... you have a database chock full o' metadata!

Artwork Title	Primary Artist	Facility Name	Location Street	County Department	Year Create	Artwork Type	Technique	Medium	Artwork Dimensions
Mardi Gras, Jazz, Rock and Roll	Bruce Brice	A.C. Bilbrew Library	150 East El Segundo Boulevard	Public Library	1980	Print	Printmaking	Ink	2 ft. 3 1/2 in.x 1 ft. 9 in.* (1 x 1 m)
Mending	BROODWORK	Downtown Mental Health Center	529 South Maple Street	Mental Health	2015	Collage	Collage	Vinyl	
Meso Ridge	Ricardo Duffy	East Los Angeles Civic Center	4800 East 3rd Street	Internal Services	2005	Sculpture	Tiling	Ceramic, aluminun	72 ft.x 16 ft.x 16 ft.* (21.9 x 4.9 x 4.9 m)
Mexican Tree of Life	Barbara Beall	Los Nietos Library and Service Center	11644 Slauson Avenue	Public Library	1979	Mural	Tiling	Ceramic	10 ft.x 12 ft.x 1 1/2 in.* (3 x 3.7 m)
Muse of Music, Dance, Drama	George Maitland Stanley	Hollywood Bowl	2301 North Highland Avenue	Parks and Recreation	1940	Sculpture	Carving	Lucerne granite	
Nembi	Elena Manferdini	Hubert H. Humphrey Comprehensive Health C	5850 South Main Street	Health Services	2013	Sculpture	Metal cutting	Stainless steel	
Njabot (Family)	Momodou Ceesay	A.C. Bilbrew Library	150 East El Segundo Boulevard	Public Library	1986	Textile art	Printmaking	Ink	2 ft. 4 in.x 1 ft. 7 1/2 in.* (1 m)
OBSERVATION POST 1	Rebeca Mendez	Pico Rivera Library	9001 Mines Avenue	Public Library	2013	Sculpture	Casting	Cor-Ten steel	
Oceanic Cosmic Whisper	Christine Nguyen	Malibu Library	23519 Civic Center Way	Public Library	2012	Mural	Firing	Porcelain enamel	8 ft.x 14 ft.* (2.4 x 4.3 m)
Ocean Journey	Topanga Art Tile	George W. Carver Park	1400 East 118th Street	Parks and Recreation	2008	Mural	Tiling	Porcelain, ceramic	33 ft. 6 in.x 4 ft. 6 in.* (10.2 x 1.4 m)
Ofrenda Maya I	Goez Studios	City Terrace Library	4025 East City Terrace Drive	Public Library	1978	Mural	Tiling	Glazed tile	9 ft.x 12 ft.* (2.7 x 3.7 m)
Old La Verne Landscape	Frank Matranga	La Verne Library	3640 D Street	Public Library	1985	Mural	Tiling	Ceramic	
One Desert Sky	Brad Howe	High Desert Regional Health Center	335 East Avenue I	Health Services	2014	Kinetic sculpture	Metal cutting	Aluminum 6061 all	29 ft.x 91 ft.x 15 ft.* (8.8 x 27.7 x 4.6 m)
ooo	Merge Conceptual Design	Allen J. Martin Park	14830 East Giordano Street	Parks and Recreation	2008	Mural	Stenciling	Sherwin Williams p	Varied
Orchard	Ball-Nogues Studio	El Cariso Community Regional Park	13100 Hubbard Street	Parks and Recreation	2015	Sculpture	Casting	Concrete	
Orit Haj	Didier Hess	Vasquez Rocks Natural Area Park	10700 Escondido Canyon Road	Parks and Recreation	2013	Sculpture	Compaction	Rammed earth, mi	
Our Bodies, Our Temples	Juliana Martinez	San Fernando High Teen Health Center	11133 O'Melveny Avenue	Health Services	2014	Mural	Mural painting	Ceramic	
Our Community in the Foothills	Timothy Gibbs	La Crescenta Library	2809 Foothill Boulevard	Public Library	2009	Glass	Glazing	Stained glass	9 ft. 2 in.x 12 ft. 3 in.* (2.8 x 3.7 m)
Our Legacy: Forever Presente	José Antonio Aguirre	East Los Angeles Library	4837 East 3rd Street	Public Library	2004	Mural	Mosaic	Glass, limestone	64 ft.x 34 ft.* (19.5 x 10.4 m)
Our Shining Stars	Jose Antonio Aguirre	Lancaster Animal Shelter	5210 West Avenue I	Animal Care and Control	2010	Mural	Mosaic	Glass, mortar, sand	
Oxala	Bakari Santos	A.C. Bilbrew Library	150 East El Segundo Boulevard	Public Library	1981	Plaque	Casting	Bronze, enamel	10 1/2 in.x 8 1/2 in.x 1/2 in.* (m)
Pentimento	Erin Shie Palmer	Coroner Annex	1104A North Mission Road	Coroner	2016	Sculpture	Glassblowing	Glass	
Personal Archeology	Kathy Taslitz	Manhattan Beach Library	1320 Highland Avenue	Public Library	2016	Sculpture	Casting	Aluminum	
Pieces Together	Lawrence Argent	Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Public Health	11833 South Wilmington Avenue	Health Services	2014	Sculpture	Carving	Granite	18 ft.x 7 ft.x 20 ft.* (5.5 x 2.1 x 6.1 m)

