



Integrating Sustainable Interoperable Systems

Proposal for the Preservation of Net Art
Commissions at the NET.tropolitan Museum of Art

INFO 661: Art Documentation
Fall 2025



Pratt



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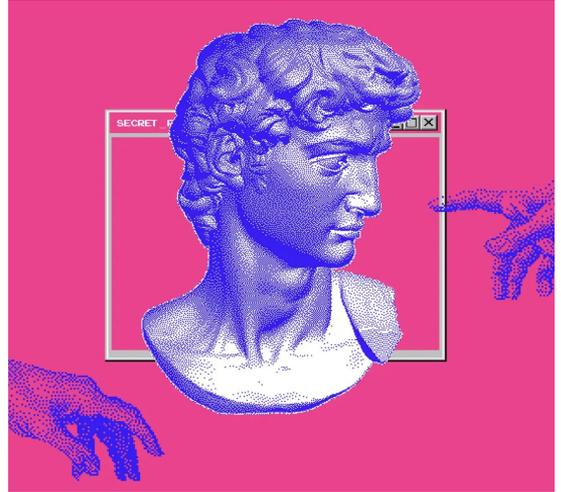


The NET.tropolitan Museum of Art

The NET.tropolitan Museum of Art was founded in 2014 by a small group of creatives and technologists in the emergent “vaporwave” scene, looking to establish a space for digital art that is reflective of contemporary social anthropology, with a playful nod to the tradition of encyclopedic museums.

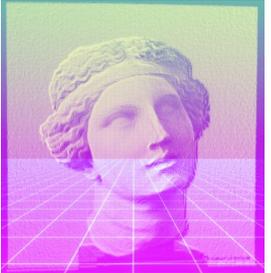
Their early social connections to this field have allowed considerable growth, with investments from cryptocurrency financiers. In the past 10 years, the museum has built a collection of over 30,000 digital art pieces, including over 50 net artworks through commission, as well as purchases from other museum collections and artist collectives, with works spanning to the beginning of net artwork in the 1990’s.

A recent significant publicly anonymous donation has allowed the museum to reassess specifically their net artwork collection, and create a new system for acquiring the works and related documentation with a focus on long-term digital preservation.



Implications of Net Art

- **Net art records primarily capture the artistic concept**, as works are web-hosted and often composed of multiple interconnected components.
- **Rapidly changing web technologies require flexible preservation strategies**, including documenting technical requirements, emulation options, or emphasizing conceptual elements that can be migrated or reinterpreted across new web platforms.
- **The museum's website functions as a primary exhibition space**, so any website updates or IT changes must account for the needs and integrity of these artworks.





