Getty Vocabularies

What's next for the platform?

David Newbury
Senior Director, Public Technologies, Getty
ITWG Meeting, October 25, 2024

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What's Next: the Getty Vocabularies platform

Did you know that the Getty Vocabularies and Google are about the same age?

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What's Next: the Getty Vocabularies platform

You can see the family resemblance.

Research

Research Home › Tools › Art & Architecture Thesaurus › Full Record Display

Art & Architecture Thesaurus® Online
Full Record Display

New Search | Previous Page | Help

Click the icon to view the hierarchy.

Semantic View (JSON, RDF, N3/Turtle, N-Triples)

ID: 300266027 **Record Type:** concept
Page Link: http://vocab.getty.edu/page/aat/300266027

search engines (computer networking concepts, information technology, ... Associated Concepts (hierarchy name))

Note: A software program that searches the contents of a database based on keywords entered by the user. More specifically, a program that returns a list of URLs from the World Wide Web based on keywords.

Terms:
search engines (**preferred**,C,U,English-P,D,U,N)
search engine (C,U,English,AD,U,N)
zoekmachines (C,U,Dutch-P,D,U,U)
Suchmaschinen (C,U,German,D,PN)
Suchmaschine (C,U,German-P,AD,SN)

Facet/Hierarchy Code: B,BM

Hierarchical Position:
Associated Concepts Facet
.... Associated Concepts (hierarchy name) (G)
..... <technology and related concepts> (G)
..... technology (general associated concept) (G)
..... information technology (G)
..... computer networking concepts (G)
..... search engines (G)

Additional Notes:
Dutch ..... Een computerprogramma dat de inhoud van een database doorzoekt op basis van trefwoorden die de gebruiker invoert. In meer specifieke zin is een zoekmachine een programma dat een lijst met URL's uit het World Wide Web selecteert op basis van trefwoorden.
German ..... Eine Suchmaschine ist eine Software, die auf Basis von Schlagwörtern, die durch den Nutzer eingegeben werden, die Inhalte einer Datenbank durchsuchen. Insbesondere ein Programm, das basierend auf Schlagwörtern eine Liste von URLs aus dem www bereitstellt.

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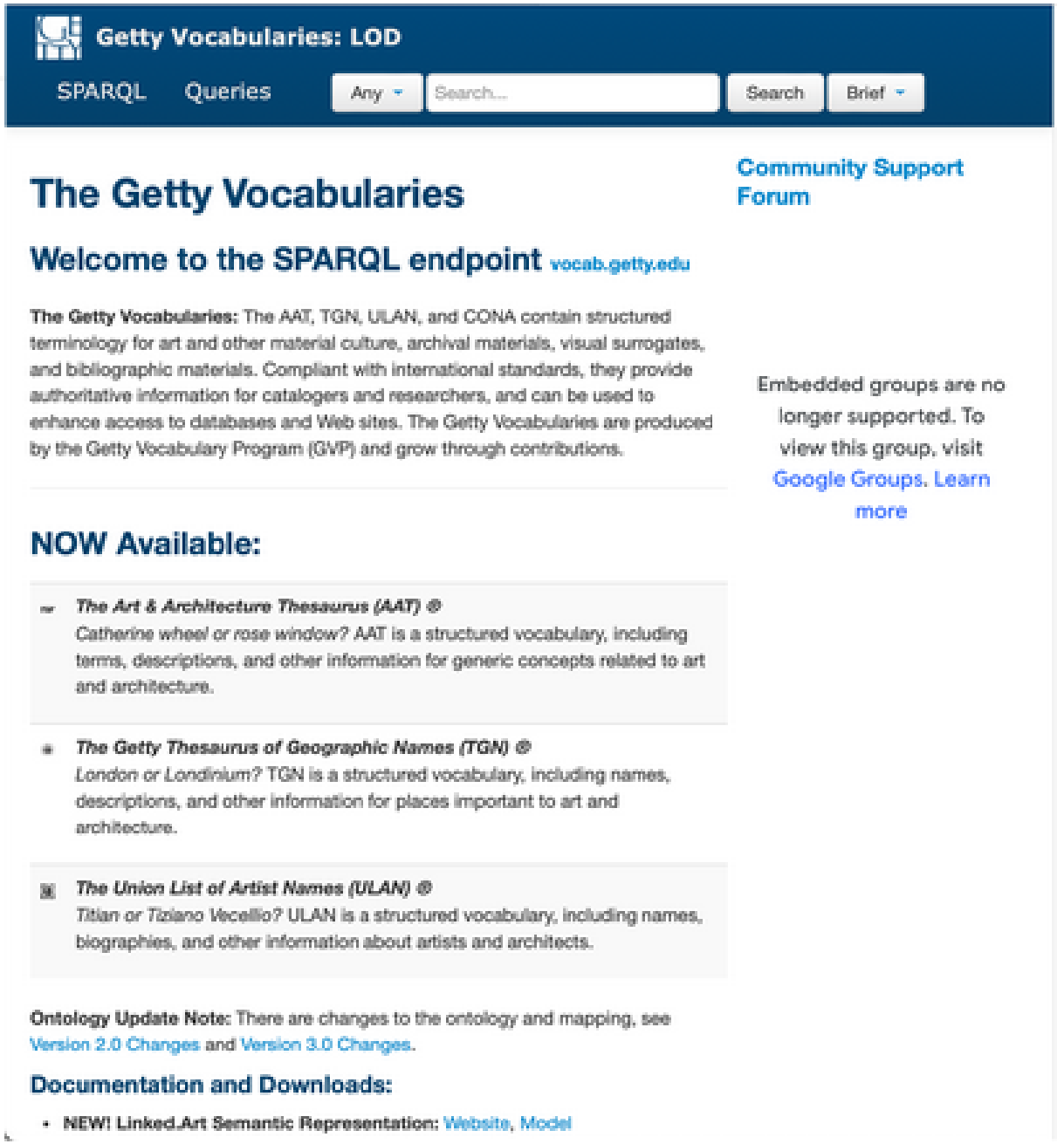
What's Next: the Getty Vocabularies platform

Over the past 25 years, the Vocabularies and the technologies have innovated and evolved.



