



# How to use CIDOC CRM

## A tutorial for knowledge practitioners.

**Date:** Currently, first Monday of April, June, August, October, December, depending on numbers.

**Venue:** Online

**Course Designer:** Kartography CIC  
[www.kartography.org](http://www.kartography.org)

## Introduction

Data is a broad term that refers to facts and figures without context. In its simplest form, data can be numbers, text, images, or other symbols that, in themselves, do not carry purposeful and consistent meaning. For example, the words 'Harold', 'Hastings', the number 2000, and the year '1066', are all pieces of data, but without additional context and relationships it is difficult to convey the details of an event, like a battle, and the many influences that led to it. We rely on disciplinary conventions, software and other sources to help fill in the gaps. This explains why databases are often limited to references and finding aids, and why data from different sources is difficult to integrate. Creating data involves significant resources and time. This course is about significantly improving the benefits and value of data - maintaining and improving its relevance (context) into the future.



The CIDOC CRM was developed to address these issues in cultural heritage and humanities data and to meet new digital challenges. Traditional database systems and standards provided no universal reference for conveying meaning creating a problem for both human and computer interpretation. Heterogeneity is crucial to humanities knowledge but there was no way of integrating information without reducing it to a common denominator and distorting different perspectives. Additionally, without semantics, databases could only deal with a certain number of fields without loss of coherency affecting the ability to act as a transdisciplinary and collaborative working space. The answer was a semantic conceptual framework to which provide explicit semantics in the form of real world references and coherent relationships. This reference recognises that reality is in motion and that the framework required a strong temporal aspect.

Kartography CIC is a non-profit social enterprise with a charter directed at diversity and inclusion in data.

This short course over 1 day has the following objectives;

1. To explain the underlying principles of the CIDOC CRM - particularly ontological commitment
2. To understand the overarching structure and logic of the CIDOC CRM. There is no need to memorise all the contents of the ontology, only to understand how it works which is then applied consistently throughout the CIDOC CRM family of ontologies.
3. To apply this knowledge to specific examples.
4. To understand how to use the CIDOC CRM to address legacy data issues - diversity and inclusion.
5. How CIDOC CRM data knowledge graphs can be visualised and further manipulated.

### **Pre-requisites**

- This course is for anyone interested in the objectives of the CIDOC CRM and providing context to data. There are no prerequisites.
- Knowledge of cultural heritage and humanities practices and/or research is useful but not essential.

### **Practical**

- This course is conducted online through Google meet.
- To request registration please send an email with your name, organisation, and position to,

**[cidoccrm\\_course@kartography.org](mailto:cidoccrm_course@kartography.org)**