ICONOLOGIA

Iconclass

a multilingual classification system for cultural content

rKD

Add Iconclass to your own database (semi-) automatically

The following demonstration takes as its point of departure a system (catalogue, documentation project, etc.) which uses a controlled vocabulary *other than Iconclass* for the subject access to visual and textual sources. It assumes, furthermore, that it is seen as useful or desirable to *supplement* this vocabulary with Iconclass concepts in order to:

1. make the subject metadata that now have a 'local flavour' exchangeable with those of the international community of Iconclass users
2. automatically ingest the broader terms and cross references that are essential features of the Iconclass classification system into the local application
3. turn the originally monolingual subject access into a multilingual one

This can be done with relatively little effort if:

1. the database management system has an *export/import* functionality, and is equipped to *export* the local vocabulary as a file, and to *import* Iconclass notations once a concordance is created between the two vocabularies
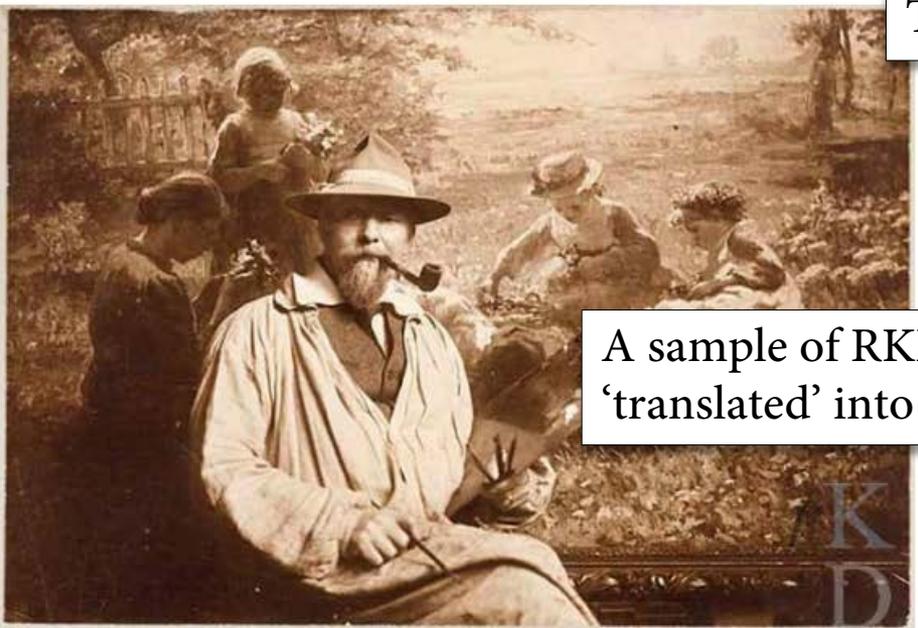2. the documents have a unique identifier, as is the usual case in a database management system

beta
rKD explore

121068

Pieter Jan Siewers

Portret van Evert Pieters met palet en pense...
Den Haag, RKD (Rijksbureau voor Kunsthisto...

RKDimages

◄ vorige

The example used is the controlled vocabulary – in *Dutch* – of circa 7,500 unique terms, created by the Netherlands Institute for Art History (Rijksbureau Kunsthistorische Documentatie - RKD) in The Hague.

Drager/materiaal   papier, ontwikkelgelatinezilverdruk
Vorm/maten   liggende rechthoek 11,5 x 16,6 cm
Signatuur/opschrift   ○ opschrift rechtsonder: Evert Pieters 1-1-17
                     signatuur van de voorgestelde op het opzetkarton
                   ○ sticker rechtsonder: P.J. Siewers/Hilversum

A sample of RKD's Dutch subject keywords – to be 'translated' into Iconclass concepts

...ert Pieters op de foto

Onderwerp

Titel ℹ   Portret van Evert Pieters met palet en penselen
Engelse titel   Portrait of Evert Pieters with palette and pencils
Onderwerpstrefwoorden   kunstenaarsportret, mansportret, kniestuk, hoofd frontaal, lichaam naar rechts, wegziend, zittend, hoed, overall, pijp, palet, penseel, schilderij (in de voorstelling)

Voorgestelden

IB nummer ℹ

Herkomst

Afbeeldingsnummer 0000148605

A concordance is made – manually - between RKD's Dutch keyword list and Iconclass concepts. First, the vocabulary is exported as a flat text file, with all keywords made unique and then sorted according to frequency of occurrence. Below are the first five terms of that list, with the most frequently used *mansportret (portrait of a man)* occurring 43,537 times (October 2013).

```
43537      mansportret
42407      aanziend
29162      hoofd naar links
28854      borststuk
28513      hoofd naar rechts
```

Then each keyword is matched against Iconclass concepts, but not without being checked against the [RKD Images webcatalogue](#) for visual warranty and to prevent obviously false matches. Not every '*mother and child*' is a representation of the Madonna…
If a keyword is too ambiguous or abstract it is skipped. If Iconclass offers more options, or if a keyword needs to be translated into more than one concept, the concordance is adapted accordingly.
In the case of RKD all Iconclass notations in the concordance are then imported into the Arkyves database and at indexing time connected to the RKD records in Arkyves, causing quite a metadata explosion.