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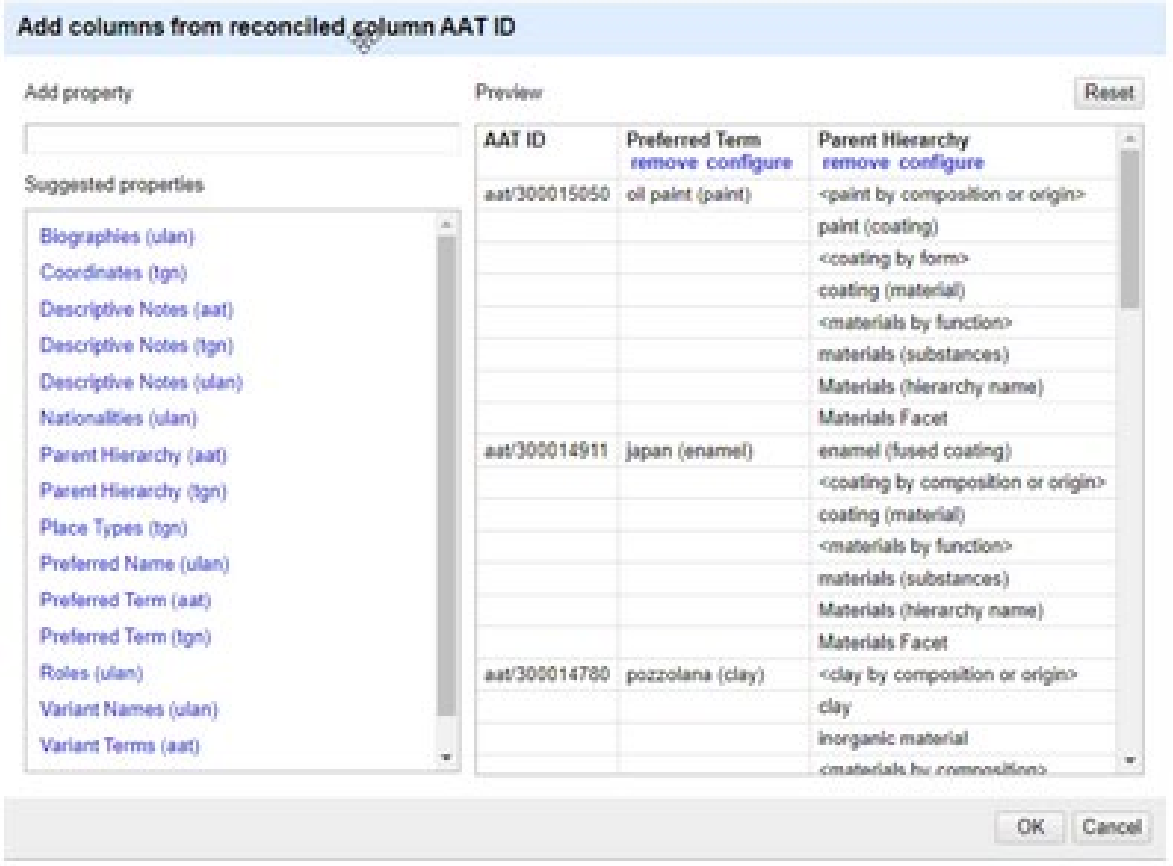
What's Next: **the Getty Vocabularies platform**

Tools like OpenRefine Reconciliation or the Alma integrations build on the Vocabularies, meeting users where they work.



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Getty Vocabularies:

Where are we today?

Getty

Where are we today?

Getty doesn't maintain the Vocabularies for our own use (though we now use it!)

Artist/Maker:	Vincent van Gogh (Dutch, 1853 - 1890)
Date:	1889
Medium:	Oil on canvas
Dimensions:	Unframed: 74.3 × 94.3 cm (29 1/4 × 37 1/8 in.) Framed [Outer Dim]: 94.9 × 114.9 × 11.4 cm (37 3/8 × 45 1/4 × 4 1/2 in.)
Place:	Saint-Rémy, France (Place Created)
Culture:	Dutch
Signature(s):	Lower right: "Vincent" (underlined)
Object Number:	90.PA.20
Mark(s):	Verso: upper center, white rectangular label with serrated edges, printed in black: "No. [printed 43663 / [printed in black:] PICTURE"; upper center, white rectangular label with serrated edges black: "No. [printed in red:] 64670 / [printed in black:] PICTURE"; center left, white rectangular serrated edges, printed in black: "Museum of Modern Art / LOAN / 55.1584 / Payson"; center left circular label with scalloped edges, printed: "EXP [?]"; center left, white circular label with dark decorative border, written: "677"; center right, white rectangular label, printed in black: "S. R. Guggenheim Museum / 475.64 Payson / VAN GOGH"; center right, white rectangular label, pri black: "Museum of / Modern Art / LOAN / [?].33"; lower left, white rectangular label, printed in J. PAUL GETTY MUSEUM / ID: 90.PA.20 / ARTIST: Vincent van Gogh / TITLE: Irises / DATE: 1889 / Oil on canvas / DIMS: Unframed: 74.3 x 94.3 (29 1/4 x 37 1/8 in.) / Framed: 94.9 x 114.9 x 11.4 cm 45 1/4 x 4 1/2 in.)"; lower center, white circular label, written in pencil: "8696"; lower center, whi rectangular label, printed in black: "168"
Department:	Paintings
Classification:	Painting

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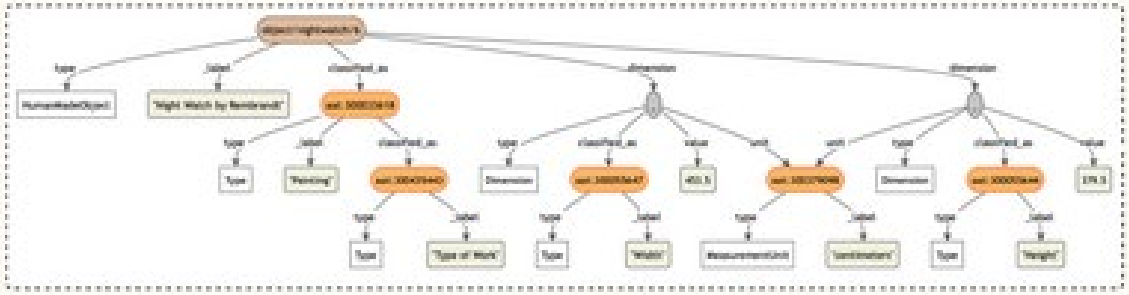
Where are we today?

We maintain them to create connections.

Getty


```
      ],
      "value": 379.5,
      "unit": {
        "id": "http://vocab.getty.edu/aat/300379098",
        "type": "MeasurementUnit",
        "_label": "centimeters"
      }
    }
  ]
}
```

Other Representations: JSON-LD (raw) | JSON-LD (playground) | Turtle (raw) | Turtle (styled)

Dimension Statement

If the dimension text is not recorded in a way that is condusive to generating the full set, then it can be given as a `LinguisticObject`, classifed as dimensions by reference to *aat:300435430*, and the text provided in `content`. This is an example of the Statements base pattern.

