

Delivering museum information to portals made easy: The Harvesting-Format “museumdat”

There is a need to provide information on museum objects to many portals: thematic, regional, cross-sectoral,

Thematic	Regional	Cross-sectoral
		

This is presently difficult since most museums are holding their data in their own proprietary museum data base formats. But these formats are all different from each other – which means that in each case a specific interface has to be programmed to manage the data delivery. This is time- and money-consuming and is a barrier to providing the data.

To overcome this barrier, “**museumdat**” – a format generally usable for such data provision has been elaborated over the last two years within the Special Interest Group Documentation of the German Museums Association. It is a harvesting format optimised for retrieval and publication, meant to deliver automatically core data to museum portals. “museumdat” builds largely upon the data format “CDWA Lite” developed in the US by the Getty, the Visual Resources Association and others, with a specific focus on arts. “museumdat” now applies for all kinds of object classes, e.g. cultural, technology or natural history, and is compatible with the reference model of the international documentation committee CIDOC-CRM (ISO 21127).

museumdat: Harvesting Format for Providing Core Data from Museum Holdings	
Object Classification	Event
I.1. Object/Work Type	IV.1. Indexing Event
I.2. Classification	Event Type e.g. creation, use, discovery...
Identification	Indexing Actor
II.1. Title or Object Name	Indexing Date
II.2. Inscriptions and other Marks	Indexing Location
II.3. Custody/Repository Location	IV.2. Indexing Measurements
Description	IV.3. Indexing Material/Technique
III.1. Display Creator	IV.4. Style
III.2. Display Creation Date	IV.5. Culture
III.3. Display Creation Location	Relation
III.4. Display Measurements	V.1. Indexing Subject
III.5. Display Materials/Technique	V.2. Related Works
III.6. Display State/Edition	Administration
III.7. Display Event	VI.1. Rights for Work
III.8. Description/Descriptive Note	VI.2. Record
	VI.3. Resource

"museumdat" defines a set of 23 elements of which only three are mandatory – so a large variety of completeness of data is possible, the museums themselves decide which data they may provide for publication.



For more information visit: <http://www.museumdat.org>

Prof. Monika Hagedorn-Saupe, Institute for Museum Research, m.hagedorn@smb.spk-berlin.de
Regine Stein, German Documentation Center for Art History „Bildarchiv Foto Marburg“, r.stein@fotomarburg.de

February 2009