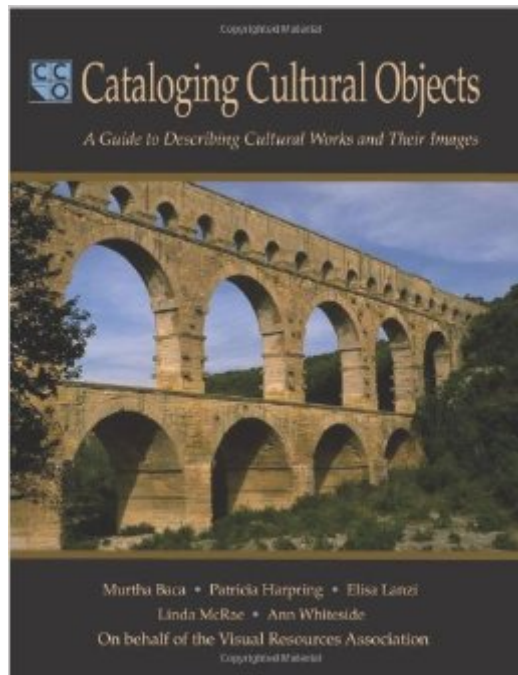


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# Cataloging Cultural Objects: A Guide To Describing Cultural Works And Their Images



## Synopsis

In a visual and artifact-filled world, cataloging one-of-a-kind cultural objects without published guidelines and standards has been a challenge. Now for the first time, under the leadership of the Visual Resources Association, a cross-section of five visual and cultural heritage experts, along with scores of reviewers from varied institutions, have created a new data content standard focused on cultural materials. This cutting-edge reference offers practical resources for cataloging and flexibility to meet the needs of a wide range of institutions from libraries to museums to archives. Consistently following these guidelines for selecting, ordering, and formatting data used to populate metadata elements in cultural materials catalog records:

- \* Promotes good descriptive cataloging and reduces redundancy
- \* Builds a foundation of shared documentation
- \* Creates data sharing opportunities
- \* Enhances end-user access across institutional boundaries
- \* Complements existing standards (AACR)

This is a must-have reference for museum professionals, visual resources curators, archivists, librarians and anyone who documents cultural objects (including architecture, paintings, sculpture, prints, manuscripts, photographs, visual media, performance art, archaeological sites, and artifacts) and their images

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## Customer Reviews

Cataloging Cultural Objects (CCO) is a cataloging standard outlining the metadata elements and attributes (with formatting and punctuation rules for data entry) for describing works of art and other

cultural objects. CCO is based on a subset of a larger, more comprehensive metadata element set, Categories for the Description of Works of Art (CDWA). CCO is "intended to advise in planning, implementing, and using databases and local cataloging rules." Where CDWA includes provenance, conservation history, exhibition history, copyright restrictions, and other administrative data, CCO is concerned only with descriptive cataloging of objects in a Work (as in "Work of Art") Record. The XML metadata schema which corresponds to CCO, called CDWA Lite, will soon become LIDO, a blending of CDWA Lite and a European metadata standard, MuseumDAT. The quest for a common core metadata for publishing to union catalogs--a shared data exchange format--and not museum cataloging per se has been the driving force behind cataloging standards, including CCO itself. An exhaustive search of museum and information science literature reveals nothing on how CCO can actually be implemented in any CMS (collection management system) in use museums. Yet, the CCO manual suggests that its purpose is to guide catalogers in this respect: "A CMS is a database system that allows a museum to track various aspects of its collections, including acquisitions, loans and conservation. Nonetheless, a large part of a typical CMS is the cataloging module. CCO provides guidance for the cataloging component of the CMS (that is, regarding descriptive data about the works in the collection)." CCO is a good standard, at least a good start.

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