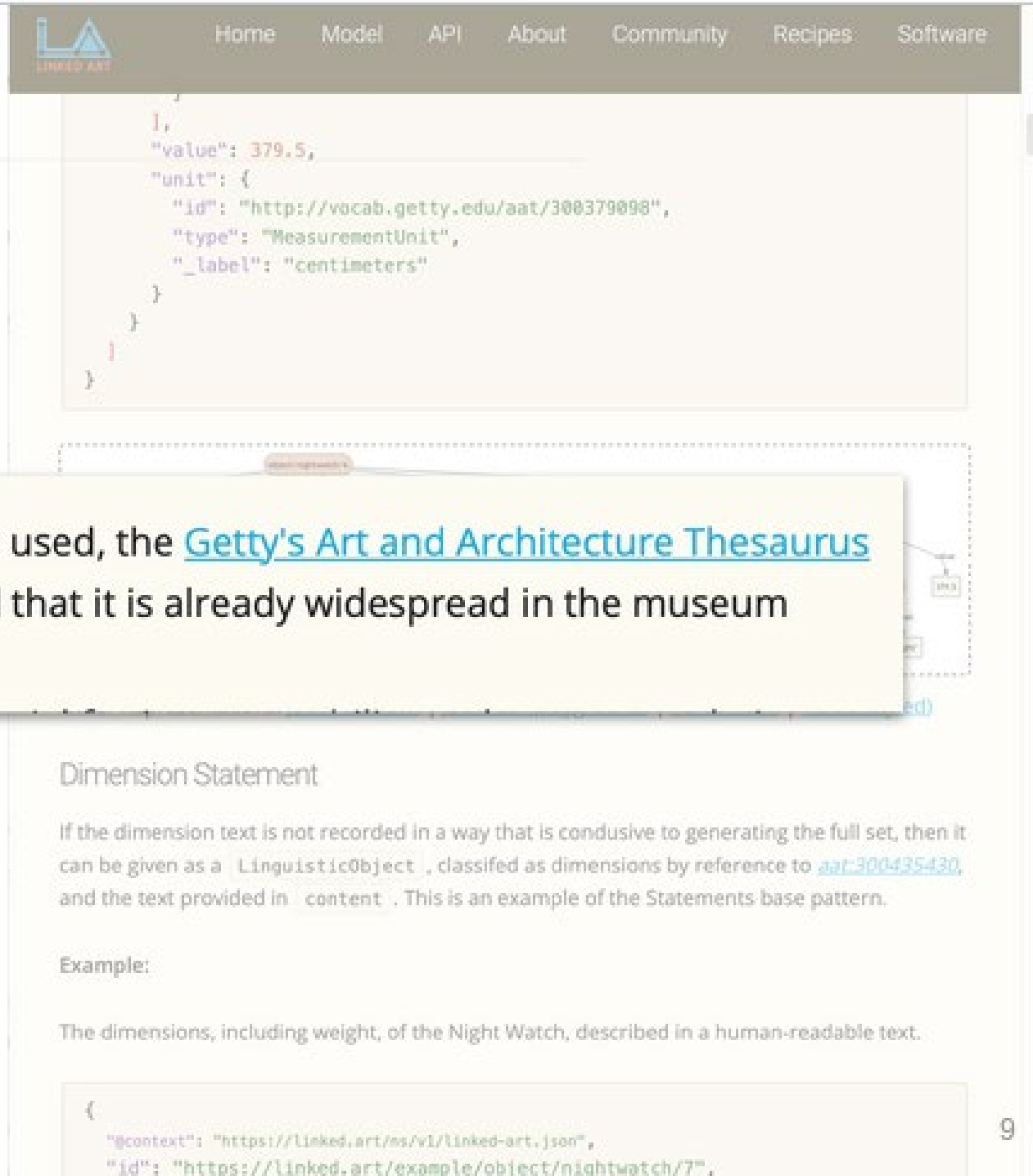
Example:

The dimensions, including weight, of the Night Watch, described in a human-readable text.


```
{
  "@context": "https://linked.art/ns/v1/linked-art.json",
  "id": "https://linked.art/example/object/nightwatch/7",
```

Where are we today?

While any external vocabulary of terms can be used, the Getty's Art and Architecture Thesaurus is used whenever possible for consistency and that it is already widespread in the museum domain.



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We maintain them to empower our community.

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We *could* just update the technology...

Research

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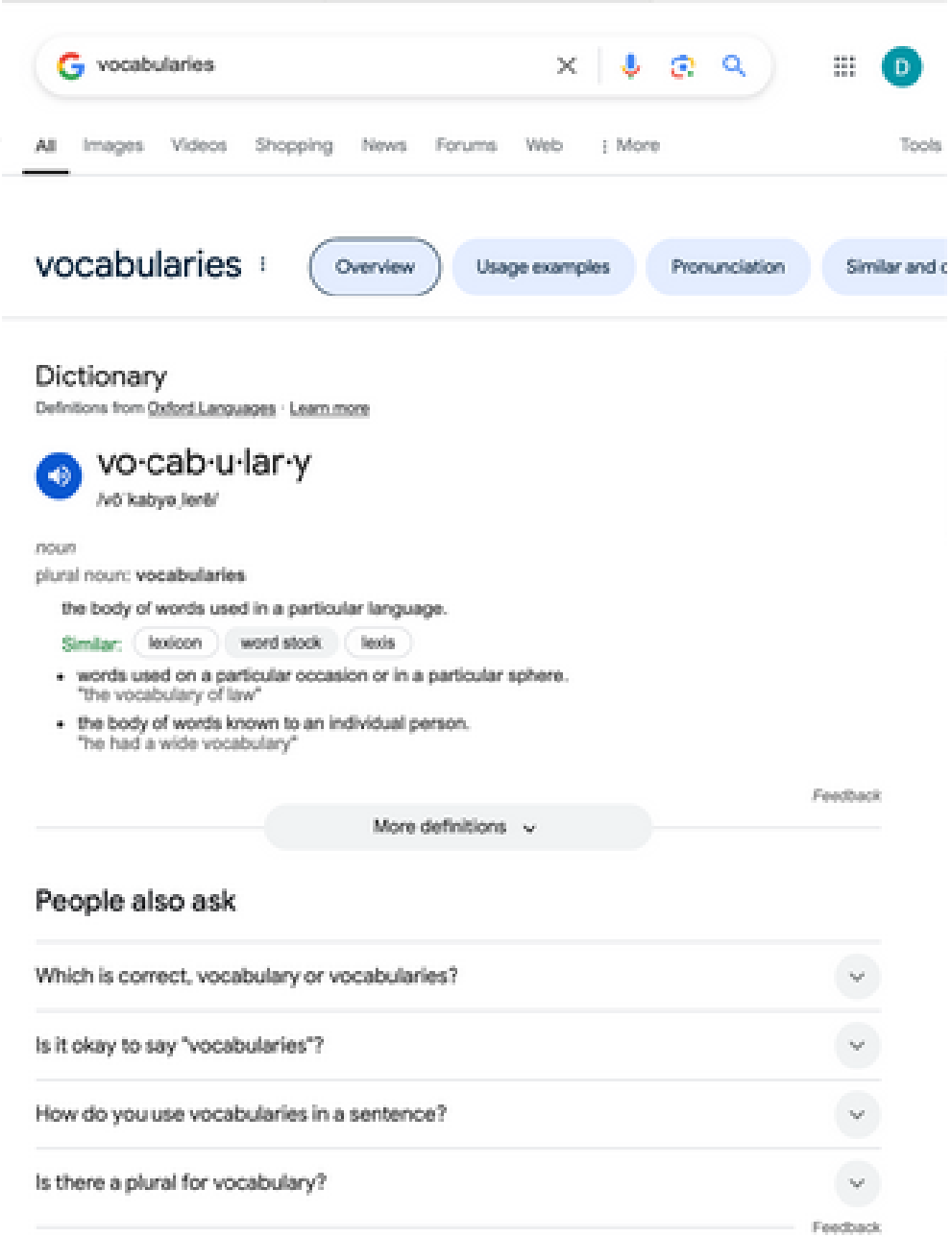
But more has changed in the past 25 years than just technology.