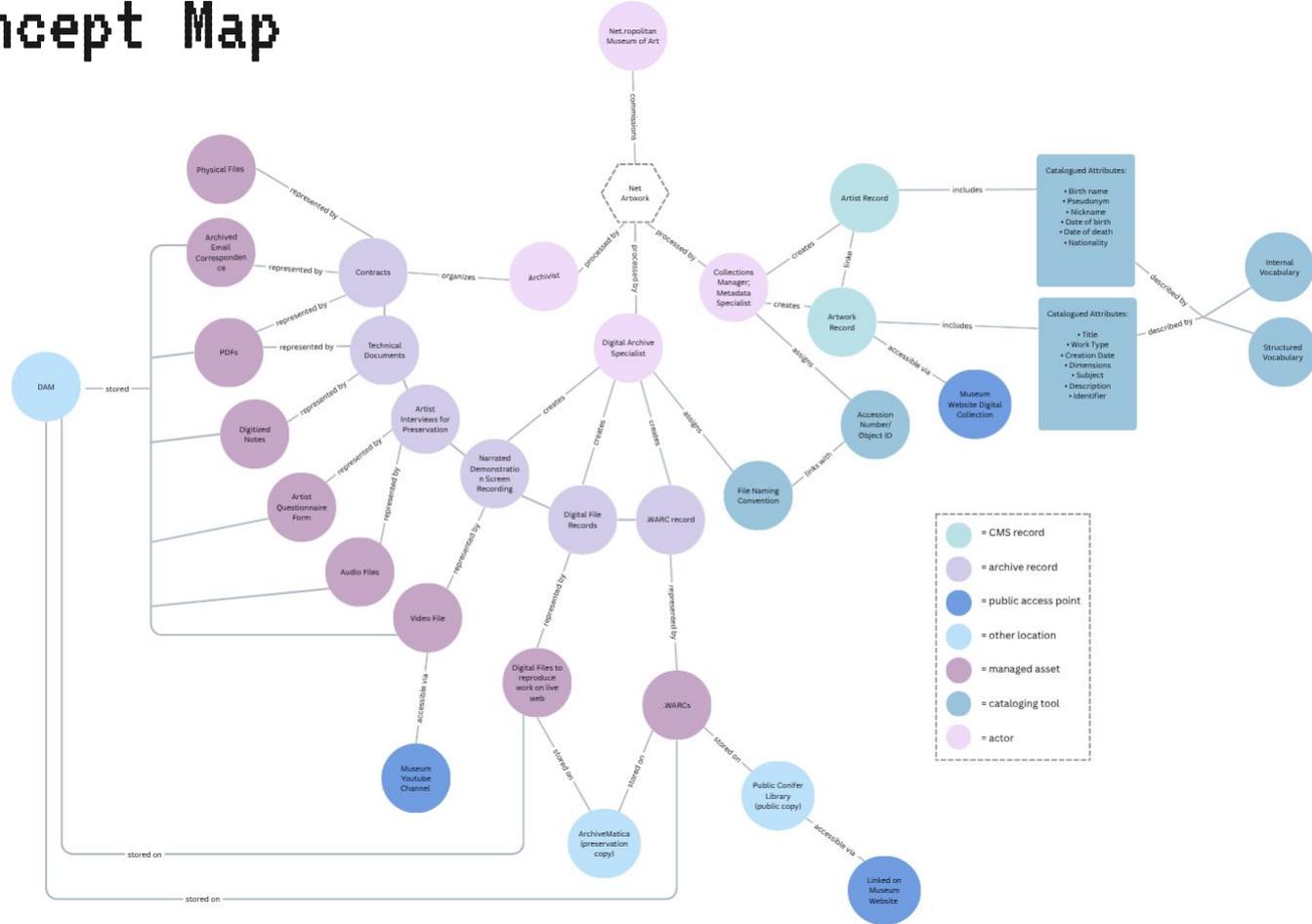
Proposal for The METropolitan Museum of Art

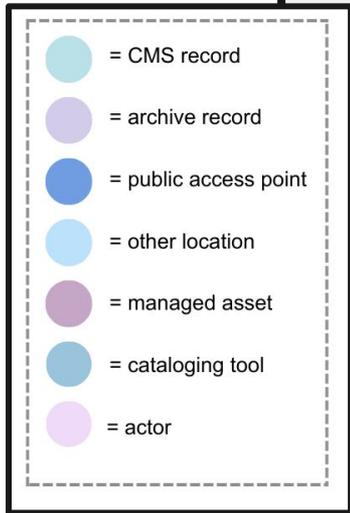
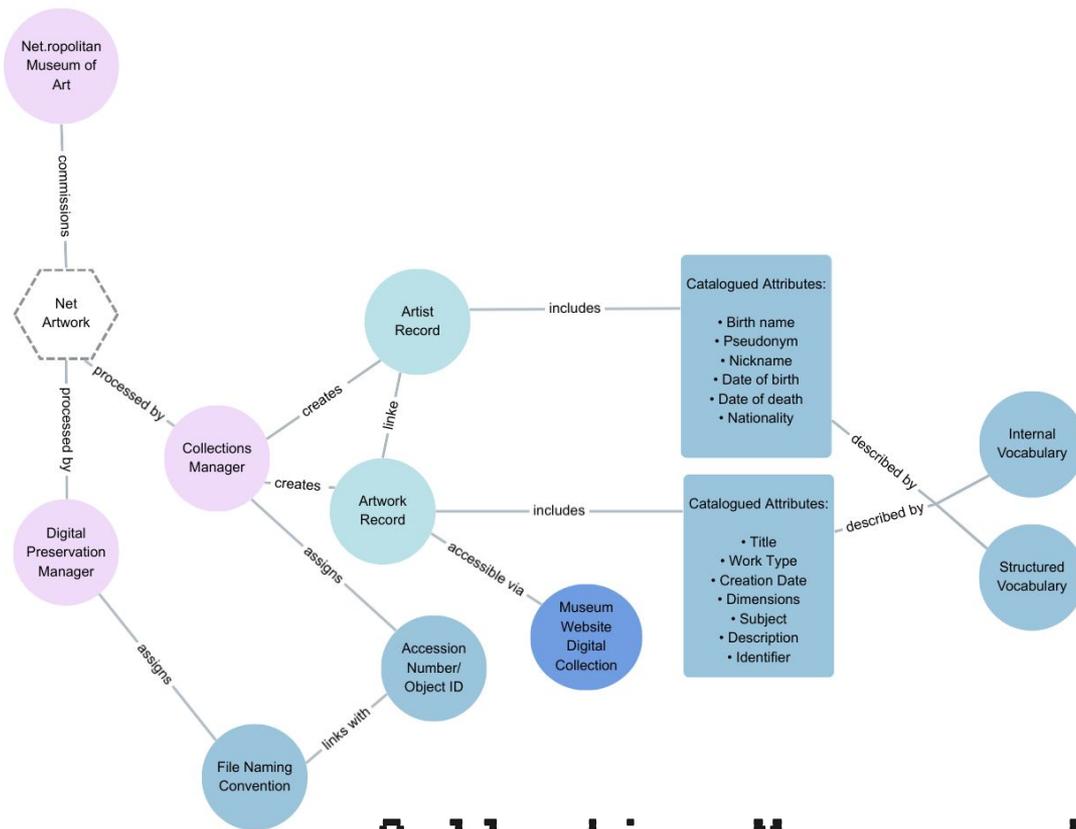
As the museum expands its digital holdings, it faces growing challenges in sustainably preserving, documenting, and managing this collection in the face of rapid technological change and the inherent instability of the live web.

