

## UIUCLIS--2006/3+IMLS

**Oksana Zavalina. User Searches in IMLS DCC Collection Registry: Transaction Log Analysis. Technical Report UIUCLIS--2006/3+IMLS, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL, 2006.**

### *Introduction*

Subject access to collections has been in the focus of attention of LIS field for decades. A number of catalog use studies have been conducted in attempts to better understand its role and the problems user faces while searching for the information on a particular topic, with transaction log analysis being one of the methods widely employed by these studies. However, issues of subject access in federated collections, where the “unit of analysis” is a collection rather than an item search, have not yet been investigated. This paper reports an attempt of such an analysis performed on the IMLS Digital Collection Registry transaction log dataset.

IMLS Digital Collections and Content project is being implemented at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign since January 2003. Within the project framework, a registry of all National Leadership Grant collections with digital content has been created. The IMLS Collection Registry includes collection level descriptions<sup>1</sup> and links to homepages of over 170 digital collections, created by libraries, museums, historical societies, botanical gardens and other cultural heritage institutions with support of the National Leadership Grant administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services since 1998. The IMLS Digital Collections Registry is indexed with the GEM (Gateway to Educational Materials) subject headings, which provide broad categories for browsing considered suitable for the educational and cultural heritage communities.

GEM project, started in September 1996, is an initiative of the National Library of Education to expand educators' access to Internet-based lesson plans, curriculum units and other educational materials (Sutton, 1999). GEM Element Set is an extension of the Dublin Core Element Set, with eight elements added to the initial 15-element DC package. In 1997, GEM subject scheme was created as the Subject Element GEM Controlled Vocabulary to describe digital objects in Gateway for Educational Materials repository. In part due to high national and international

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<sup>1</sup> See for example <http://imlsdcc.grainger.uiuc.edu/collections/FullDisplay.asp?cid=2404>

reputation that GEM project in general has gained since its inception, today GEM subject scheme's application goes beyond its original domain: the Gateway to Educational Materials database. GEM subject scheme is now one of the many<sup>2</sup> controlled vocabularies and subject hierarchies being used to provide subject access to online resources and digital libraries such as Everglade, Internet Scout Portal, Federal Resources for Educational Excellence (FREE), RefWorks, National Science Digital Library etc. Being a domain-specific controlled vocabulary aimed at educators, GEM subject headings are considered suitable for browsing databases in both educational and more general humanities domains.

GEM subject scheme (see Attachment 1) consists of 12 "level 1" broad subject headings: Arts, Educational Psychology, Foreign Languages, Health, Language Arts, Mathematics, Philosophy, Physical Education, Religion, Science, Social Studies, Vocational Education, each of which has from 12 to 29 narrower "level 2" headings under it. The second level subject headings for Philosophy and Religion replicate ERIC Thesaurus "Narrower Terms" for these two broad subjects. Several of the level 2 GEM subject headings – Careers, History, Informal education, Instructional issues, Process skills, and Technology – are facets applicable to each of the twelve broad subject headings.

According to Stuart Sutton (2004), the major deficiency of the digital library architecture, including GEM, is the absence of the standardization in name authority; neither name nor place subject are represented in GEM subject scheme.

Collection administrators participating in the IMLS Collection Repository project are required to provide top-level GEM subjects in collection descriptions for the registry. Use of other subject headings is not required but supported by the metadata schema. As recently collected survey and interview data show, collection administrators are not completely satisfied with GEM subject scheme use for collection level description. Most of them point at the significant drawback of GEM subject scheme – lack of breadth and depth in topic coverage, especially at the top level of the subject hierarchy.

### ***Research Question***

The major research question in this study was: How suitable is the GEM (Gateway for Educational Materials) subject scheme adopted by IMLS Collection registry for describing diverse collections in the Registry? If it does not provide appropriate subject representation,

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<sup>2</sup> GEM subject scheme is one of the 129 thesauri listed by the Library of Congress list of codes for subjects <http://www.loc.gov/marc/sourcecode/subject>

would another controlled vocabulary do a better job for this particular registry?

Based on the literature for evaluating subject schemes (Cochrane 1986, Larson 1991A etc.) and my own observations I have formulated eight general criteria for measuring GEM subject scheme suitability to collection level description in IMLS registry:

1. diversity of topics covered by GEM subject headings (breadth and depth of subject coverage),
2. syndetic structure of the GEM subject scheme,
3. heading structure of GEM subject headings,
4. currency of GEM subject headings,
5. availability of links between GEM subject headings and subject terms from other controlled vocabularies
6. degree of overlap between GEM subject terms and other subject terms used in the collection level description,
7. degree of overlap between the collection level description GEM subject terms and subject headings used in item level description.
8. semantic match between the GEM subject terms and keywords used by searchers of the registry.

A preliminary analysis of a sample of 23 digital collections based on the first seven criteria demonstrated overall inability of GEM subject scheme to adequately represent breadth and depth of subjects of the diverse collections in IMLS Collection registry. For this project, I chose to focus on the last and very important criterion – the semantic match between keywords applied by users in their searches and the GEM subject headings used in collection description records. Because no research has been done yet with the focus on specifics of search types and approaches in federated collections at collection level, another area of my interest in this project is general description of the searches made by users in IMLS Digital collection registry: the weight of subject versus known-item searches, typical query profile in terms of the number of words, frequency of each query use etc. I am also interested in correlation – if any – between the type of search and the semantic match of search terms with controlled vocabulary terms.

Given all the above, the more specific research question for this project is: how similar are the IMLS Collection Registry user keywords (extracted from transaction log) and the controlled vocabulary terms from three different controlled vocabularies – GEM thesaurus and its

alternatives? Which of the three controlled vocabularies matches higher percentage of the search terms from the user queries made in the Registry?

### *Data Collection and Data Analysis*

Based on the recent decade's research on matching user terms with controlled vocabulary terms (Collantes 1995, Dubin 1998, Greenberg 2001, Gault, Shultz & Davies 2002, Gross & Taylor 2005, Nowick & Mering 2003, Qin 2000), the following conclusions can be made regarding the typical data source, data processing and data analysis techniques applied:

*Typical source of data:* transaction logs, user terms submitted for mediated search

*Typical data processing techniques:*

- Parsing user queries into separate terms (excluding stop words) and phrases
- Extracting stems from the words in user queries

*Typical analysis steps:*

- Match user queries with controlled vocabulary terms: most often exact, near exact matches (with variations in spelling, endings and plurals/singulars), and synonyms (SYN), sometimes – also broader terms (BT), related terms (RT), narrower terms (NT) (the latter works only in structured thesaurus, which GEM is not).
- Run user queries (with user terms either mapped or un-mapped to particular thesaurus, including SYN, BT, NT, RT) in the same or other comparable system they originate from (e.g. OPAC, article database)