What's Next: **the Getty Vocabularies platform**

Technology has changed, yes. But even more so, technologies have changed **us**—

how we work, how we connect, how knowledge is used.



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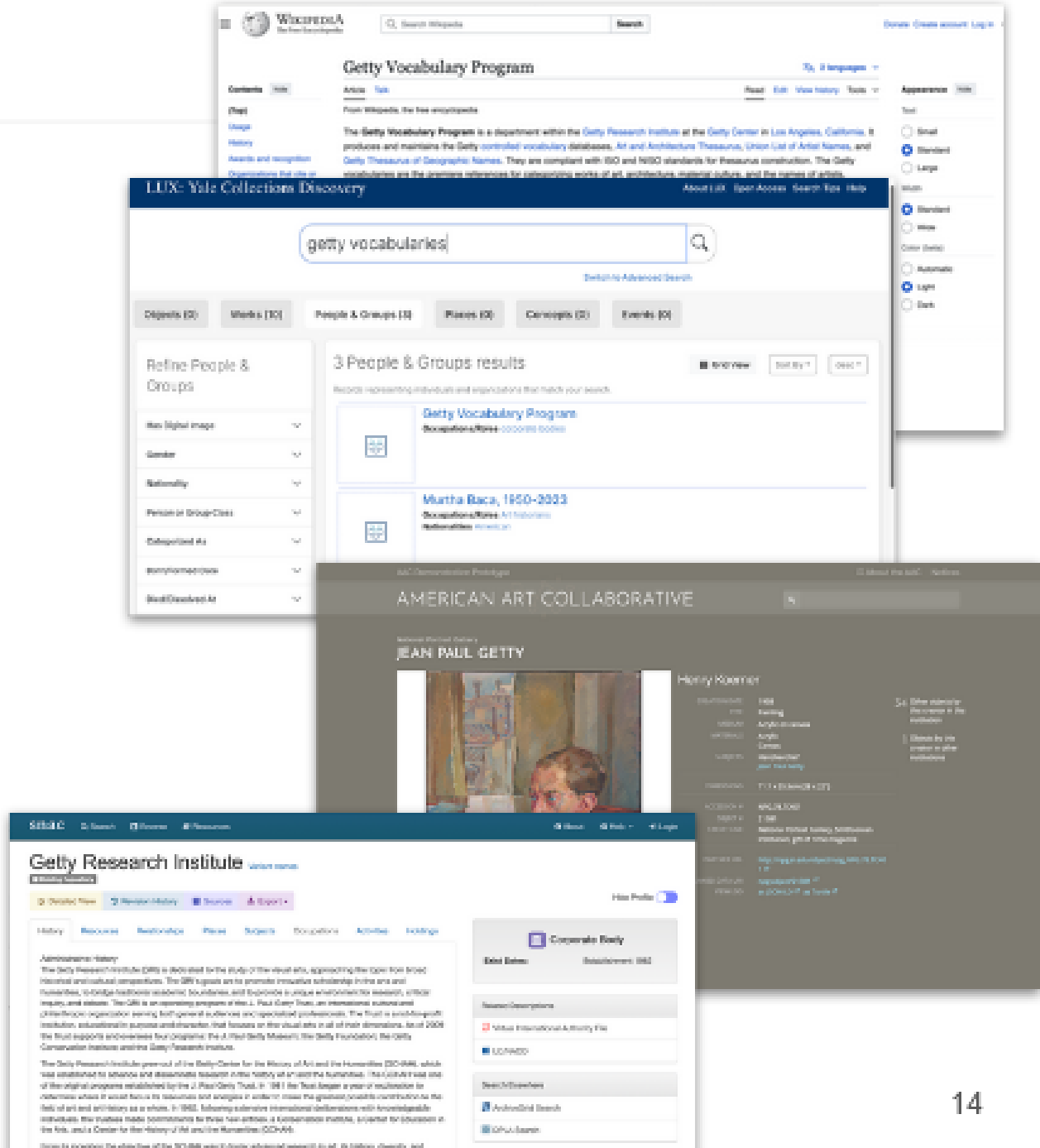
What's Next: **the Getty Vocabularies platform**

The vocabularies emerged from a vision of a international network of knowledge.

One spanning cultures and languages, where information could be cross-referenced across organizations connected through people, concepts, and places.



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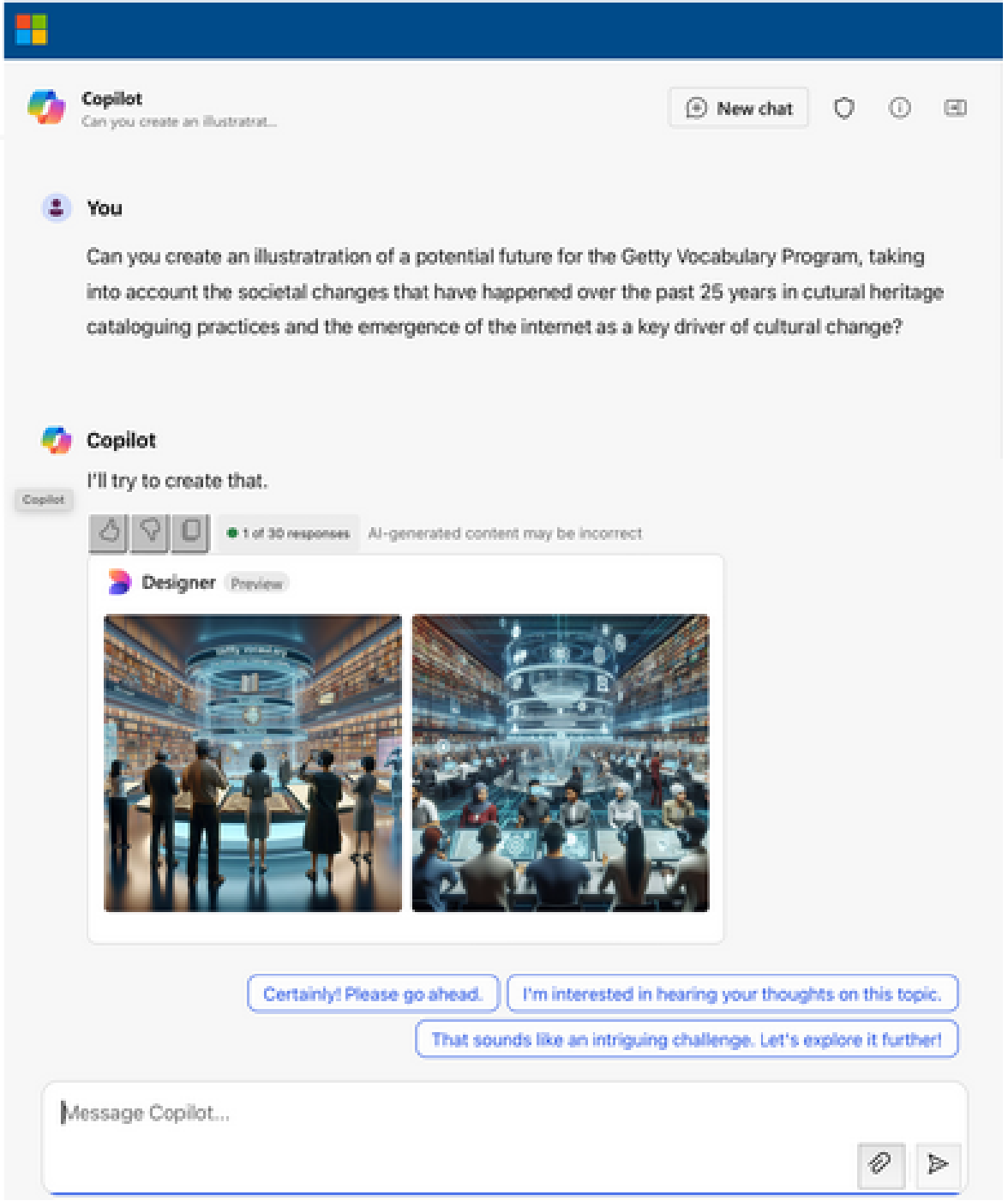
What's Next: the Getty Vocabularies platform