Our team proposes a comprehensive plan to systematize the organization, preservation, and accessibility of the museum's net art collection. The plan will introduce a unified numbering and cataloging system, a Lightweight Information Describing Objects (LIDO) adherent metadata application profile (MAP) tailored to the needs of net art—an XML schema compatible with the museum's existing content management system, The Museum System (TMS), and our team's proposed data access management system (DAM). Additionally, an internal vocabulary guide to ensure consistent description and contextual accuracy. By combining established metadata standards such as VRA Core and PREMIS with custom vocabularies derived from both institutional sources and artist communities, we will ensure that each artwork is represented holistically; serving to preserve not only its digital assets but also its conceptual, social, and technical dimensions.

Net Artwork Acquisition and Archiving

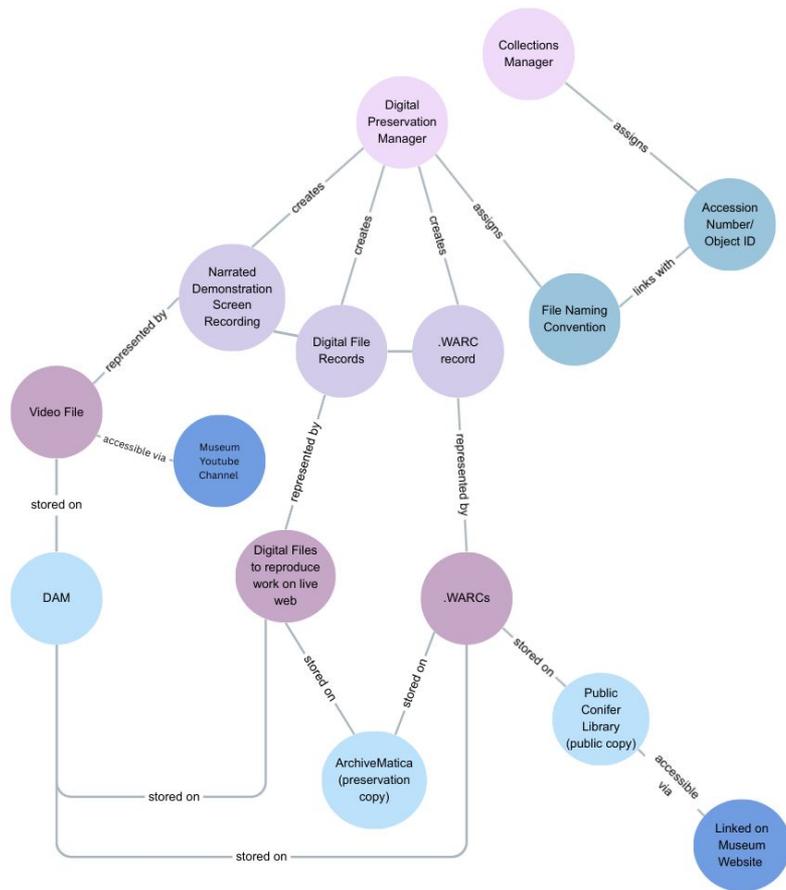
Concept Map



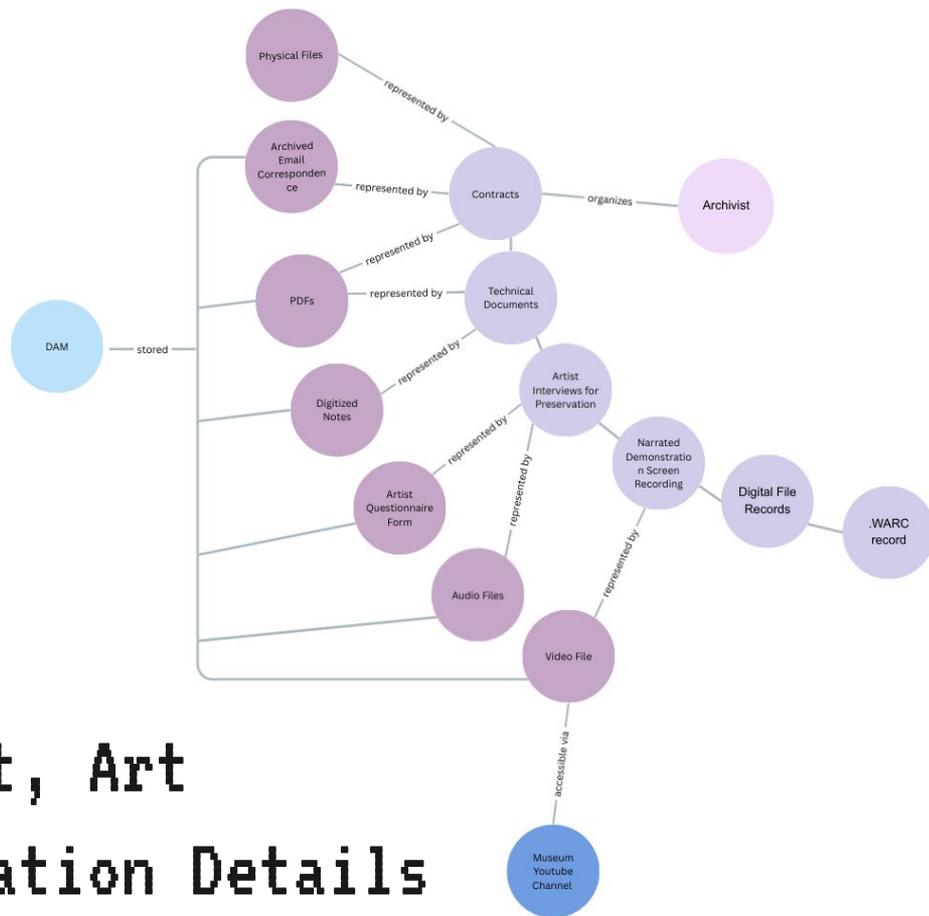


Collection Management Details

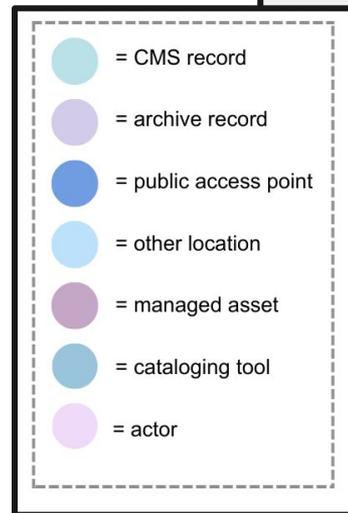
Digital Preservation Details



-  = CMS record
-  = archive record
-  = public access point
-  = other location
-  = managed asset
-  = cataloging tool
-  = actor



Archivist, Art Documentation Details





Technologies

TMS Web

Used to integrate the new numbering scheme and metadata fields and supports the internal housing of curatorial and descriptive records, allowing project staff to draft, revise, and manage interpretive and administrative materials associated with each artwork.