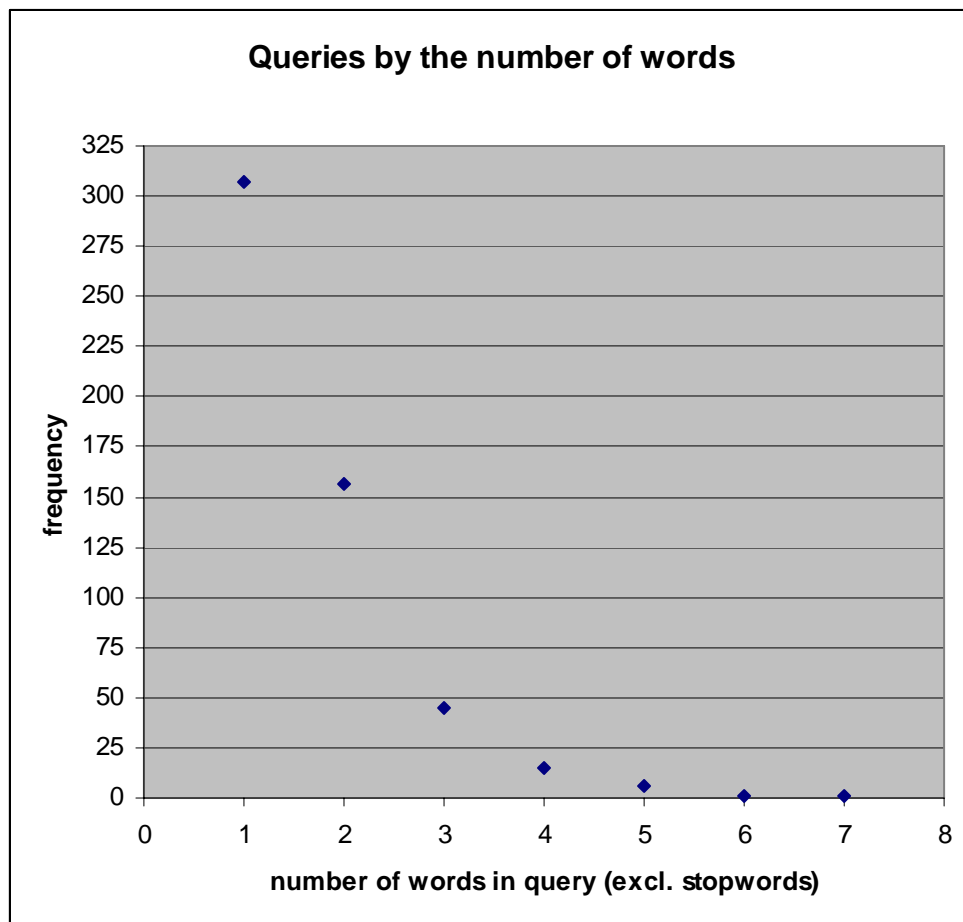
*Typical data analysis techniques:* Qualitative analysis and descriptive statistics.

The major dataset used in the analysis is the IMLS Collection Registry transaction log dataset – an Access file that consists of over 19,000 records and covers a period of approximately 7 months, between February 2005, when collection registry was first made publicly accessible, and September 2005. Initially transaction log file consisted of over 100,000 records, but after exclusion of the noise – searches and browsing made in the Collection Registry by web crawlers and Registry testers – the size was reduced to approximately 19,000 records. Each record/row contains information on IP address the query originated from, date and time of access, webpage visited within the Collection Registry, raw query string etc.

The transaction log was manually processed to extract all the keyword search query strings – a total of 945, which were then alphabetized (see Attachment 2). Given the time constraints of this project, a subset of 533 user queries was selected for analysis. Since the sample constitutes a large portion – over 56% – of the total dataset, it should be representative of a dataset as a whole.

Sampling procedure was conveniently applied as follows: queries that start with letters “A” to “L” were selected for analysis. The limitations of such sampling include uneven distribution of potential search terms throughout the alphabet: some letters have much more words starting with them than the others. Also, the search terms that started with numbers were not included. The rest of the dataset will be included in further analysis.

The user keyword queries vary in complexity and length. For example, the number of words in each query ranges from 1 to 7, with the vast majority consisting of one or two words, as can be seen from the chart below.



Preserving the context of a search is an important factor for analysis, especially when trying to decide on search type and finding a match with the terms in a controlled vocabulary. Therefore, the decision was made not to parse queries into separate words or even further – into stems. The minimal processing of the queries was done with noun words in queries: plurals were truncated and grouped together in the same query with the singulars of the same words (e.g. “Indians” and “Indian” became “Indian\*”, “clipper ships” and “clipper ship” became “clipper ship\*”). Both correct and misspelled versions of the same words were considered the instances of the same query (e.g. “Antarctica” and “antartica”, “immigration” and “imigration”).

At the **first stage of analysis**, general descriptive statistics procedures were used: search frequencies and the number of words excluding stop words in queries were calculated for each query, averaged for the whole sample and for each category separately. The stop words for these purposes included prepositions, conjunctions and articles.

The major part of the first stage of analysis was categorizing the user queries into seven broad search types or categories, derived from the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR, 1998) classification of the entities in bibliographic universe. Seven out of ten FRBR entities that can be subjects of the work were used in this study's framework: *work*, *person*, *corporate body*, *concept*, *object*, *event* and *place*. The definitions of each entity and examples given by FRBR – detailed for *work*, *person*, and *corporate body*, but scarce for *object*, *concept*, *event* and *place* – were followed as guidelines for distinguishing between the categories. In essence, seven categories are characterized by FRBR as:

1. *work*: a distinct intellectual or artistic creation (FRBR, p. 16)
2. “*person*: an individual; encompasses individuals that are deceased as well as those that are living” (p. 23)
3. “*corporate body*: an organization or group of individuals and/or organizations acting as a unit; encompasses organizations and groups of individuals and/or organizations that are identified by a particular name, including occasional groups and groups that are constituted as meetings, conferences, congresses, expeditions, exhibitions, festivals, fairs, etc. The entity also encompasses organizations that act as territorial authorities, exercising or claiming to exercise government functions over a certain territory, such as a federation, a state, a region, a local municipality, etc. The entity encompasses organizations and groups that are defunct as well as those that continue to operate” (p. 24)
4. “*concept*: an abstract notion or idea; encompasses a comprehensive range of abstractions that may be the subject of a *work*: fields of knowledge, disciplines, schools of thought (philosophies, religions, political ideologies, etc.), theories, processes, techniques, practices, etc. A *concept* may be broad in nature or narrowly defined and precise” (p. 25)
5. “*object*: a material thing; encompasses a comprehensive range of material things that may be the subject of a *work*: animate and inanimate objects occurring in nature; fixed, movable, and moving objects that are the product of human creation; objects that no longer exist” (p. 26)

6. “*event*: an action or occurrence; encompasses a comprehensive range of actions and occurrences that may be the subject of a work: historical events, epochs, periods of time, etc.”(p. 27)
7. “*place*: a location; encompasses a comprehensive range of locations: terrestrial and extra-terrestrial; historical and contemporary; geographic features and geo-political jurisdictions”(p. 27).

