use COAR vocabularies?**

The COAR Controlled Vocabularies can be integrated into repository systems. When an approved vocabulary is in use, users can choose an appropriate concept. It is expected that vocabularies are used by the community and that they are already broadly used 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 general purpose of research.
  - It is currently available in 11 languages, contains more than 50 categories, and uses SKOS format.
  - The concepts of the vocabulary are organized from general to specific.

**Access Rights**

- Access Rights Vocabulary identifies the degree of access to information.
  - It is based on the concept of access. The vocabulary indicates the access status of a resource.
  - Four levels of access are available in 8 languages.

**Upcoming Vocabularies**

**Version Types**

- Version Type Vocabulary expresses specific versions of a resource.
  - It is a work in progress and is expected to be released in 2017.

**Date Types**

- Date Type Vocabulary expresses an event in the life cycle of a resource.
  - It is under discussion in the Editorial Board and the Internet Group.