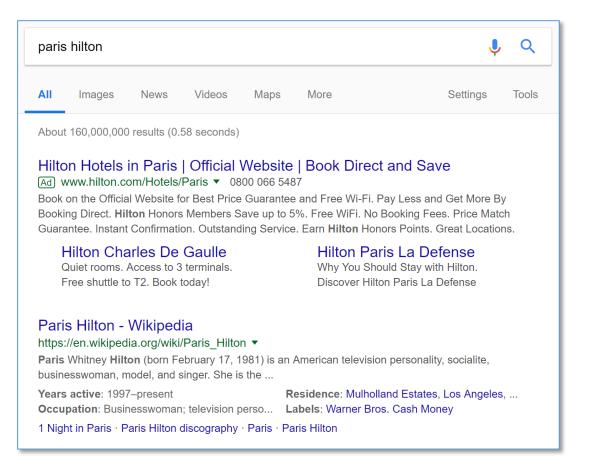




# Why use controlled vocabularies?



- Words are ambiguous
  - If we use words to index, the indexing is ambiguous
  - If we use words to search, the search criteria are ambiguous
  - "Paris Hilton" person or hotel?
  - The meaning depends on additional context
- Words are language-specific
  - Paris (English)
    - ≠ Parijs (Dutch)
    - ≠ Parigi (Italian)
    - (Arabic) باریس ≠
  - For typical web search each returns different results, though they all mean the same thing





### Issues preventing effective subject integration

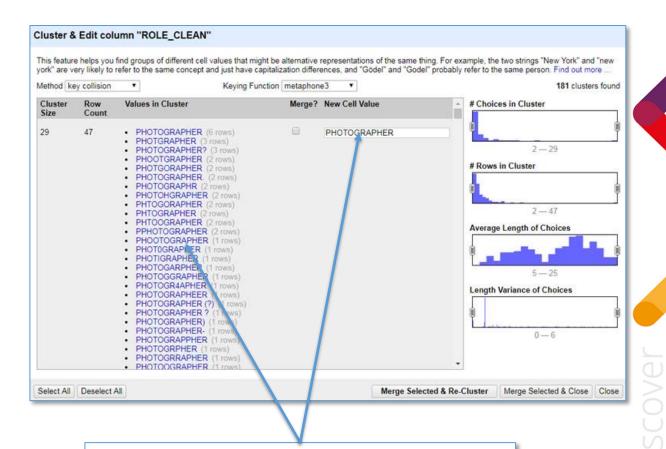
- Spelling errors affect recall
  - "posthole" != "posthlole", "cess pit" != "cess pitt"
- Alternate word forms or punctuation affect recall
  - "posthole" != "post-hole" != "post hole" != "post holes"
  - "gulley" != "gullies", "boundary" != "boundaries"
- Synonyms affect recall
  - "fresco" != "mural", "cask" != "barrel", "brimstone" != "sulphur" (or "sulfur")
- Differing levels of specificity / granularity affect recall
  - "weapon" != "sword" != "rapier" != "Pappenheimer"
- Homographs affect precision
  - "compound" (enclosure) != "compound" (material)
  - *"lead"* (object) != *"lead"* (material)
  - *"pitch"* (English) has over 20 different meanings
  - Regional: "<u>tenement</u>" (Scotland) != "<u>tenement</u>" (England)
  - Multilingual: "coin" (fr) != "coin" (en), "monster" (nl) != "monster" (en)





#### Data cleaning: OpenRefine

- http://openrefine.org/
- Flexible open source data cleaning tool
- Import, filter, transform, align and export data
- Scripted operations for repeatable bulk processing



Clustering variations by similarity, Merging all to a single (correct!) value



## Controlled vocabulary relationships

- Equivalence (ALT)
  - post hole ALT [post-hole, posthole, post holes]
  - sulphur ALT [sulfur, brimstone]
- Hierarchical (BT/NT)
  - weapon
    - sword
      - rapier
        - Pappenheimer
- Associative (RT)
  - cup RT saucer
  - thermometer RT temperature





#### Background: ARIADNEplus project

- Cloud based infrastructure and services
- Archaeological metadata aggregation & integration
  - ≈ 3.5 million records representing 50+ countries
- Cross searching data by Place / Time / Subject
  - Place: WGS84 coordinates, place names
  - Time: BCE/CE years, named periods (e.g. *Iron Age*)
    - 17 named period vocabularies (Perio.do)
    - 21 languages
    - 1,880 named periods
  - Subject:
    - 59 local subject vocabularies
    - 16 languages
    - 19,000+ local subject terms