FRBR’s *expression*, *manifestation* and *item* entities were not adopted as categories for this analysis, since it is virtually impossible to detect from transaction log what exactly the user was searching for: an abstract work, its particular expression, manifestation or item. Therefore, in my classification of Collection Registry queries, *work* is broader than FRBR’s *work* and covers any artistic creation that has a title, including the digital collections that are members of IMLS Collection Registry.

Although the FRBR *person* entity does not currently cover families, there is a provision to update FRBR model with adding *family* entity to the same group of entities that contains *person* and *corporate body*. Therefore, I tentatively expanded the *person* category in my analysis to include families (e.g. “Cushmans”), as well as ethnic groups/nationalities (e.g. “Irish Americans”) and classes of persons (e.g. “children that are abused”) that I believe belong to the same group of entities and are tightly connected with *person* entity.

The rare occasions of fictitious characters were treated on the basis of “what they would be if they really existed” (e.g., TV series’ character Alf is a creature, thus an FRBR’s *object*, as would also be a dog or a squid).

For consistency in distinguishing between types of searches in less straight-forward cases, some simple rules were developed: unspecified social and business institutions (e.g. “library”, “archive”, “can company”, “amusement park”) were classified as *concepts*, institutions for which physical structure is more important (e.g., “ballrooms”, “highways”) as *objects*, and more specifically named ones (e.g., “Icy Hot Bottle Co.”, “library+Moorhead”) as *corporate bodies*. Some queries presented a real challenge for classification: “books” was one of them, which I tentatively categorized as a *concept*, although it could as well be an *object*. As any categorization, such an approach is inevitably judgmental, which is one of the limitations of the study. Another limitation of applying FRBR framework – as probably any other – for

categorization of subject searches lies in ambiguity of actual searches, further discussed in Findings and Discussion section.

The queries that presented no clue as to what type they belong to (e.g., “aF”, “beyond”, “LU+65”) were grouped together in an eighth category – *unknown*.

The **second stage** of analysis included searching in three controlled vocabularies – GEM, LCSH, and Art and Architecture Thesaurus – for the semantic matches of actual user queries from the IMLS Collection Registry transaction log. Library of Congress Subject Headings was selected for analysis as a controlled vocabulary that almost a half of digital collections participating in Collection Registry are using for item-level description and that is being considered by some of surveyed collections as an alternative to GEM for collection-level description. OCLC Connexion database features – LCSH authority file and Web Dewey search for editorially mapped LCSH headings – were used for matching user queries with LCSH. Art and Architecture Thesaurus (AAT) was selected as another plausible alternative for describing cultural heritage materials – and possibly collections. A number of collections participating in the registry are using AAT for their item-level description. Moreover, AAT is a controlled vocabulary of a smaller scope than LCSH, but significantly more detailed than GEM.

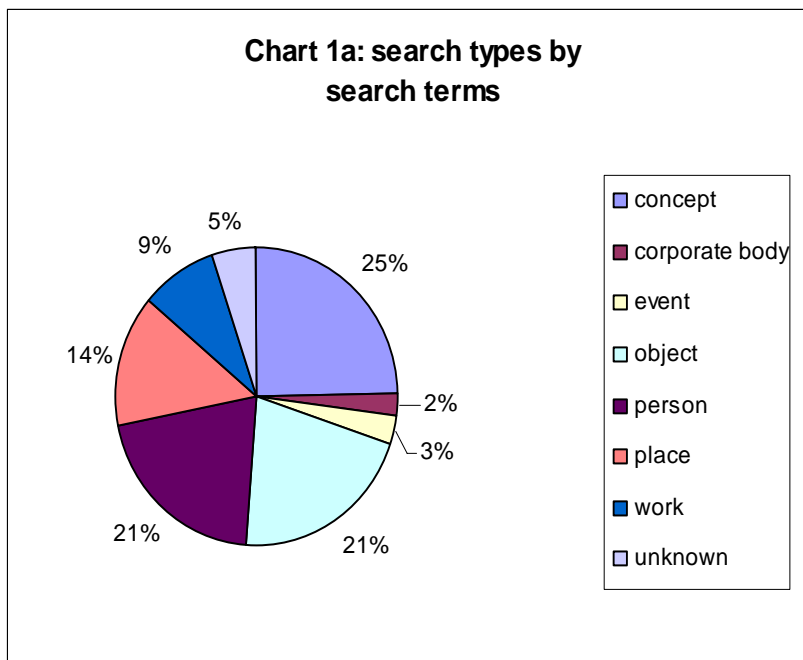
Only exact/abbreviated and synonymous matches (e.g., “inoculation” and “vaccination”) were treated as semantic matches for the purposes of this analysis. Abbreviated queries were matched with the full terms in controlled vocabularies, e.g. “ilgwu” with “International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union”. The order of the terms in the query, as well as presence or absence of prepositions and conjunctions was ignored for analysis. (e.g., “French art” was matched with “Art, French”; “epistemology” with “knowledge, theory of”, “children that are abused” with “abused children”). Endings of the words were also disregarded, as long as they did not affect the meaning (e.g., “automated speech recognition” was matched with “automatic speech recognition”). Both preferred terms and variant terms in controlled vocabulary were considered legitimate matches. For example, both 150 MARC field (USE) and 450 field (USE FOR) in LCSH authority records were analyzed to find a semantic match to a user query. Simple user queries were in some cases matched with compound LCSH subject headings, for instance “housing for shipyard workers” was matched with “Shipbuilding industry—Employees—Housing”.