ResourceSpace

Provides controlled access to artwork files, documentation, and versions for project staff. Enables secure storage, password protections, and role-based permissions.

Archivematica

Implements preservation workflows—ingest, normalization, fixity checks, and storage packaging—necessarily for the long-term stewardship of code, scripts, and technical files associated with net art.

Conifer

Used to capture web-based behavior of net artworks, preserving interactive states, dependencies, and network-based features for reference, analysis, and future exhibit planning.



Metadata Application Profile (MAP)

Our team's priority in constructing the MAP was to represent the collection holistically through linked relationships: accommodating the conceptual, social, and technical dimensions of the works.

- Flexibility of incorporating internal guides with industry standards
- Acknowledging a range of culturally specific ("global") terminologies or community specific folksonomies to retain contextual integrity
- Emphasizing the artworks as intangible, reproducible, and iterative

Prioritizing:

- Consistency
- Flexibility
- Cohesiveness
- Accessibility and Interoperability

Based on LIDO
(Lightweight
Information Describing
Objects)

Metadata Application Profile: Work



Artwork Record ("Object"/Creative Work)	<lido:descriptiveMetadata>						
Title	<lido:titleSet> Type = artist's title <lido:appellationValue>	TRUE	TRUE	string, free-text entry	Title of the artwork		Preference given to the creator given title
	<lido:titleSet> Type = alternate titles <lido:appellationValue>	FALSE	TRUE	string, free-text entry	Alternative title of the artwork		Any alternative versions of the title. Only fill if necessary, usually a translated title
Work Type	<lido:objectWorkType>	TRUE	TRUE	Controlled Terminology, Getty AAT	The type of object, in this case, net art.		In this set, for the Artwork Record, it should always be "net art" http://vocab.getty.edu/page/aat/300419940
Creation	<lido:eventSet><lido:eventType>	TRUE	FALSE	Controlled Terminology, LIDO Vocabularies	The type of event		In this set, for the Artwork Record, it should always be "Creation" http://terminology.lido-schema.org/lido00012
Creation Date	<lido:eventDate><displayDate>	TRUE	FALSE	string, free-text entry	Free text field for the display of the date created	Free text field allows for an input that properly portrays the date. If needed, reference CDWA Guidelines 17.1.3 https://www.getty.edu/publications/categories/object-architecture-group/17/#date	
Earliest Creation Date	<lido:eventDate><earliestDate>	TRUE	FALSE	ISO 8601	Earliest date encompassing the creation date	YYYY; If specific date is known, or it only spans one year, same as latest date	
Latest Creation Date	<lido:eventDate><latestDate>	TRUE	FALSE	ISO 8601	Latest date encompassing the creation date	YYYY; If specific date is known, or it only spans one year, same as earliest date	
Culture	<lido:culture>	FALSE	TRUE	Controlled Terminology, Getty AAT	Cultural context for the work		Ex. name of a culture, a nation, or an ethnic group
Creator	<lido:displayActorInRole>	TRUE	TRUE	string, free-text entry	Display for the the creator(s) of this piece; ideally including name, nationality, role, and birth and death or founding dates	Follow guidelines for "Creation Description" in CDWA guidelines, https://www.getty.edu/publications/categories/object-architecture-group/4/#s4-1	Should use preferred name, nationality, and dates as identified in the creator record
Creator ID	<lido:actorID>	TRUE	TRUE	string, actorID of the creator relating to the artwork	Unique identifier of the creator record	NET_A.xxxxx	The corresponding actorID entry exactly
Name	<lido:nameActorSet><appellationValue> Attribute=pref	TRUE	FALSE	string, free-text entry	Preferred name of a given entity, whether an individual or a collective	*This field is part of the creator record* (must be repeated for any creators attributed to the work)	For both individuals and collectives, name should be the preferred name of the creator.
Pseudonym	<lido:nameActorSet><appellationValue> Attribute=label "Pseudonym"	FALSE	TRUE	string, free-text entry	Fictitious name used by an individual for publication of their work rather than their own identifying name	*This field is part of the creator record*	
Nickname	<lido:nameActorSet><appellationValue> Attribute=label "Nickname"	FALSE	TRUE	string, free-text entry	Any alternative names given to an individual or a collective	*This field is part of the creator record*	
Date of Birth	<lido:vitalDatesActor> Type = birth date	FALSE	FALSE	ISO 8601	The birth date of an individual; for collectives see "Founding Date"	YYYY-MM-DD; *This field is part of the creator record*	

Metadata Application Profile: Work Cont.