Type: image
From: Netherlands Institute for Art History

[Link this object] and your clipboard

☐ 31A235 · sitting figure
☐ 31A24(+1) · postures of the head (+ front view)
☐ 31D14 · adult man
☐ 41C741 · pipe ~ tobacco
☐ 41D221(HAT) · head-gear: hat
☐ 48B · artist (in general)
☐ 48C5142 · picture within picture
☐ 61B · historical persons (portraits and scenes from the life)
☐ 61B(+54) · historical persons (portraits and scenes from the life) (+ three-quarter length portrait)
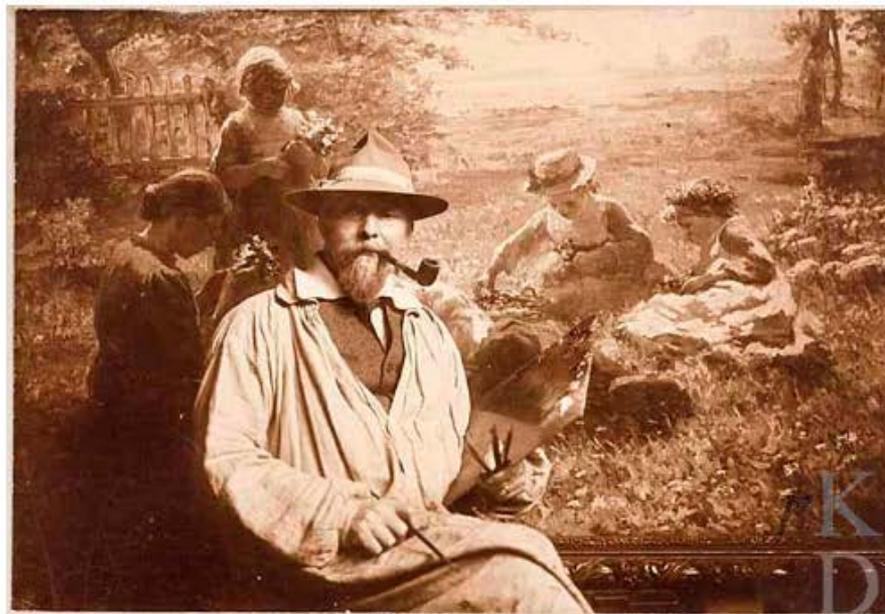
[Filter Subject]   [Select None]

The records from RKD Images are harvested for inclusion in Arkyves. At indexing time the Iconclass notations are ingested into every record for which a matching Dutch keyword is found.
N.B.: the building of the concordance is an ongoing process, so further enrichment of RKD data will follow.

Den Haag · RKD (Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie) ·

Dutch keywords: hoed · kunstenaarsportret · zittend · kniestuk · mansportret · penseel · pijp · palet · schilderij (in de voorstelling) · hoofd frontaal

Type: image
From: Netherlands Institute for Art History

Link this object and your clipboard

☐ 31A235 · figura seduta
☐ 31A24(+1) · posture della testa (+ veduta di fronte)
☐ 31D14 · uomo adulto
☐ 41C741 · pipa ~ tabacco
☐ 41D221(HAT) · copricapo: cappello
☐ 48B · artista (in generale)
☐ 48C5142 · quadro nel quadro
☐ 61B · personaggi storici (ritratti ed episodi della vita)
☐ 61B(+54) · personaggi storici (ritratti ed episodi della vita) (+ ritratto a tre quarti di figura)

Filter Subject   Select None

↪ Clipboard

Raw   Raw Sans

foto ·

Siewers, Pieter Jan ·

Portret van Evert P

ca. 1917 ·

Den Haag · RKD (Rijksbure

Dutch keywords: hoed · ku
· schilderij (in de voorstelli

As the Dutch keywords are matched against the *alphanumeric notations* of the Iconclass concept definitions, they are actually matched with all translations of Iconclass. Thus, translations in Italian or German are automatically available for re-import into RKD Images.