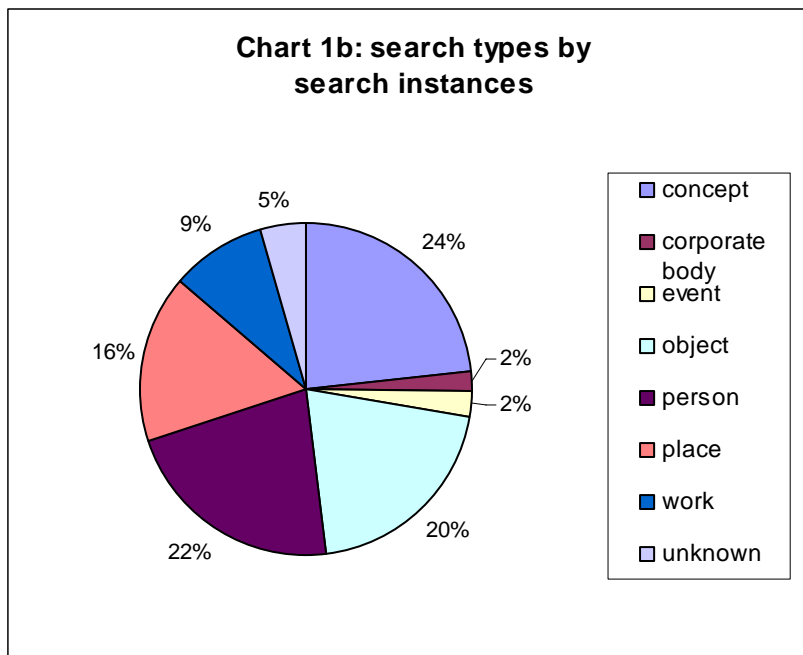


The number of matches was totaled and averaged for the whole sample and for search types. Complete categorized listing of user query terms, along with descriptive statistics and calculations is available at <https://netfiles.uiuc.edu/zavalina/MDRTPapers/AtoLwithAAT.xls>.

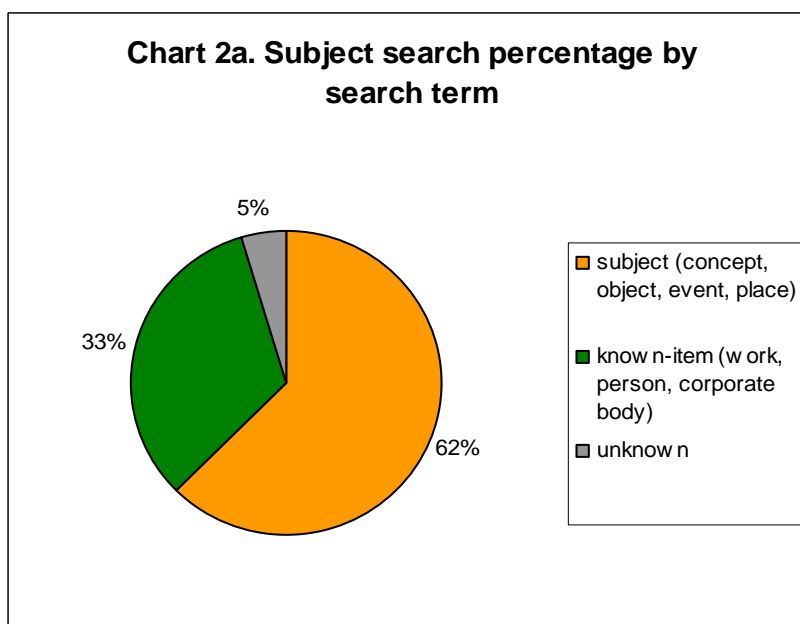
### *Findings and Discussions*

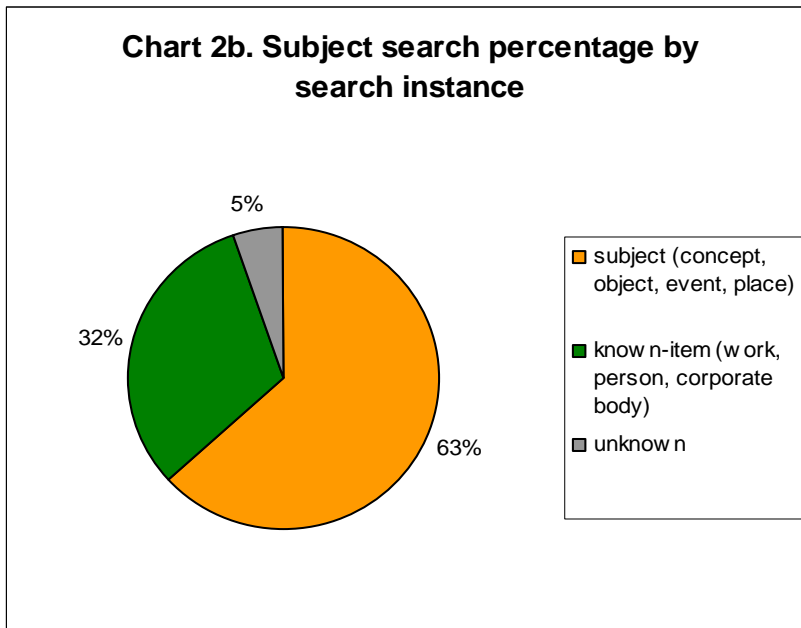
As the first stage of analysis demonstrated, two thirds of all searches made in IMLS Digital Collection Registry are spread between three broad FRBR categories: *concept*, *object*, and *person*, with *concept* search leading among both search terms and search instances. *Place* also takes significant percentage of searches, while *corporate body*, *event*, *work*, and *unknown* search types combined total below 20% of the searches. The low level of *event* searching is surprising, since most of the historical searches would be searches for *events*.