In a world of digitized collections, of AI-powered search engines, a world questioning authority, authenticity, and even the role of memory institutions—

How must not just our technology, but our vision for the Vocabularies change?



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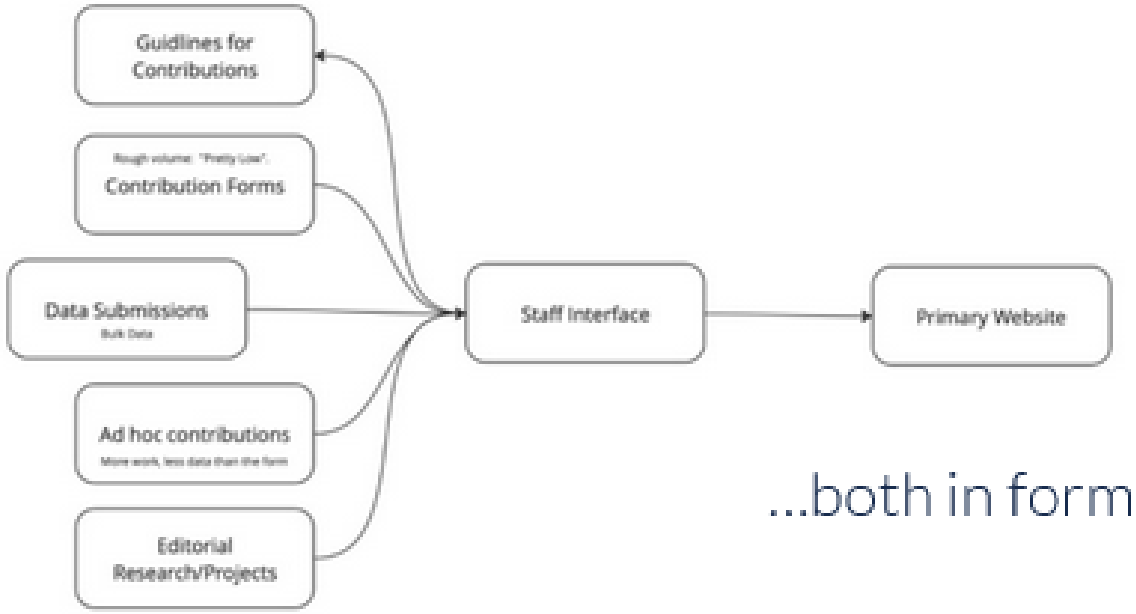
Getty's Next Steps:

Audit & User Discovery

The Vocabularies are conceptually simple—

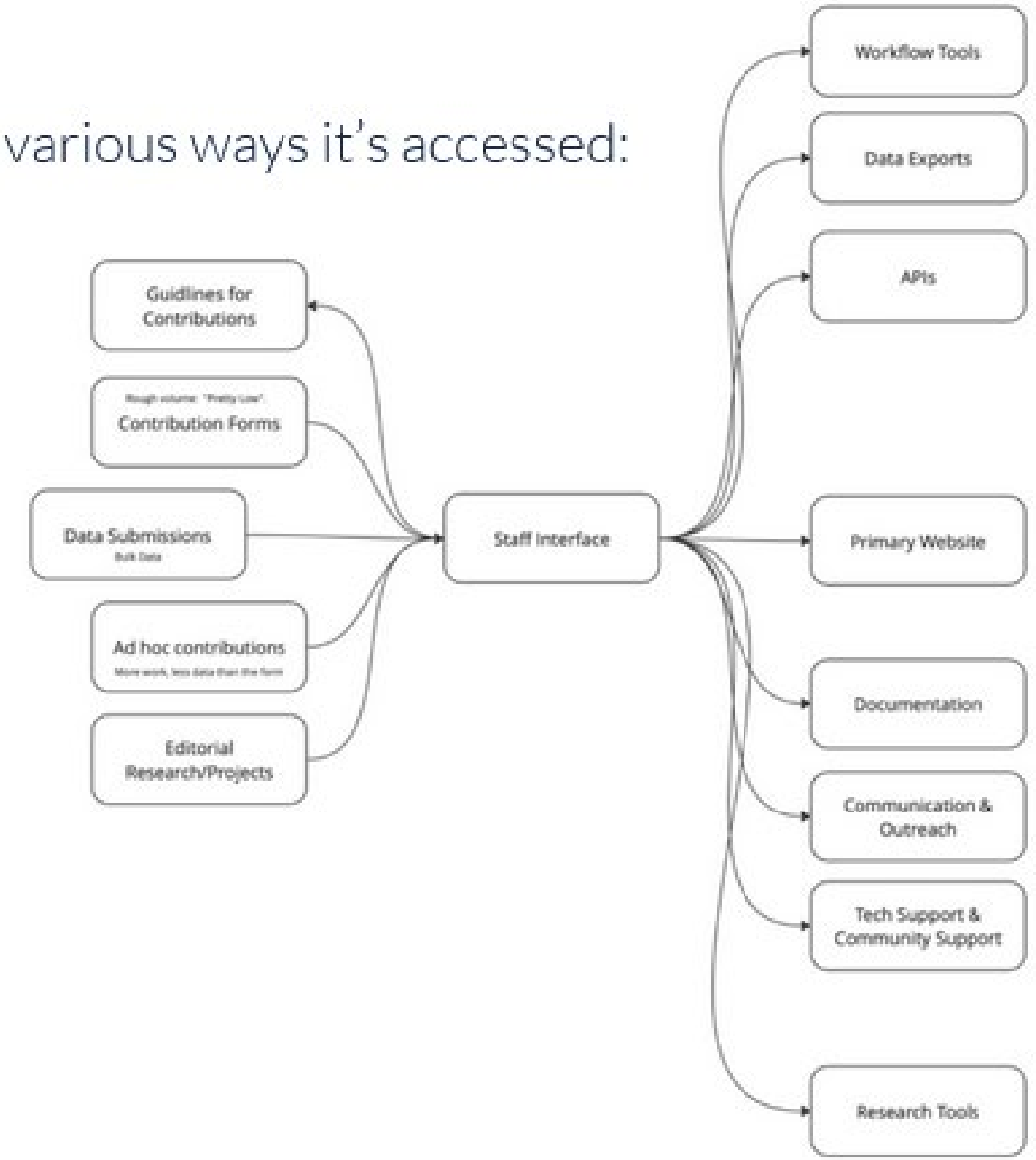
...submissions are edited, then displayed for users.