Link this object and your clipboard

☐ 31A235 · sitzende Figur
☐ 31A24(+1) · Kopfhaltungen (+ Vorderansicht)
☐ 31D14 · erwachsener Mann
☐ 41C741 · Tabakpfeife
☐ 41D221(HAT) · Kopfbedeckung: Hut
☐ 48B · der Künstler (generell)
☐ 48C5142 · Bild im Bild
☐ 61B · historische Personen (Porträts und Szenen aus dem Leben)
☐ 61B(+54) · historische Personen (Porträts und Szenen aus dem Leben) (+ dreiviertelfiguriges Porträt)

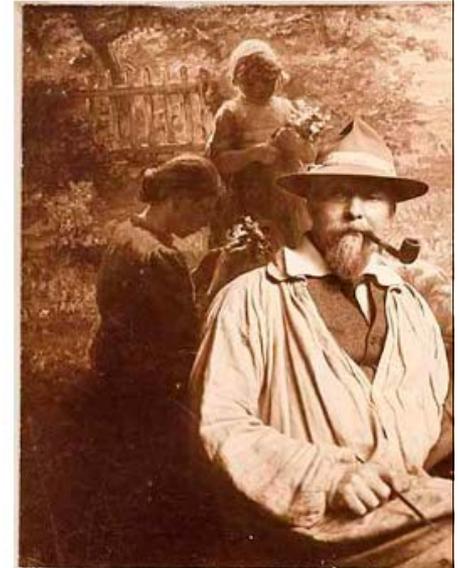Filter Subject   Select None

foto ·

Siewers, Pieter Jan ·

Portret van Evert Pieters met palet en pens

ca. 1917 ·

Den Haag · RKD (Rijksbureau voor Kunstl

Dutch keywords: hoed · kunstenaarsportr
· schilderij (in de voorstelling) · hoofd fron

Some numbers

So far more than 1,600 unique keywords (of a total of circa 7,500) have been included in the concordance. The most frequently used keyword, as seen above, is *mansportret* (at more than 43,000). The 1,600[th] keyword is still used more than 80 times. In all we were able to add more than 1,250,000 notations, corresponding to RKD's Dutch keywords, to the Arkyves database. Since Iconclass notations are almost always linked to more than five keywords this means that 5 x 1,250,000 = 6,250,000 keywords were added.
As this holds for all four (complete) Iconclass versions, this figure needs to be multiplied by four. So, in all, more than 25,000,000 keywords were added to the Arkyves database – quite an explosion based on 1,600 concepts

All of those Iconclass notations, textual definitions (in four languages) and keywords are now available for import back into the RKD Images database, as are a [basic thumbnail gallery and Iconclass retrieval browser](#).

This procedure can be followed for every keyword list in English, French, German, Italian or Dutch. For keyword lists in other languages locla support would be required.

ARKYVES

This is the Arkyves result for a query for
41C741 pipe ~ tobacco
filtered for the Netherlands Institute for
Art History (RKD) collection, i.e. 1,335
items (October 2013)

1 · Religion and Magic
2 · Nature
3 · Human Being, Man in General
4 · Society, Civilization, Culture
41 · material aspects of daily life
41C · nutrition, nourishment
41C7 · drinks, stimulants, drugs
41C74 · tobacco

☑ 41C741 · pipe ~ tobacco

civilization, culture, materiality, nourishment,
nutrition, pipe, society, tobacco

☐ 41C741(+1) · pipe ~ tobacco (+ taking
(particular) foodstuffs: eating, drinking,
smoking, chewing, etc.)
☐ 41C7411 · water-pipe, hookah,
narghile
☐ 41C7412 · tobacco-roll, coiled twist of
tobacco
☐ 41C7413 · tobacco-jar
5 · Abstract Ideas and Concepts
6 · History
8 · Literature
9 · Classical Mythology and Ancient
History

Apply Filter

Filtered on:

✖ AND ▼ 41C741 · pipe ~

✖ Collection includes ▼ Netherlands Institute for Art History

Apply Filter   New Search

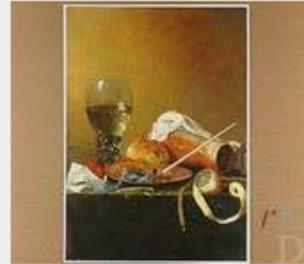1335 available , page: 1 · 2 · 3 · 4 · 5 · ... 14
Images Only   Lists

100 items per page

Portret van Derk Meeles (1872-1958)
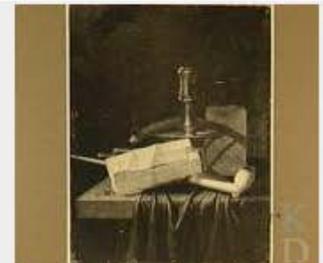
Stilleven met roemer, horloge, pijp en

Dubbelportret van een man en een vrouw

Etende apen in een interieur

Twee zittende soldaten met honden bij een

Rokerstilleven met een kandelaar en een

Type