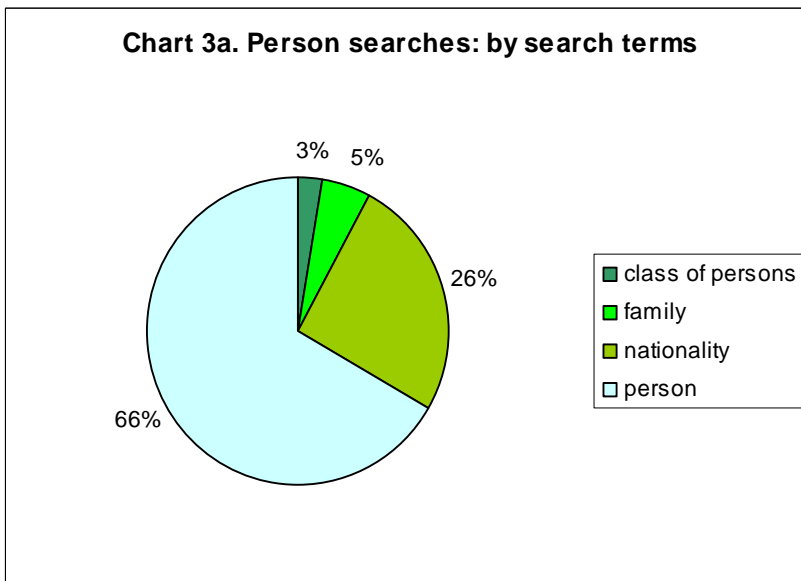


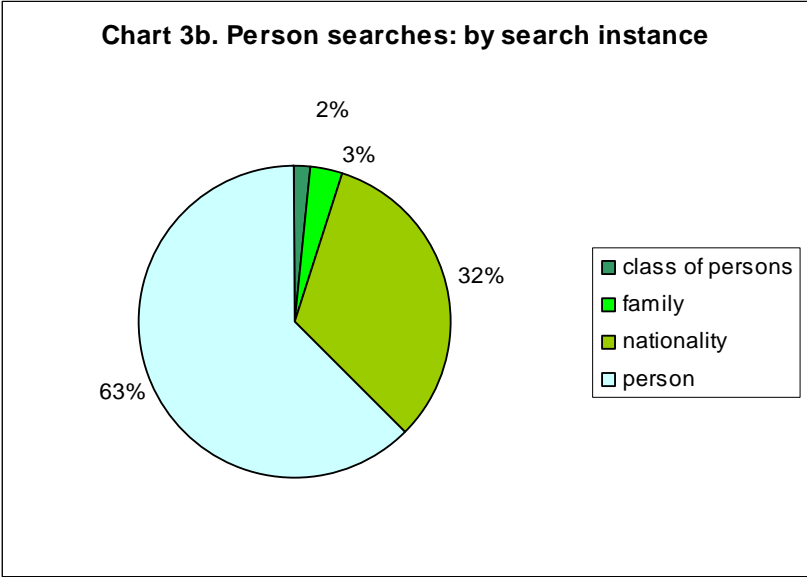
Because of the very nature of *concept*, *object*, *place*, and *event*, these cannot possibly belong to the widely-used in LIS general type of known-item searches (i.e. searches where the user knows either author or title of the work sought), and therefore search categories can be safely considered subject searches in the IMLS Collection Registry. As can be easily seen from the chart below, then subject search constitutes at least 62% of all search terms and all search instances.



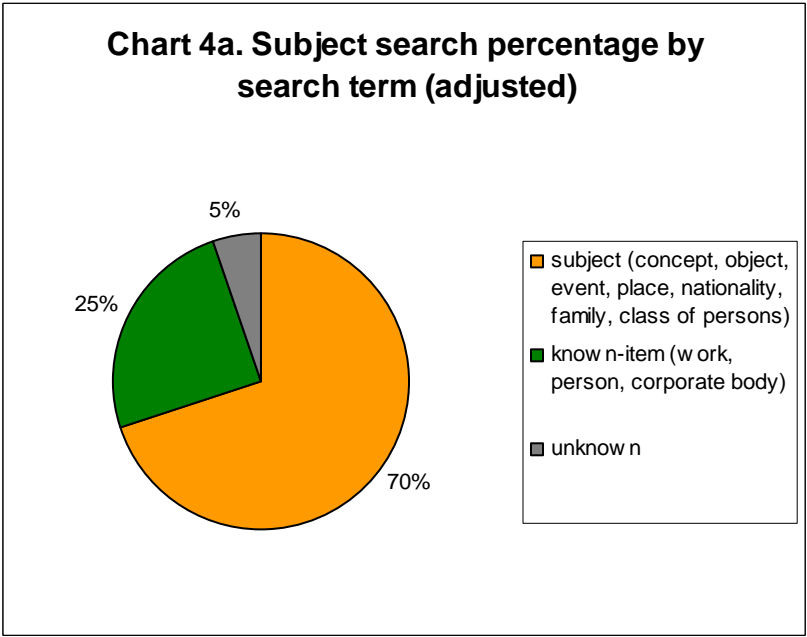


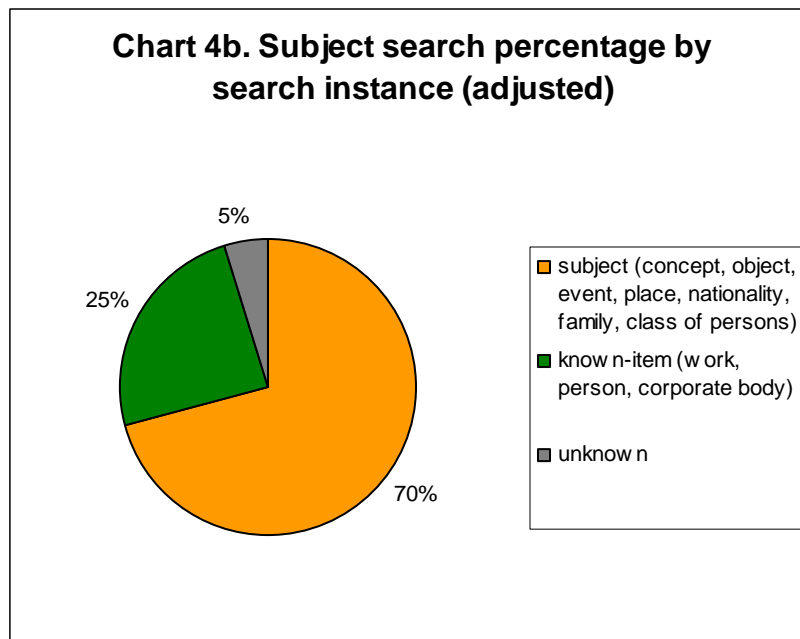
However, of course not all *person* searches will be known-item searches, since the broad *person* category includes also families, ethnic groups/nationalities and classes of persons. In the sample studied, over one third – 34% to 37% – of all searches initially assigned to the *person* search type represents these types of searches:





Thus, by adding these family, ethnic group/nationality and class of persons searches to the pool of subject searches, the percentage of subject searches made in the IMLS Collection Registry increases to 70% by both search term and search instance:





Although the number of federated digital collections has been rapidly growing recently, as did the creation and use of collection registries, no attempt has been documented in LIS literature so far to conceptualize known-item and subject searches at the collection level. In my operational definition, since in IMLS Digital Collection Registry the searches are conducted at the collection level, the known-title search in such situation will be the search, where the user knows the title of the digital collection; everything else will be a subject search, which, broadly defined, includes both controlled- and uncontrolled-vocabulary searches with an intent to find information on particular subject/topic/discipline/area.

The majority – sixty-three percent of search terms and seventy-two percent of search instances – of the *work* searches in the Registry were the searches for specific digital collection title, thus a known-item search. Although the rest of *work* searches were for the specific item-level titles, and therefore at the collection-level search can be treated as subject searches, the number of them was not significant enough to affect the distribution of two major search types – subject and known-item – as shown above.

The prevalence of subject search is obvious from the charts and remains in agreement with results of the 1982 large-scale Council for Library Research (CLR) study of online catalog use, which radically changed the conception of catalog use by finding subject search to be unexpectedly widely used by patrons – 59% of all searches. Compared to the earlier transaction log studies of online catalog use (e.g., Larson 1991B), including CLR study itself, the relative value of subject search as shown by the current study is much higher, which can be explained by at least two reasons:

- a general shift towards subject searches in a world where abundance of publication makes it less and less possible to know the title or author of the specific item
- a conceptual difference between collection-level and item-level searches, which implies a trend towards increased levels of subject search in federated collection registries.