Date of Death	<lido:vitalDatesActor> Type = death date	FALSE	FALSE	ISO 8601	The death date of an individual; for collectives see "Founding Date"	YYYY-MM-DD; *This field is part of the creator record*	
Founding Date	<lido:vitalDatesActor> Type = founding date	FALSE	FALSE	ISO 8601	The founding date of a collective; for individuals see "Date of Birth" and "Date of Death"	YYYY; *This field is part of the creator record*	
Culture	<lido:nationalityActor> Type = Cultural affiliation	FALSE	TRUE	Controlled Terminology, Getty AAT	Association with a society or group of people that share common ideas, customs, or way of life	*This field is part of the creator record*	If unsure, leave it blank
Nationality	<lido:nationalityActor> Type = Country affiliation	FALSE	TRUE	Controlled Terminology, Getty TGN	Association of an individual or collective with a particular state or nation	*This field is part of the creator record*	If unsure, leave it blank
Actor ID	<lido:actorID> Type=Local Identifier	TRUE	FALSE	string	Unique identifier for the entity. Follows pattern set by institution	*This field is part of the creator record*	Auto-generated from TMS when a constituent record is created; NET_A.xxxxx; (A=Actor; xxxxx = unique number assigned)
Subject(s) (Display)	<lido:subject>	TRUE	TRUE	Controlled Terminology; Getty AAT, TGN, Tate's net art taxonomy, and artist-generated vocabularies from Rhizome, Electronic Arts Intermix, and Living Media Art	main subject/keywords that describe the creative content	Ideally 3-5, but more art allowed if a work justifies it	cover the main concepts, focusing on searchability
Subject(s) (Index)	<lido:subjectConcept>	FALSE	TRUE	Controlled Terminology; Getty AAT, TGN, Tate's net art taxonomy, and artist-generated vocabularies from Rhizome, Electronic Arts Intermix, and Living Media Art	index field for identifier numbers of each subject describing the work		
Description	<lido:objectDescriptionSet><descriptionNoteValue >	TRUE	FALSE	string, free-text entry	Free text description of the artwork		cataloger given, following an institutional standard
Materials/Technique (Display)	<lido:objectmaterialsTechSet><lido:displayMaterialsTech>	FALSE	FALSE	string, free-text entry	Any technologies (ex. code markups, software, JavaScript, HTML,) or techniques (ex. hyperlinking, glitching, code manipulation, browser manipulation) used to create the original work	Free text field allows for an input that comprehensively portrays the materials used, especially if it is a technology or technique not present in the controlled vocabulary. If needed, reference CDWA Guidelines 7.1 https://www.getty.edu/publications/categories/object-description-works-art/categories/object-architecture-group/7/#RTFToC2	
Materials/Technique (Index)	<lido:materialsTech>	FALSE	TRUE	Controlled Terminology, Getty AAT, Tate's net art taxonomy, and artist-generated vocabularies from Rhizome, Electronic Arts Intermix, and Living Media Art	index field for identifier numbers of material/technique used to create the original work		
Work Identifier	<lido:objectID>	TRUE	FALSE	string	Unique identifier for the work. Follows pattern set by institution		Auto-generated from TMS when a constituent record is created; NET_W.xxxx.xxxxx; (W=work; xxxxx = accession year; xxxxx = unique number assigned through year as items are accessioned)