The metadata in this database can be
sorted, filtered or combined with other databases,
using any of the categories (columns) that are included

In practice, metadata can be whatever your task requires:

- factual or interpretive

- concrete or abstract
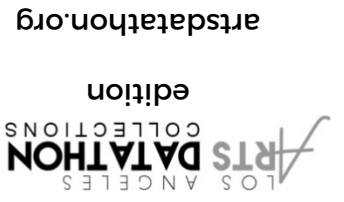
- technical terms or everyday language

METADATA

THROUGH

WORLD PEACE

A new term to describe an old concept

Google Books Ngram Viewer

Historical use of the word "metadata".

Metadata is "data that provides information about other data"
-- *merriam-webster.com*

"Data" comes from the Latin "datus," meaning "things that have been given."

"Meta" comes from the Greek prefix μετά- which means "among" or "between."

Metadata about books used to be stored in card catalogues, in categories like

- Title
- Author
- Subject
- Year
- Number of pages

The terms you use to describe this artwork...

mosaic star mural

green funny

glass

2010 white José Antonio Aguirre

animal shelter cat

Lancaster

Byzantine *Our Shining Stars*

...depend on what you see or know or think about it
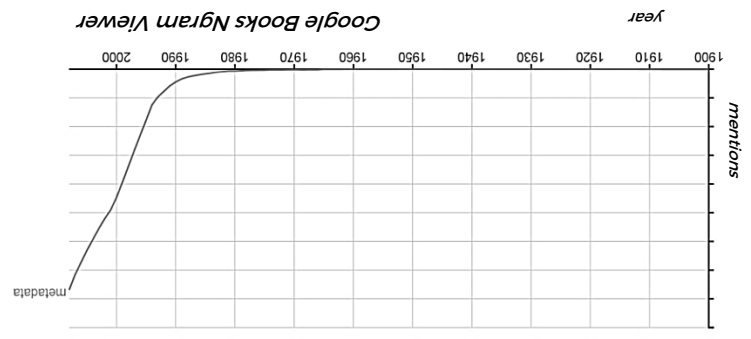

Metadata is good for

- Describing things
- Sorting information about a group of things (a collection)
- Aggregating contextual information
- Making it easier to search for and find things based on their characteristics
- Increasing awareness of a collection
- Helping the public explore a collection
- Discovering relationships between items in a collection
- Managing a collection

You can sort these **terms** into **categories**, such as

Title	Our Shining Stars
Artist	José Antonio Aguirre
Artwork type	Mural
Technique	Mosaic
Medium	Glass
Main colors	Green, white
Central image	Cat
Year created	2010
Location	Animal shelter
City	Lancaster
Influence	Byzantine art
Feeling	Funny

Hello Metadata!

Combine the metadata from many artworks using the same categories and suddenly...

unfold here →