Further research into how the search type distribution in IMLS Item-level Repository and IMLS Digital Collection Registry correlate with each other will help to answer these questions.

It should be noted here that actual searches conducted by users in the Registry rarely could be categorized “strictly” as any one of the search categories/FRBR entities, and sometimes presented a real challenge in determining which entity was the major component of a query. Below is a discussion of some of the examples found in this transaction log:

1. **“Amusement park”**. As an abstract idea of amusement parks this query might be categorized as a *concept*. On the other hand, amusement parks are physical structures created by people, which makes it an *object* in FRBR definition. There is no correct answer to this question, even asking a user what (s)he meant when making this search would not clarify the ambiguity in most cases, because a concept of amusement parks is tightly connected to the object of amusement park. If you ask a user, you might learn that the search was for a specific institution, thus a FRBR *corporate body*. Similar examples of queries from the sample studied include **“Archives”**, **“Ballrooms”**, **“Highways”**, **“detroit+historical+museums”** (the latter is also inseparable from a specific location – FRBR *place*, as is **“library Moorhead”**).
2. **“Industrial models”**. The very word “models” implies it being a *concept*, as modeling requires conceptualizing. On the other hand, industrial models are physical structures created by people to assist in specific industrial processes, therefore it can also be categorized as an *object*. **“lesson+plans”** appears to be a very similar example, only from another realm – education rather than industry.
3. **“Landscape”** is something that exists in the nature, or can be created by people, thus it seems to be a FRBR *object*. However, the possibility exists for it to be classed as a *concept* too, if a user is searching for literature on landscapes and landscaping as a discipline.
4. **“letters+from+19th+century”** is a pretty straightforward example of *object* search. However, it is qualified by a specific time period, which, in FRBR definition, is an *event*.
5. **“asian+American”** appears to be a *person* search, although often refers to a broader category nonexistent in FRBR model yet – an ethnic group. However, it is inseparable from two *places* – Asian and American continents. In my understanding, a person or ethnic group in general is in most cases defined through place. Similarly, **“children+that+are+abuse”** is also a group (or a class) of *persons* inseparable from another FRBR entity, but defined by *event* of abuse rather than by *place*.
6. **“henry+fordmuseum+and+greenfiel+village”** is a specific corporate body (the Library of Congress corporate body authority file exists for it in WorldCat). However, it is

obvious, that a *person* of Henry Ford and a *place* of Greenfield Village are integral parts of this query.

7. “*don+quijote*” is both a fictitious character created by Cervantes and a phrase widely known as a title of his book -- although in fact it is just a part of the book’s title. Categorization of this search entirely depends on the user intention, which cannot be known from the query itself. If the search was for a book, it was a *work* search, but if it was for a character it was either a *concept* (something abstract that does not exist and never physically existed), or a *person* if we follow the logic of “what it would be if it existed”.
8. “*Civil rights movement*” might be classified as an *event*, which is a tricky entity because it is, according to Functional Requirements to Subject Authority Records (Zeng and Salaba, 2005), a combination of *place* and time. But where is time and place in this query? It may equally refer to various times and place, e.g. 1950s United States, or 1960s France, or 1970s Soviet Union, or 2000s China. Does the absence of explicit or implicit qualifiers make it a *concept*? “*Census*” seems to belong to the same cluster of examples.

Studies of transaction logs typically look at the frequencies of search term use and the average number of words in the search query. For the sample of queries analyzed in this study, the average frequency of term use was rather low – 1.4. The highest search term use frequency was recorded for *place* category – 1.58 – and the lowest was recorded for *event* category – 1.08. In terms of the typical number of words in query excluding stop words, the average for the whole sample constituted 1.69 words per query. The highest average number of words per query was recorded for *corporate body* category of search – 2.78 – and the lowest was recorded for *place* – 1.35 words per query.

At the second stage of analysis, the number of matches for user search queries in three controlled vocabularies – GEM subject scheme, Library of Congress Subject Headings, and Art and Architecture Thesaurus – was compared for each search term (combination of terms in the user query), for each category of searches, and for the whole sample. A total of 10 matches – 2.6% out of 380 unique search terms – were found in GEM subject scheme. A total of 271 matches – 71.3% – were found in LCSH. Art and Architecture Thesaurus matched only 86 – 22.63% of user keywords. The only category of user searches GEM had matches to was *concept*, while LCSH had matches to all the categories, including a couple of *unknown* searches, which as the category were the worst represented in LCSH. Art and Architecture Thesaurus terms matched mostly *concepts* and *objects*, with no matches at all in *corporate body*, *place* and *work* search categories. The table below illustrates absolute and relative values of these semantic matches:

**Table 1.**

<b>FRBR subject type</b>	<b>Unique search terms</b>	<b>search instances</b>	<b>GEM match</b>	<b>GEM match, %</b>	<b>LCSH match</b>	<b>LCSH match,%</b>	<b>AAT match</b>	<b>AAT match, %</b>
concept	94	125	10	10.54	87	92.55	53	56.38
corporate body	9	10	0	0	5	55.56	0	0
event	12	13	0	0	6	50.00	2	16.66
object	79	108	0	0	51	64.56	29	36.71
person	78	117	0	0	63	80.77	1	1.28
place	55	87	0	0	51	92.73	0	0
Work	34	49	0	0	4	11.76	0	0
Unknown	19	24	0	0	4	21.05	1	5.26
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2.63</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>71.32</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>22.63</b>

The low level of matching between the user search terms and the GEM subject terms is explained by the extreme broadness of this subject scheme. There is no widely shared notion of the digital collection even among collection creators and managers (Lee 2000, Hill et al. 1999); much more confusion exists among the users of federated collection repositories. Such an ambiguity can cause sometimes unjustified preciseness and narrowness of collection-level search terms selected by Registry users, who are not making distinction between searching for items in collection and searching for collections in collection registry. Whatever is the reason, the mismatch between the GEM subject scheme and actual searches is obvious.

Surprisingly, LCSH, although matching most of the user terms, still leaves almost 30% unmatched. LCSH is the most effective in matching *places* and *concepts*, while *works* remain the least matched; only about a half of *corporate bodies* and *events* from this study's sample are covered by LCSH terms. The reason may lay in general inflexibility of LCSH – a large scheme that is extremely hard to keep up-to-date. A vivid illustration from this study is the absence of such term as “learning standards” in LCSH authority file.

However, as can be seen from the Table 2 below, compared to the other two controlled vocabularies, LCSH on its own (without overlap with AAT or GEM) covers the lion share – almost 50% of user search terms. Only 6 terms matched by AAT were not also matched in LCSH, and all the terms matched in GEM were also matched in LCSH.