Metadata Application Profile: Resource



Manifestations/Digital Components/Documentation (resource)	<lido:administrativeMetadata><lido:resourceSet>						
File Name/Record ID	<lido:resourceID> Type=URI	TRUE	FALSE				
Related Artwork	<lido:resourceDescription> Type = work	FALSE	TRUE	String, free-text entry Controlled Terminology, Getty AAT; possibly information forms	The title and object identifier of the corresponding artwork	This field serves as a reference to the TMS collection and a quick guide to what artwork these supplement	Should match the TMS record
Type	<lido:resourceType>	FALSE	TRUE		The general type of resource being recorded		If digital manifestation, always "media (information storage)" (300311871)
Description	<lido:resourceDescription> Type = resource	FALSE	TRUE	string, free-text entry	Free text entry for an overall description of the resource	Should be succinct but also uniquely representative of the resource	
Target URI	<lido:resourceRepresentation><lido:linkResource>	FALSE	TRUE	URI or URL	The URI or URL linking directly to where the resource is stored		
Format	<lido:linkResource><formatResource>	FALSE	TRUE	Controlled Terminology, MIME Type (for digital files)	The specific type of format. Ex. WARC, HTML, JavaScript, PDF		
Archivematica Link	<lido:resourceRepresentation><lido:linkResource>	FALSE	TRUE	URI or URL	Link/information for the preservation package		
Location (physical files only)	<lido:resourceDescription> Type = location	FALSE	FALSE	String, free-text entry	Physical location of any tangible files, following heirarchical documentation similar to NARA Guidelines		Only use if there is a physical (non-digital) item to be cataloged
Creation Date	<lido:resourceDateTaken><displayDate>	TRUE	FALSE	string, free-text entry	Free text field for the display of the date created	Free text field allows for an input that properly portrays the date. If needed, reference CDWA Guidelines 26.2.6 https://www.getty.edu/publications/categories-description-works-art/categories/object-architecture-group/26/#s26-2-6	
Earliest Creation Date	<lido:resourceDateTaken><earliestDate>	TRUE	FALSE	ISO 8601	Earliest date encompassing the creation date	If specific date is known, same as latest date	
Latest Creation Date	<lido:resourceDateTaken><latestDate>	TRUE	FALSE	ISO 8601	Latest date encompassing the creation date	If specific date is known, same as earliest date	
Measurement Type	<lido:measurementType>	FALSE	TRUE	Controlled Terminology, Getty AAT	Type of measurement being recorded		If digital manifestation, always "size for computer files"
Measurement Unit	<lido:measurementUnit>	FALSE	TRUE	Controlled Terminology, Getty AAT	Unit of measurement for this resource		If digital file, usually "bytes"
Measurement Value	<lido:measurementValue>	FALSE	TRUE	string, numeric	The number entry corresponding to the type of measurement	Repeat all measurements fields if both a digital and physical form exist	
Rights Information	<lido:rightsResource><creditLine>	FALSE	TRUE	string, free-text entry	Legal rights information relating to the digital manifestation, documentation, or physical resources themselves		
Rights Type	<lido:rightsResource><rightsType>	FALSE	TRUE	Controlled Terminology, Getty AAT; intellectual property , copyright/licensing statement , or licensing	The type of legal rights information recorded		
Source	<lido:resourceSource>	FALSE	TRUE	string, free-text entry	Source where resource record was created.	In this case, always NET.ropolitan Museum of Art	
Record Type	<lido:recordType>	FALSE		Controlled Terminology, LIDO Vocabularies	Cataloging level for the record		In this case, always "Item-level record"

Numbering Scheme

NET_W.XXXX.XXX

Indicates
collection

WORK

Accession Year,
for tracking
growth of
collection

Ordered object ID, no
leading zeroes to
accommodate large digital
collection without
continued adjustment

Sample Record

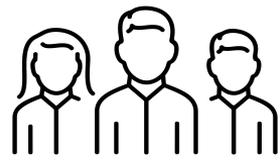


Thumbnail image attached to record, screenshot of live site

Work ID: NET_W.2015.4
 Title: Dentimundo
 Alternative Title:
 Work Type: net art [300419940]
 Creation Date: 2005
 Earliest Creation Date: 2005
 Latest Creation Date: 2005
 Culture: American (North America) [300107956]
 Creator Display: Ricardo Miranda Zúñiga (American internet artist, 1971-)
 Creator ID: NET_A.373
 Subject(s): net art [300379994]; tourism [300132466]; health care [300404582]
 Description: A browser-based digital artwork that critiques mid-2000s dental tourism between the United States and Mexico through a retro, early-Web interface. Combining HTML frames, Flash animation, MP3 audio, and low-resolution graphics, the work stages a satirical "cybernetic tour of the Mexican border" led by the TV personality Don Francisco. Dentimundo blends folkloric music, migrant narratives, and parodies of online resources to examine Latinidad, globalization, and the American Dream while foregrounding the preservation challenges of early net art.
 Materials/Technique: net art [300419940]; HTML [300266021]; animations (visual works) [300411663]; MP3 [300312047]
 Record Type: Conceptual-level record
 Record Source: Net.tropolitan Museum of Art
 Cataloger: [REDACTED]