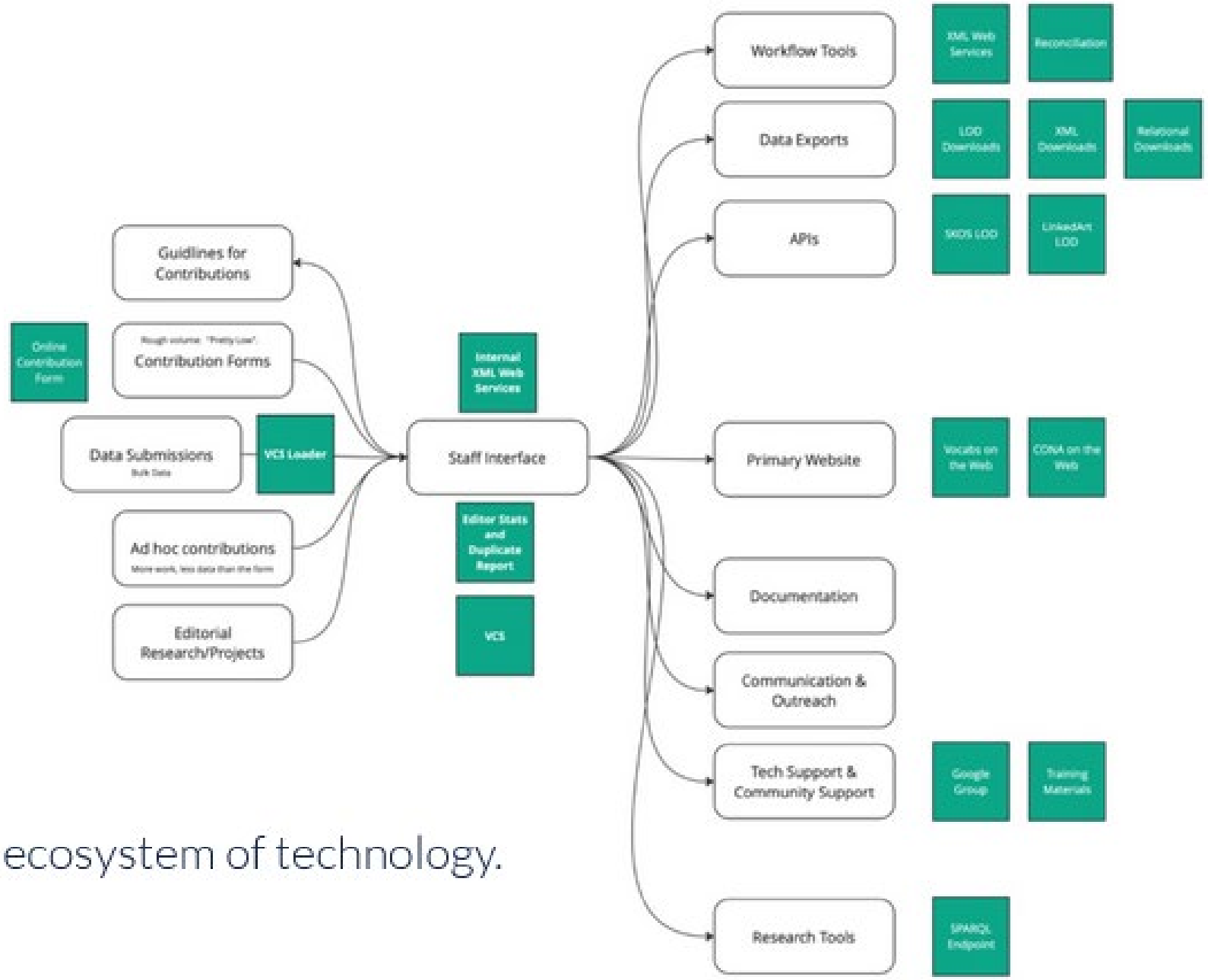
But there are many different ways information is submitted,



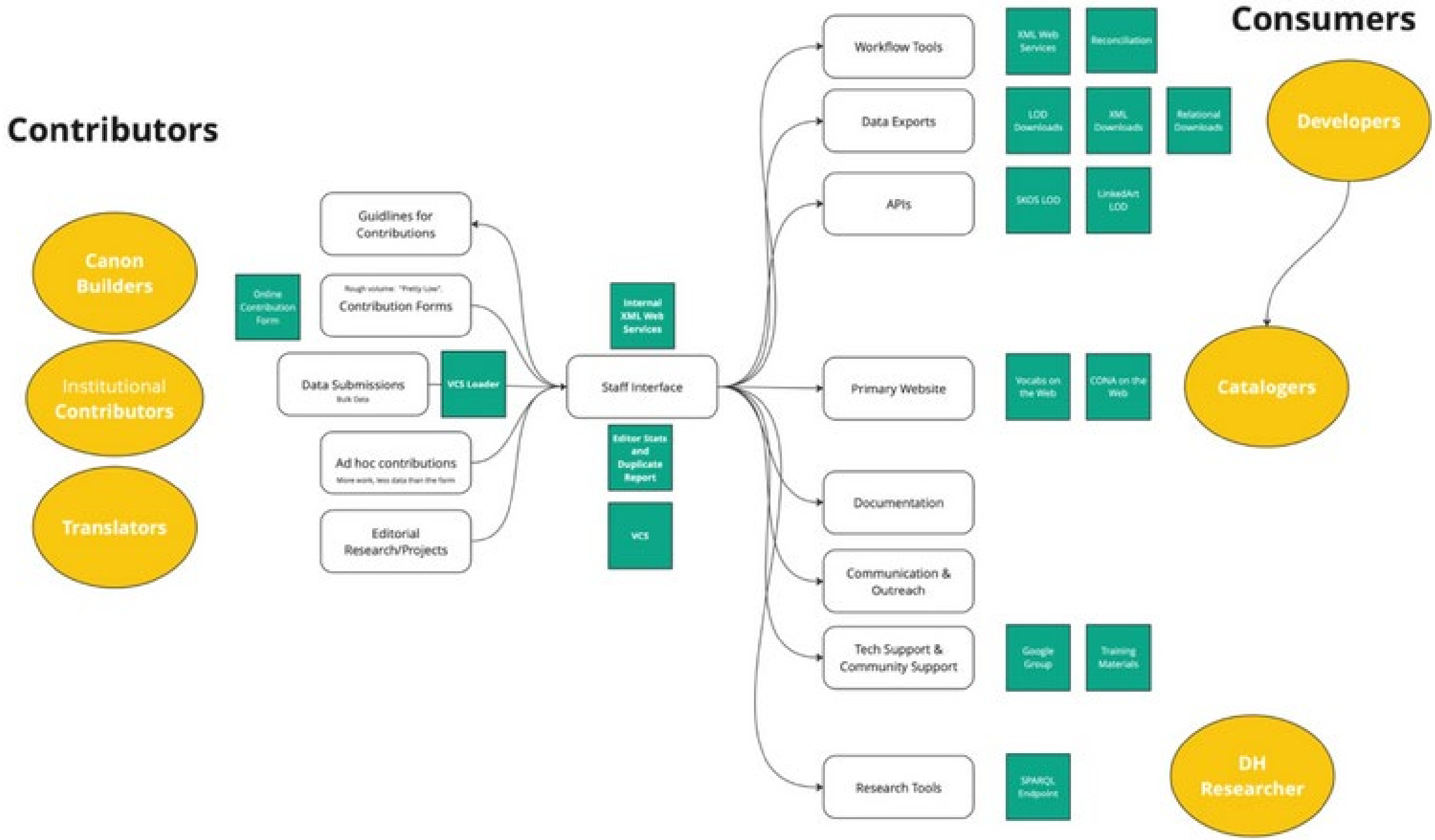
...both in form and in intent.