**Table 2.**

FRBR subject type	unique search terms	matched by GEM alone	matched by GEM and LCSH	matched by GEM and AAT	matched by LCSH alone	matched by LCSH and AAT	matched by AAT alone	matched by ALL	matched by NONE
concept	94	0	3	0	32	45	1	7	6
corporate body	9	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	4
event	12	0	0	0	4	2	0	0	6
object	79	0	0	0	26	25	4	0	24
person	78	0	0	0	62	0	1	0	15
place	55	0	0	0	51	0	0	0	4
work	34	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	30
unknown	19	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	15
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>380</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>187</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>104</i>

The most unexpected finding of the second stage of analysis was that well-developed, up-to-date, flexible and faceted Art and Architecture Thesaurus, which seems to be especially suitable for describing cultural heritage materials and possibly collections, matched such a small proportion of user search terms. The explanation can lay in the fact that AAT, just as GEM, does not include name and place authority files. However, the broader Getty Thesaurus framework, along with AAT, also includes such authority files.

### Conclusions

This study results demonstrate an unusually high for catalog use / transaction log analysis studies level of subject searching made by patrons at the collection level. Further investigation is needed into the reasons of such increase in subject search proportion, including collection of data through collection registry users' interviews and observations.

Further research is also needed into which controlled vocabulary would best represent digital collections in the IMLS collection registry. Although LCSH has shown relatively good results, none of the three controlled vocabularies in this study fully represents the subjects of diverse collections in the IMLS Digital Collection Registry, or at least a user's expectations towards these subjects. For the future study, another – more flexible than LCSH – controlled vocabulary of the moderate scale, which, unlike GEM or AAT, represents a wider variety of search types – not just *concepts* and/or *objects* – should be selected for the same analysis and for comparison with GEM, LCSH, and AAT. To compensate for deficiencies of the transaction log analysis as a method that does not provide any insight into user motivations and intentions and deals only with user actions, think-aloud protocol observation of the users searching IMLS Digital Collection registry should be incorporated into further analysis.

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## ATTACHMENT 1

### Gateway to Educational Materials Subject Scheme

GEM Level 1	GEM Level 2
<b>Arts</b>	Architecture Art therapy Careers* Computers in art Dance Drama/dramatics Film History* Informal education* Instructional issues* Music Photography Popular culture* Process skills* Technology* Theater arts Visual arts
<b>Educational technology</b>	Audio-visual equipment Careers* Educational media History* Informal education* Instructional issues* Integrating technology into the classroom Language laboratories Multimedia education Process skills* Staff inservice Technology* Technology planning
<b>Foreign languages</b>	Alphabet Bilingualism Careers* Cultural awareness Grammar History* Informal education* Instructional issues* Linguistics

	<p>Listening comprehension</p> <p>Process skills*</p> <p>Reading</p> <p>Speaking</p> <p>Spelling</p> <p>Technology*</p> <p>Vocabulary</p> <p>Writing</p>
<b>Health</b>	<p>Aging</p> <p>Body systems and senses</p> <p>Careers*</p> <p>Chronic conditions</p> <p>Consumer health</p> <p>Death and dying</p> <p>Disease</p> <p>Environmental health</p> <p>Family life</p> <p>History*</p> <p>Human sexuality</p> <p>Informal education*</p> <p>Instructional issues*</p> <p>Mental/emotional health</p> <p>Nutrition</p> <p>Process skills*</p> <p>Safety</p> <p>Smoking</p> <p>Substance abuse prevention</p> <p>Technology*</p>
<b>Language Arts</b>	<p>Alphabet</p> <p>Careers*</p> <p>Debate</p> <p>Grammar</p> <p>Handwriting</p> <p>History*</p> <p>Informal education*</p> <p>Instructional issues*</p> <p>Journalism</p> <p>Listening comprehension</p> <p>Literature</p> <p>Mechanics</p> <p>Phonics</p> <p>Process skills*</p> <p>Reading</p> <p>Reading aloud</p> <p>Speech</p>

	<p>Spelling</p> <p>Story telling</p> <p>Technology*</p> <p>Vocabulary</p> <p>Whole language</p> <p>Writing (composition)</p>
<b>Mathematics</b>	<p>Algebra</p> <p>Applied mathematics</p> <p>Arithmetic</p> <p>Calculus</p> <p>Careers*</p> <p>Discrete mathematics</p> <p>Functions</p> <p>Geometry</p> <p>History*</p> <p>Informal education*</p> <p>Instructional issues*</p> <p>Measurement</p> <p>Number sense</p> <p>Number theory</p> <p>Patterns</p> <p>Probability</p> <p>Process skills*</p> <p>Statistics</p> <p>Technology*</p> <p>Trigonometry</p>
<p><b>Philosophy</b></p> <p>Note:</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> level = ERIC</p> <p>Thesaurus</p> <p>"Narrower Terms"</p>	<p>Aesthetics</p> <p>Careers*</p> <p>Educational Philosophy</p> <p>Epistemology</p> <p>Ethics</p> <p>Existentialism</p> <p>Hermeneutics</p> <p>History*</p> <p>Informal education*</p> <p>Instructional issues*</p> <p>Logic</p> <p>Marxism</p> <p>Phenomenology</p> <p>Platonism</p> <p>Process skills*</p> <p>Semiotics</p> <p>Technology*</p>
<b>Physical</b>	Adventure and risk challenge activities

<p><b>Education</b></p>	<p>Aquatics  Careers*  Games (educational)  Gymnastics(educational)  History*  Individual sports  Informal education*  Instructional issues*  Motor/movement skills  Outdoor education  Process skills*  Rhythms and dance  Skill-related fitness  Team sports  Technology*</p>
<p><b>Religion</b>  Note:  2<sup>nd</sup> level = ERIC  Thesaurus  "Narrower Terms"</p>	<p>Buddhism  Careers*  Christianity  Confucianism  History*  Informal education*  Instructional issues*  Islam  Judaism  Process skills*  Taoism  Technology*</p>
<p><b>Science</b></p>	<p>Agriculture  Astronomy  Biological and life sciences  Biology  Botany  Careers*  Chemistry  Earth science  Ecology  Embryology  Engineering  Entomology  General science  Geology  Histology  History*  Informal education*  Instructional issues*</p>