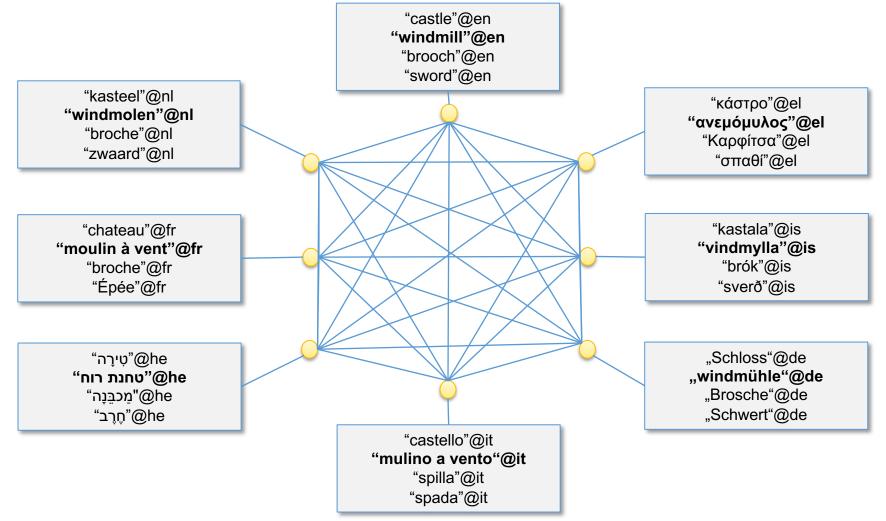
## Integration - named periods

- e.g. *Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman* a special case of subject indexing
- Bronze Age refers to different dates in different locations
- <u>Perio.do</u> public domain multilingual gazetteer of named historical periods
- ARIADNEplus records aligned with specific Perio.do authority resources; enriched with start/end years





Integration – Mapping subject vocabularies

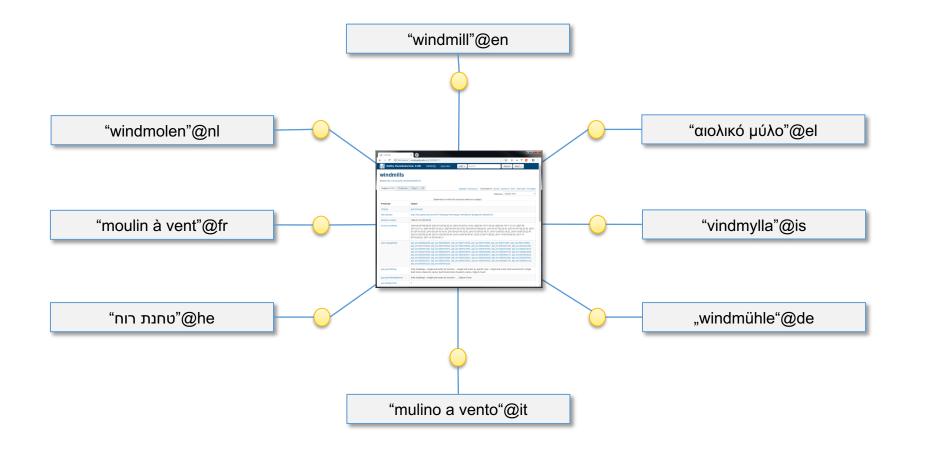


Equivalent subject terms originating from multiple vocabularies - map everything to everything?





#### Strategy - map local subjects to spine vocabulary



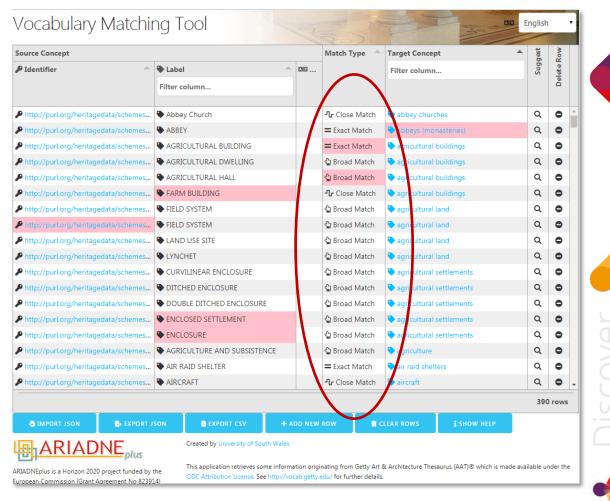
Hub architecture – more manageable. Using mappings, a search on one term can incorporate all others



#### Vocabulary Matching Tool

- For matching local subject terms to Getty AAT concepts
- Search & browse Getty AAT structure and create mappings
- Not automatic matching can examine scope and context of concepts
- 6,400+ existing subject mappings from original ARIADNE project reused, revised & extended
- New subject mappings created for new partners = 19,220 total mappings, local subject → AAT

#### https://vmt.ariadne.d4science.org/vmt/



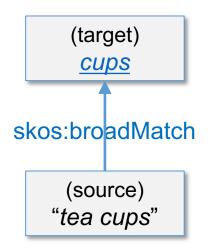
### Type of match between concepts

SKOS mapping properties define the type of match between concepts Don't rely on label matches; consider meaning and scope of concepts

