



اللوفا أبو ظبي  
LOUVRE ABU DHABI

# Louvre Abu Dhabi Terminology Management Initiative

## Speaking with one Voice

**Publications, Louvre Abu Dhabi**

V.13 – October 2024

### **References:**

Terminology Starter Guide, TerminOrgs  
Procedural Manual on Terminology, SEA  
Recommendations for Terminology Work, COTSOES  
Terminology standardization, terminology  
management and best practices, Kara Warburton





# SAADIYAT CULTURAL DISTRICT

Louvre Abu Dhabi

Guggenheim Abu Dhabi

Zayed National Museum

Abrahamic Family House

Natural History Museum Abu Dhabi

teamLab Phenomena Abu Dhabi



# UNIVERSAL RELIGIONS GALLERY



# Louvre Abu Dhabi Terminology Initiative - Timeline

## Project Launch - 2018

- Started as a trilingual glossary of art terms in line with Louvre Abu Dhabi (LAD) 3-language mandate (~3,000 entries)

## Migration to Terminology Database - 2021

- Need for system to manage terminology and metadata in three languages
- Terminology Management System (TMS) was acquired (QuickTerm Workflow)
- Glossary was migrated from Excel to database hosted on LAD local servers

## Current Status and Target - 2024

- Database has grown to over 14,000 entries in three languages
- Goal is to expand the database by around 10% every year

# Terminology Database - Sources



Intangible  
Cultural  
Heritage

- Glossaries developed by LAD for temporary exhibitions
- Specialized dictionaries and encyclopaedias focused on art, archaeology and architecture



ICOMOS  
international council on monuments and sites



- Getty's Art & Architecture Thesaurus (AAT)
- Thésaurus et vocabulaires contrôlés de l'Institut national d'histoire de l'art (INHA)



- Database published by Museum With No Frontiers (MWNF)



ICCROM

- Glossaries of world heritage terms published by UNESCO, ICH and WHC
- Controlled vocabulary lists published by ICOM, ICCROM and ICOMOS

# Terminology Working Groups - Roles

## Terminology Management Team

- Review of target language equivalents
- Requests for changes to terms in the termbase

## Internal Subject Matter Experts

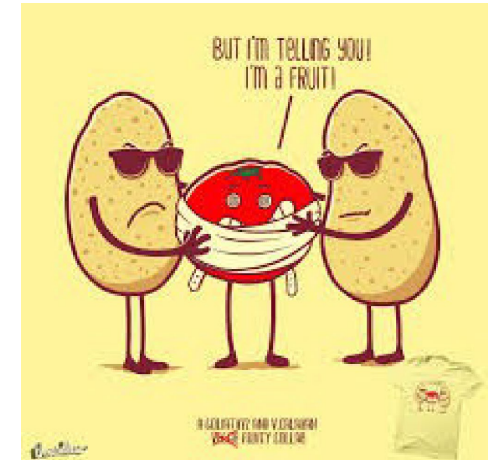
- Subject matter input on problematic terminology
- Arbitration in case of multiple equivalents

## External Subject Matter Experts

- Further input on new suggested terms
- Arbitration in case of lack of agreement

# Methodology – Descriptive Vs Prescriptive Approaches

- **Descriptive** – describes terms, their meaning, their usage, without making recommendation;
- **Prescriptive** – makes recommendations, chooses “preferred” terms. Requires a review/approval process;
- **Hybrid Approach**
  - Most entries are prescriptive and contain recommendations;  
e.g. Art Deco; universal; folklore
  - Some entries are “standardized” i.e. terms approved or preferred over other terms;  
e.g. portrait; artwork; workshop
  - Other entries are purely descriptive;  
e.g. lithography; sanctuary; polychrome





# Terminology Management - Benefits

By managing terminology, we benefit from:

*"Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom."*

~Aristotle



**Stronger corporate & brand identity**

**Better visitor experience & satisfaction**

**Greater reuse & retrieval of terminology**

**Strategic advantage in globalized multilingual markets**

**Preserved knowledge/legacy for future reference**

**Improved quality of publications & gallery content**

**Reduced editorial costs & time to market**

# Terminology Management – The way forward

## Collaboration

- AI Sorbonne Center (SCAI) collaboration on AI-powered translation and terminology research
- Research internships focused on corpus-based art translation and terminology in three languages
- Contribute Arabic terminology to the Getty's AAT

## Website

- Termbase to be published to LAD Website once fully established and consolidated with trilingual metadata

**Thank You!**

