

# UK Archival Thesaurus

What is it, how you can help

Peter Garrod  
University of London Computer Centre  
([p.garrod@ulcc.ac.uk](mailto:p.garrod@ulcc.ac.uk))

# Overview

- Basics - aims and deliverables
- Background to the project
- Work to date
- How you can help
- Future developments

# UKAT basics

- Based at ULCC, funded by HLF
- June 2003 - July 2004
- Aims: to create a subject thesaurus for the archive sector, which will
  - Promote more consistent subject indexing
  - Promote more effective subject searching
  - Support the discovery of resources relating to under-represented groups

# UKAT basics

## Project deliverables:

- Editing of terms submitted by archives, projects and users
- Website
- Import files for Calm, Adlib
- Outreach: workshops, leaflets, talks

## Background - why UKAT?

- Goal of National Archives Network
- Portal: subject searching *across* network requires a common terminology
- Problems with existing subject schemes (e.g. LCSH, UNESCO) - no 'joined up' terminology for archives
- Need to promote use of archives by wider range of groups - subject indexes can help

# Work to date - editing

- Appointment of editor
- Methodology based on BS 5723
- Approach:
  - *UNESCO Thesaurus* used as basis
  - Integrate submitted terms and relationships
  - Add polyhierarchies

# Work to date - editing

As at 16 April 2004:

- 6700 terms inherited from UNESCO
- 11,300+ terms contributed
- 6900+ edited ('approved', 'pending' or 'rejected')
- 4400+ remaining ('candidate')

# Work to date - editing

## Sources of terms - projects:

- A2A (102)
- AIM25 (2013)
- Archives Hub (2719)
- Archives Network Wales (110)
- CASBAH (61)
- GASHE (91)
- Mundus (105)
- West Sussex Picture the Past (569)

# Work to date - editing

## National institutions:

- BBC (136)
- UK National Archives (1582)
- NDAD (320)

## Local/regional archives:

- Cumbria (253), Essex (1846),  
Gloucestershire (119), Warwickshire (79),  
South East Film and Video Archive (16)

# Work to date - editing

## Others contributors:

- Britten-Pears Library (Cecilia) (143)
- Halle Orchestra (46)
- Corporation of London Guildhall Library (276)
- Modern Records Centre, University of Warwick (191)
- Salidaa (76)
- Also investigating HEREIN, Government Category List

# Work to date - website

- [www.ukat.org.uk](http://www.ukat.org.uk)
- Available since December 2003
- Information about the project
- Access to the thesaurus
- Contributor registration
- Term submission forms
- Near future: download files for Calm, Adlib, non-proprietary

# Work to date - website

## On-line thesaurus:

- Searching
- A-Z browsing
- Browse by hierarchy
- Browse lists of Recent additions, Candidate terms, Rejected terms (soon to be improved)

# Work to date - website

- Contributor registration form
- Secure area for term submission and account management
- Help files, News, Contacts page, details of contributors etc

# Work to date - website

- Evaluation questionnaire in March-April 2004
- Second phase of software development (April-May) to focus on:
  - Calm and Adlib import files
  - Improving interfaces for Candidate terms, Recent additions, Rejected terms and A-Z
  - Improving term submission facilities

# Work to date - outreach

- Workshop in December 2003
- Second workshop in June 2004
- Talks to Calm Users Group, SoA Conference, 8 SoA regions/groups
- Leaflets promoting project to archivists and users

# How you can help

Or ... where are the Scots?

- Scottish HE archives via GASHE (91 terms) and Archives Hub
- Otherwise:
  - National Library of Scotland has submitted 1 term: “Shinty”
  - No local archives, national archives, other projects

# How you can help

- Contribute terms via the website, email, post ([support@ukat.org.uk](mailto:support@ukat.org.uk))
- Any terms that relate to UKAT's social inclusion objectives would be helpful
- Join the Advisory Panel
- Tell colleagues and users
- Tell us what you think

# Future developments

- Thesauri do not stand still
- Website and database will continue to be hosted by ULCC
- Linking Arms (2006?)
- UKAT 'bridging' project
- Editorial committee, with rotating editorship