There are also various ways it's accessed:

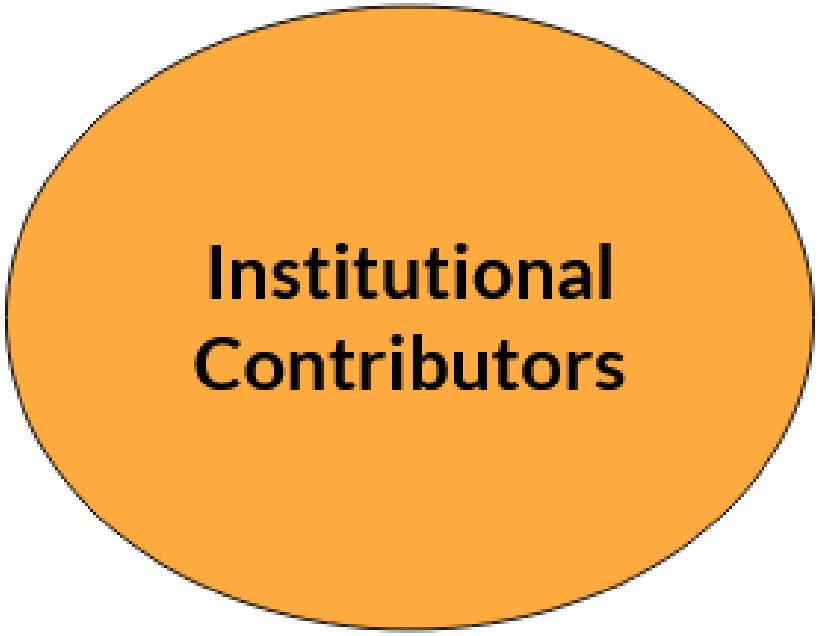




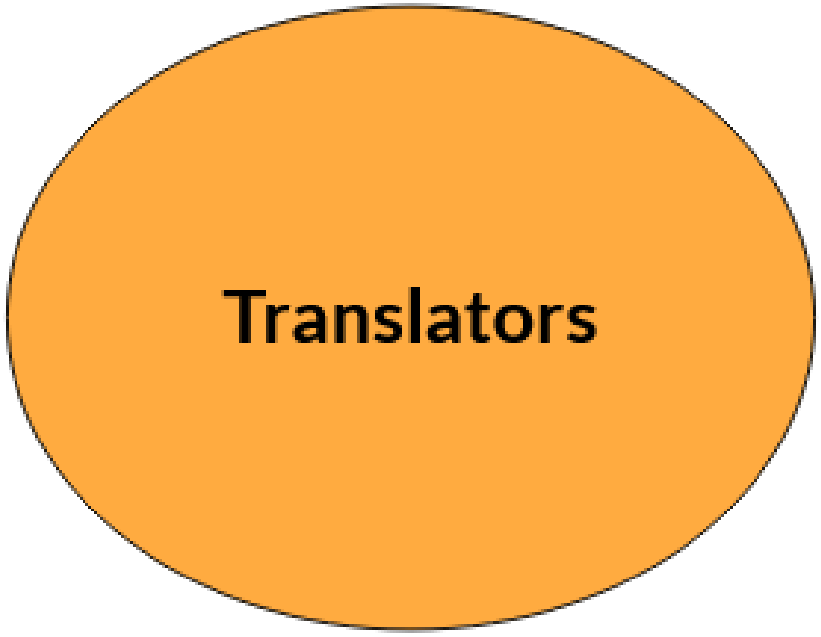
It's a complex ecosystem of technology.


Contributors
Canon Builders
Institutional Contributors
Translators
Online Contribution Form
Guidlines for Contributions
Rough volume: "Pretty Low".
Contribution Forms
Data Submissions
Bulk Data
VCS Loader
Ad hoc contributions
More work, less data than the form
Editorial Research/Projects
Internal XML Web Services
Staff Interface
Editor Stats and Duplicate Report
VCS
Workflow Tools
Data Exports
APIs
Primary Website
Documentation
Communication & Outreach
Tech Support & Community Support
Research Tools
XML Web Services
Reconciliation
LOD Downloads
XML Downloads
Relational Downloads
SKOS LOD
LinkedArt LOD
Vocabs on the Web
CONA on the Web
Google Group
Training Materials
SPARQL Endpoint
Consumers
Developers
Catalogers
DH Researcher

Knowledge organizations (usually museums, libraries, etc) who are **highly trusted** and share their **well-vetted** terminology to expand the broader pool of knowledge.

