



**The UK Archival Thesaurus:  
Setting the standard for  
subject indexing**

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# Project Overview

The project was initiated to develop a thesaurus that would:

- provide a standardized, controlled vocabulary for subject indexing in the UK archive sector.
- ensure that subject terms incorporated into the National Archives Network were consistent and meet the needs of archive users

## Setting the standard for subject indexing!

The thesaurus aims to provide archives and archive users with:

- terminology specifically relevant to the archival sector
- a subject indexing standard, to facilitate effective subject searches across the whole network
- a standard which actively promotes social inclusion

# Project Partners



# Project Contributors (1)



# Project Contributors (2)

- Modern Records Centre
- Warwickshire County Record Office
- Cecilia – Britten/Pears archive
- Dorset Record Office
- Gloucestershire County Record Office
- Essex County Record Office
- GCL and LGCL

# Progress to date

- 6708 UNESCO terms
- 8413 candidate terms have been submitted and added to the database
- 6684 terms “Approved”
- 505 terms “Rejected” – according to criteria in the editing methodology
- 1449 terms “Pending” – to be approved by the advisory panel
- 6483 terms remaining to be edited.

# Moving on

- Approx 500 terms are expected to be added when the PROCAT data relating to Acts of Parliament and events is received
- In total c.16000 terms - representing a 200% expansion of UNESCO.
- Further term submission via the website and county record offices

# How can you help?

To make the thesaurus relevant to archives we need to know which terms are being used.

These could be from:

- LCSH (Library of Congress Subject Headings)
- In-house subject indexes
- Other thesauri (eg. National Monuments Record thesauri, Getty Art and Architecture Thesaurus)

# [www.ukat.org.uk](http://www.ukat.org.uk)

Website now available providing

- Online searchable thesaurus
- Downloads – electronic and paper
- Guidelines for contributors
- User-friendly and *user-centred* interface

# UKAT

UK Archival Thesaurus

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## Thesaurus

 

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### Browse

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**Welcome ...** The UK Archival Thesaurus (UKAT) project is a one-year project to create a subject thesaurus for the UK archive sector. We aim to create a controlled vocabulary which archives can use when indexing their collections and catalogues.

The key goals of UKAT are: to improve access to archives by subject; to ensure that users of archives can carry out effective subject searches of the National Archives Network; and to promote the involvement in archives by groups which are currently under-represented among archive users, by providing subject terms which reflect their histories and experiences.

UKAT is being built from subject terms contributed by individual archives, archive projects and users of archives. This website allows you to [search UKAT](#), browse UKAT [by A-Z](#) and [by hierarchy](#), [register as a contributor](#) and [submit terms](#). [Further information](#) about the project is also provided. We look forward to your contribution.

This is an interim website providing details of the project but without access to the Thesaurus. It is anticipated that the Thesaurus will be available in November 2003.



## Getting Involved...

### Contributor Registration

[Register online](#) to become a contributor to UKAT

### Conditions of Registration

[View the conditions](#)

### Guidelines for Contributors

[How to contribute terms](#)

### Contributor Submissions

Once registered, you can [Login](#) here to submit terms and manage your account

### Feedback

[Tell us what you think about UKAT](#)



# Getting involved

UKAT currently has two discussion fora

- advisory panel – custodial level
- user group – individual archivists and archive users

If your interested in joining either of the above, or just want to know more about the project you can email contact the project on.....

[support@ukat.org.uk](mailto:support@ukat.org.uk)