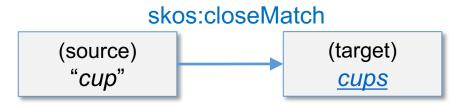




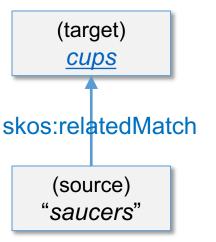
Where there is a high degree of confidence that the concepts may be used interchangeably



Use "some/all" test for generic hierarchical relationships: **some** *cups* are *tea cups*; all tea cups are cups



Where scope or hierarchy of concepts suggests slight conceptual differences



Where some other association exists between concepts



# AAT built in to ARIADNEplus search



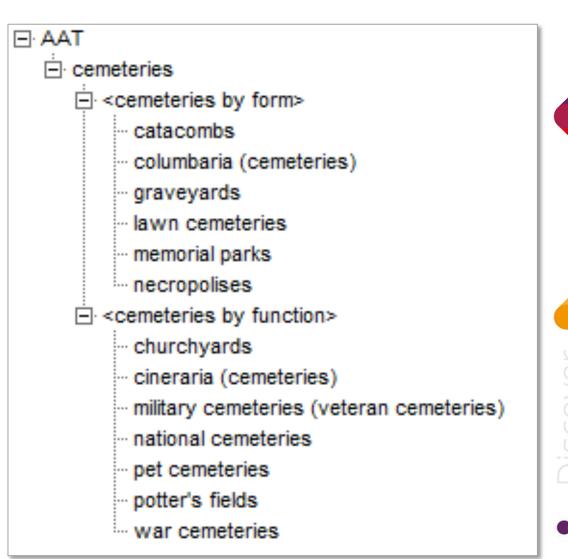
- (optionally) searching on AAT concepts
- Exploits multilingual entry vocabulary of AAT
- Suggests concept matches
- View context of suggested concepts – scope note, broader & narrower concepts



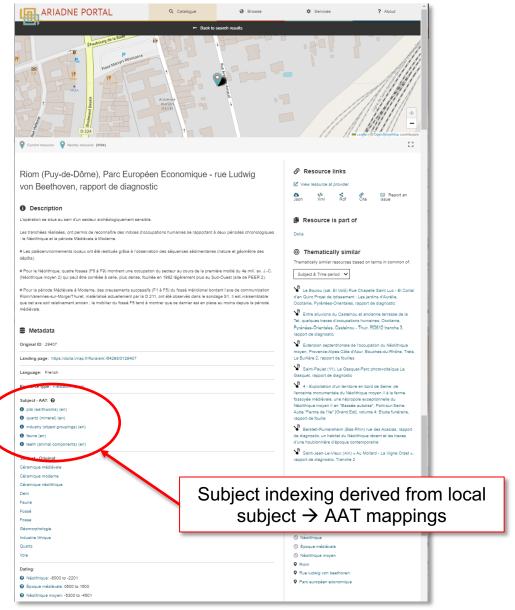


## Use of vocabulary structure

- A search on AAT <u>cemeteries</u>
  can be expanded to include
  items indexed using any
  descendant concept
  (<u>catacombs</u>, <u>graveyards</u> etc.)
- The search can also be expanded to include the multilingual entry vocabulary for the concept and any descendants ("cimetières"@fr, "begraafplaatsen"@nl, "Friedhof"@de etc.)



### Using local subject -> AAT mappings



- Enriched metadata records with derived AAT subjects
- Can exploit AAT entry vocabulary
- Facilitates multilingual crosssearch e.g. search for *sword* returns *sværd*, *svärd*, 剣 etc.
- Facilitates hierarchical semantic search e.g. search for <u>weapons</u> can return <u>axes</u>, <u>spears</u>, <u>swords</u>, <u>rapiers</u>, <u>rifles</u>, <u>pistols</u> etc.





## Benefits of the approach

- Prompted data providers to clean and improve their data, in some cases producing new vocabularies
- Mappings allowed data owners to express how their own data relates to a common spine vocabulary (AAT)
- Matching tool and mappings are reusable
- Improved precision and recall in search
  - Use of multilingual entry vocabulary of AAT
  - Use of poly-hierarchical structure of AAT
- Improved visibility of resources originating from smaller data provider organisations



# Thank you

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The views and opinions expressed in this presentation are the sole responsibility of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission

#### Links

- ARIADNEplus project <a href="https://ariadne-infrastructure.eu/">https://ariadne-infrastructure.eu/</a>
- ARIADNE portal <a href="https://portal.ariadne-infrastructure.eu/">https://portal.ariadne-infrastructure.eu/</a>
- Vocabulary Matching Tool <a href="https://vmt.ariadne.d4science.org/vmt/">https://vmt.ariadne.d4science.org/vmt/</a>
- USW Hypermedia Research Group <a href="https://hypermedia.research.southwales.ac.uk/">https://hypermedia.research.southwales.ac.uk/</a>

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