Staffing



IT Systems

Administrator

Supports the technological needs of the net art commission project by ensuring stable, secure, and well-documented digital environments for processing, storing, and accessing artwork files

Curator (of Net Art)

Provides the artistic and conceptual framework for the museum's collection of commissioned net art

Collections Manager

Oversees the organization, documentation, and administrative control of all records and physical materials

Archivist

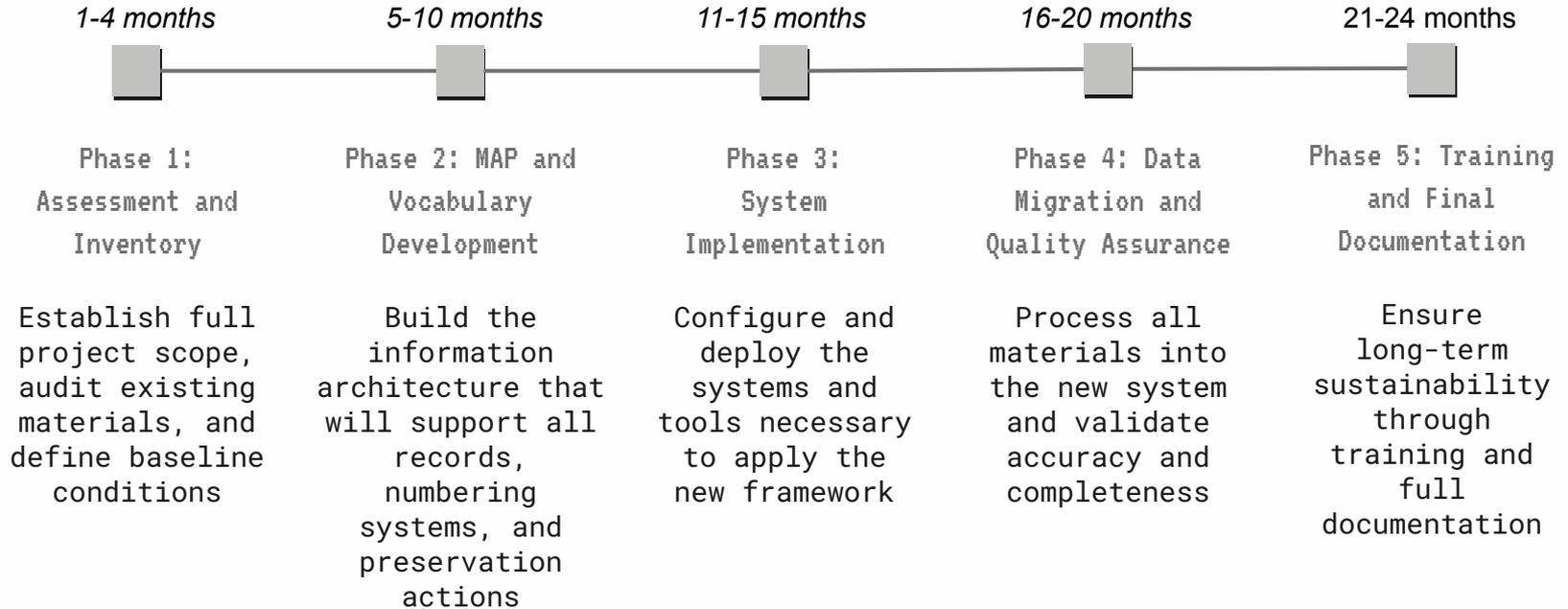
Conducts the systematic processing, organization, and description of all digital materials

Digital Preservation

Manager

Ensures the long-term stability, accessibility, and technical viability of all digital assets

Timeline





Thank you for listening!
Do you have any questions?