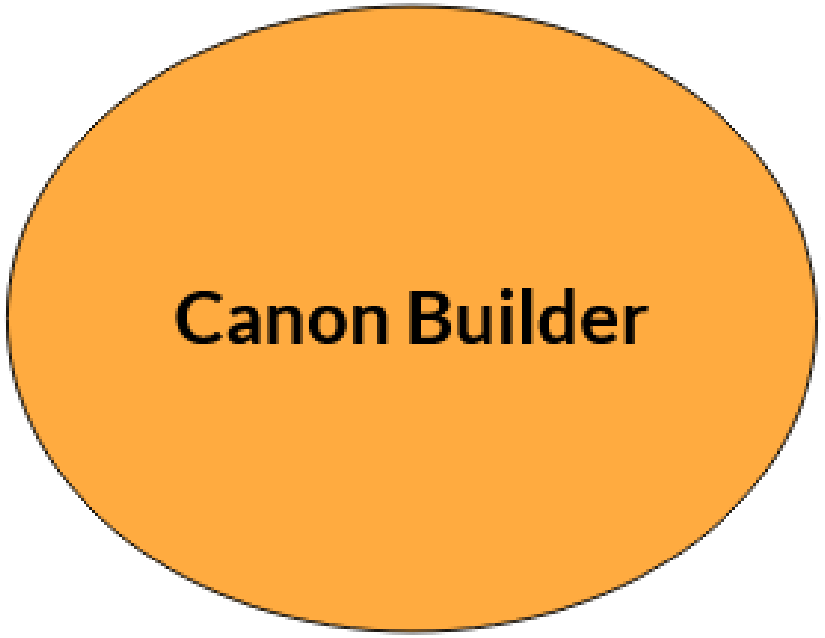


International groups who help to translate, crosswalk, and add to terminology into **their own language** to aid in their cataloging and **connect across cultures**.

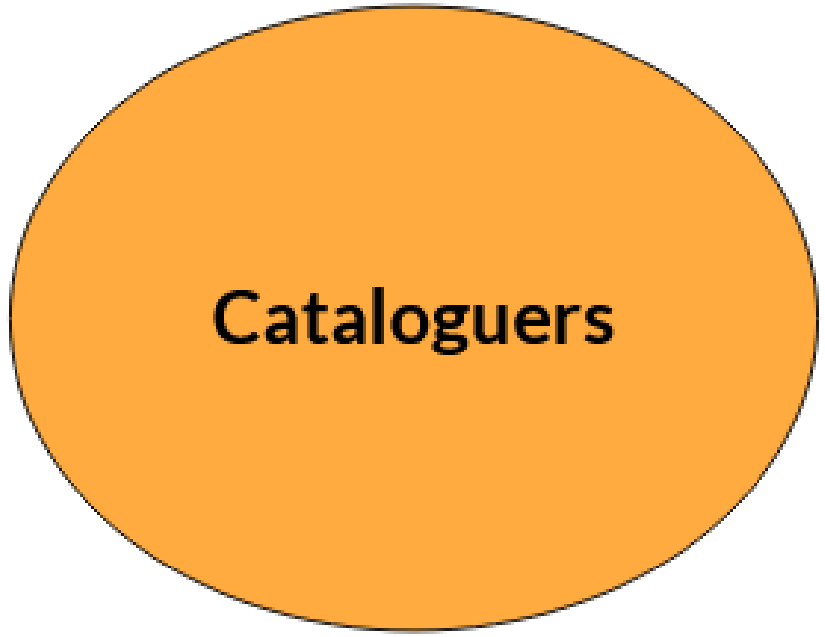


Audiences: **the Canon Builder**

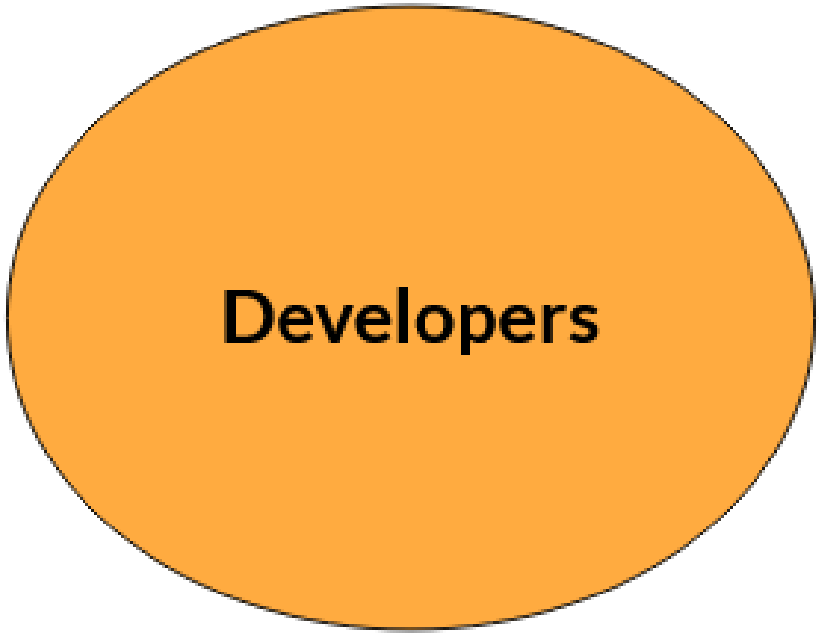
Individuals or institutions interested in having their research or terminology within the vocabularies to build **legitimacy** and solidify the **legacy** of their research.



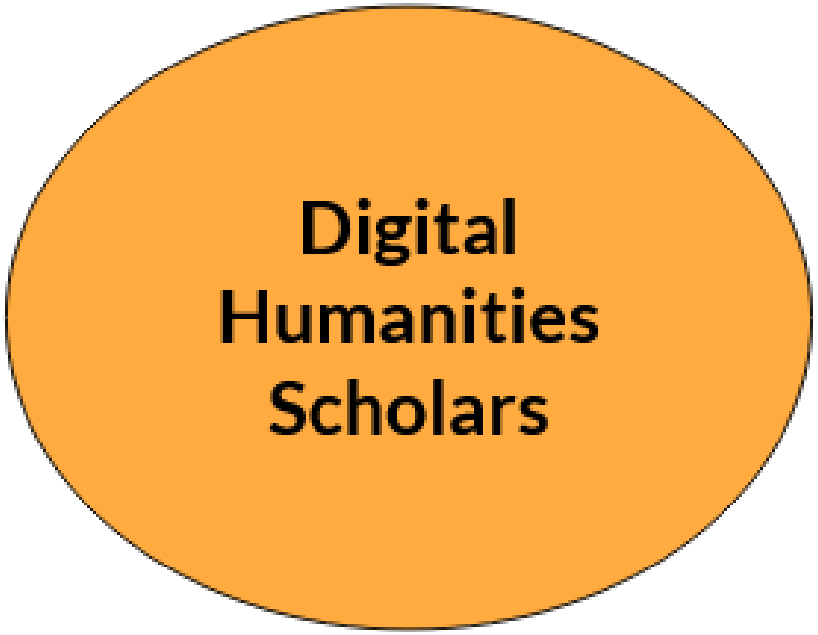
Individuals who professionally **describe objects** to facilitate discovery and access in support of research who use terminology to create **consistency within metadata**.



Technologists who develop **software tools** that support either cataloguing or presentation of objects—often working closely with cataloguers.



Academics who are interested in using the Vocabularies as either a **primary source** or to ground their **research**.



These are **our** hypotheses—but it's critical that we hear from you.

These are **our** hypotheses—but it's critical that we hear from you.

How do **you** use the Vocabularies…

…and where will **we all** be 25 years from now?

Copilot

A potential future for the Getty Vocabulary Program, taking into account the societal changes that have happened over the past 25 years in cultural heritage cataloguing practices and the emergence of the internet as a key driver of cultural change

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Thank You:

Round Table Discussion

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