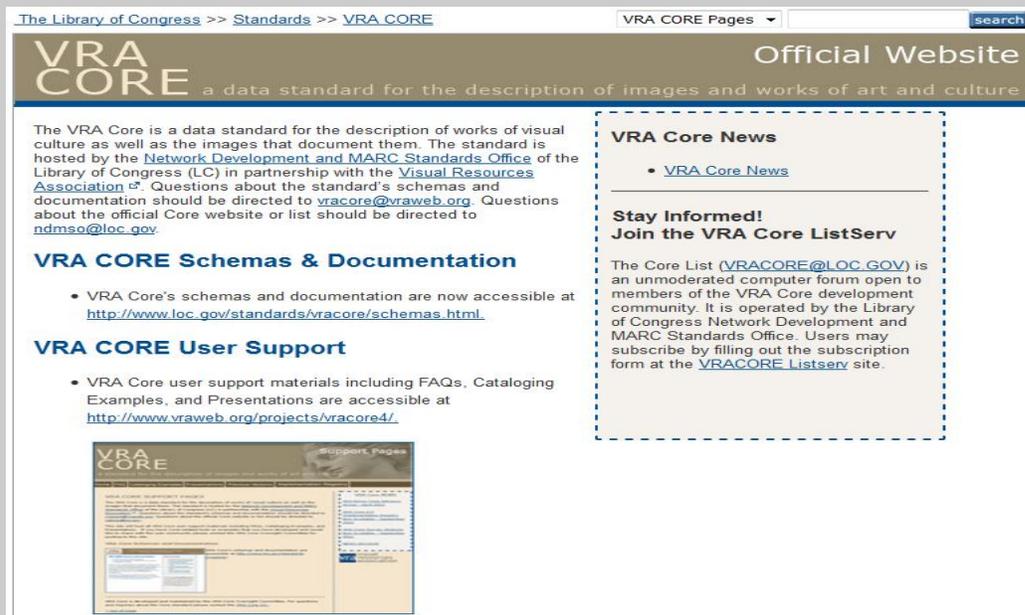


Home Page



Logo



URL

<https://www.loc.gov/standards/vracore/>

Subject

Image-Metadata-Standards

Accessibility

Free

Language

English, Italian, Greek

Publisher

Network Development and MARC Standards Office, Library of Congress

Brief History

Visual Resources Association was founded in 1982 by slide librarians (visual resources curators) who were members of the College Art Association (CAA), the South Eastern Art Conference (SECAC), the Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA), and the Mid-America College Art Association (MACAA). The association is concerned with creating, describing, and distributing digital images and other media; educating image professionals; and developing standards. In 1996, they developed VRA Core. The current version 4.0 that was released in 2007 is expressed as an XML schema in order to support the interoperability and exchange of VRA Core records. Today, the data

standard is widely used throughout the globe by art and architecture schools, libraries, museums, archives and organizations that need to manage information about and provide access to cultural heritage works and their images. The Implementation Registry is a select list of some of the institutions that have adopted VRA Core.

Kind of Information

VRA Core includes 28 elements specifically for visual resource collections. Within these, work Description Categories are Work type, Title, Measurements, Material, Technique, Creator, Role, Date, Repository name, Repository place, Repository number, Current site, Original site, Style/period/group/movement, Nationality/culture, Subject, Related work, Relationship type, Notes. The Visual Document Description Categories are Visual document type, Visual document format, Visual document measurements, Visual document date, Visual document owner, Visual document owner number, Visual document view description, Visual document subject, Visual document source.

Special Features

- Each year the Visual Resources Association honors an individual who has made an outstanding career contribution to the field of visual resources and image management.
- The Nancy DeLaurier Award, named for one of the pioneers of the visual resources profession (who received the VRA Distinguished Service Award in 1989), annually honors a visual resources professional for distinguished achievement in the field.
- The association has many publications, like *VRA Bulletin*, a scholarly journal, the flagship publication of the Association; the *Membership Directory* which is published annually; the *Special Bulletins* are occasional publications on specific topics; *VRA-L* is the Listserv, for members only; the *VRAweb.org* is the public website, with both public and members-only sections.
- *Cataloging Cultural Objects: A Guide to Describing Cultural Works and Their Images (CCO)* is a data content standard published in 2006, sponsored by VRA, and published by the American Library Association (ALA). The project was largely funded by the Getty Foundation. The guide was designed for those who describe and document works of art, architecture, and cultural artifacts.

Arrangement Pattern

All the versions of standards are arranged chronologically.

Remarks

The VRA Core is a data standard and XML schema for the description of works of visual culture as well as the images that document them. Works of visual culture can include objects or events such as paintings, drawings, sculpture, architecture, photographs, as well as book, decorative, and performance art. It is an internationally recognized metadata standard that is used both as a standalone format, and as an approved extension schema to METS for objects that contain cultural heritage resources.

Comparable Tools

- MARCXML (<http://www.loc.gov/standards/marcxml/>)
- MODS (<http://www.loc.gov/standards/mods/>)
- MADS (<https://www.loc.gov/standards/mads/>)

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