	<p>Metallurgy</p> <p>Meteorology</p> <p>Natural history</p> <p>Oceanography</p> <p>Paleontology</p> <p>Pharmacology</p> <p>Physical sciences</p> <p>Physics</p> <p>Process skills*</p> <p>Space sciences</p> <p>Technology*</p>
<p><b>Social studies</b></p>	<p>Anthropology</p> <p>Careers*</p> <p>Civics</p> <p>Comparative political systems</p> <p>Criminology</p> <p>Current events/issues</p> <p>Economics</p> <p>Geography</p> <p>Gerontology</p> <p>History*</p> <p>Human behavior</p> <p>Human relations</p> <p>Informal education*</p> <p>Instructional issues*</p> <p>Process skills*</p> <p>Psychology</p> <p>Social work</p> <p>Sociology</p> <p>State history</p> <p>Technology*</p> <p>Technology and civilization</p> <p>United States Constitution</p> <p>United States government</p> <p>United States history</p> <p>Urban studies</p> <p>World history</p>
<p><b>Vocational education</b></p>	<p>Agriculture</p> <p>Allied health occupations</p> <p>Business</p> <p>Careers*</p> <p>Cooperative education</p> <p>Distributive</p> <p>History*</p> <p>Informal education*</p>

	Instructional issues* Occupational home economics Process skills* School-to-work Tech prep Technical Technology* Trade and industrial
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## ATTACHMENT 2

### User Keyword Queries in IMLS Digital Collection Registry: Alphabetic Sequence

1. 16+MM
2. 1704
3. 1704
4. 1800-1849+fashion+
5. 1800-1849+fashion+of+clothing
6. 1800-1849+fashion+of+clothing
7. 1818+
8. 1876
9. 1895
10. 1895
11. 1976
12. 19th+century+epistles
13. a%3F
14. A.J.+Small
15. a+bird+in+a+gilded+cage
16. a+streetcar+named+desire
17. aboriginal
18. accounting
19. adams
20. adult
21. aerial
22. aeruak
23. africa
24. africa
25. africa+focus
26. africa+focus
27. african
28. african
29. african+american+studies
30. agriculture
31. aircraft
32. Ajumawi
33. Ajumawi%2Fatsugewi
34. akron
35. alex+janis
36. alf
37. alferd+packer
38. alfred+packer
39. algeria
40. alternative+energy
41. american+
42. American+Centuries
43. american+history&type=text
44. american+indian
45. american+jouneys
46. american+jouneys
47. american+journeys
48. american+journies
49. american+literature
50. american+literature
51. american+natural+science
52. american+studies
53. amusement
54. amusement+park
55. amusement+parks
56. animals
57. ansil+addams
58. Antarctica
59. Antarctica
60. antarctica
61. Antarctica
62. antartica
63. antartica
64. Antifederal+Club
65. arab
66. archaeological
67. archaeology
68. archaeology
69. architecture
70. architecture
71. Architecture
72. archives
73. Arizona
74. arkansas

75. art+deco
76. artificialintelligence
77. Asia+continent
78. asian+American
79. assessing+governmental+performance%3A  
+an+analytical+framework
80. astronomy&type=image
81. Atsuge
82. audio
83. autoharp
84. automated+speech+recognition%94+&type  
=dataset&type=text
85. automated+speech+recognition%94+AND+  
%28software+OR+system%29
86. automated+speech+recognition%94+AND+  
%28software+OR+system%29&type=datase  
t&type=text
87. automobile
88. automobile
89. automobile
90. Baby+Beauty+Contests+in+Pittsburgh%2C  
+PA+1936-1941
91. Ballrooms
92. Bangwell+Putt
93. Bangwell+Putt
94. baseball
95. baseball
96. baseball&type=image&type=moving+image  
&type=sound
97. basketball
98. baskin
99. basque
100. basque
101. battle+of+new+orleans
102. Bay+State+Belting+Co.
103. beadwork
104. beaver
105. Belle+Isle
106. berkely+university+dinosaur
107. berryman
108. beyond
109. biography+of+Enid+M.+Baa
110. birds
111. birth+announcements
112. black
113. black+studies
114. blimp
115. blue&type=sound
116. blue&type=sound
117. blue&type=sound
118. BNDIAN+SITE
119. body
120. bohemian+grove
121. bohemian+grove
122. bohemian+grove
123. bohemian+grove
124. bohemian+grove
125. bolles
126. Books
127. books
128. Boston+City+Directory+1885
129. Boston+City+Directory+1905
130. Boston+City+Directory+1935
131. bottom+trawling
132. Bozeman+area+Indians
133. BROMELIAD
134. bronx+neighborhoods
135. bronx+postcards
136. bronxart.lehman.cuny.edu%2Fpa%2Fneighb  
orhood.htm
137. brooklin%2C+maine
138. brooklin+me
139. Brooklyn+Daily+Eagle+--+Dittman
140. Brooklyn+Daily+Eagle+in+1941
141. broward
142. busquets
143. california+city+directories
144. california+digital+library
145. californian+indian+art
146. cameo
147. can+company
148. Canada
149. canada
150. Canaletto

151.canalieto  
 152.canion  
 153.cannibals  
 154.cape+cod  
 155.cape+may  
 156.car  
 157.car  
 158.car  
 159.car  
 160.car  
 161.car  
 162.car  
 163.car  
 164.car  
 165.car  
 166.carbon  
 167.Cars  
 168.cars  
 169.cars  
 170.cat  
 171.catherine+beecher  
 172.catherine+beecher  
 173.catherine+beecher  
 174.census  
 175.cervantes&type=text  
 176.chemistry&type=unknown  
 177.Cheques  
 178.chess  
 179.chicago  
 180.chicago  
 181.child+abuse  
 182.child+abuse+  
 183.childabuse+case+  
 184.childabuse+case+in+maryland  
 185.children+that+are+abuse  
 186.Chile  
 187.Chinese  
 188.chinese  
 189.Chinese  
 190.chinese&type=text  
 191.chinese+American  
 192.chinese+language  
 193.city+directories  
 194.civil+rights+movement  
 195.civil+war+records++illinois  
 196.clark  
 197.cleveland  
 198.clipper+ship  
 199.clipper+ship+cards  
 200.clipper+ships  
 201.close+quarters+in+detroit  
 202.coal  
 203.coal  
 204.Colorad  
 205.Colorado  
 206.Colorado  
 207.Colorado  
 208.colorado  
 209.Colorado  
 210.Colorado+Granger  
 211.Colorado+Granger  
 212.columbia  
 213.comunist  
 214.community  
 215.computer  
 216.comradeship  
 217.concrete+music  
 218.confucianism  
 219.Congressional+Record  
 220.Connecticut  
 221.connecticut  
 222.connecticut+history  
 223.connecticut+history+online  
 224.connecticut+teaching  
 225.conservation  
 226.Cook  
 227.Cook+San+Francisco+Scrapbook  
 228.Cook+Scrapbook  
 229.cookbook  
 230.cookbooks  
 231.coommunity  
 232.correspondence+19th+century  
 233.costume  
 234.county

235.Crosley  
 236.cruikshank  
 237.Cruikshank  
 238.cruikshank  
 239.cruikshank  
 240.cuba+  
 241.cuba+  
 242.cuba+indipendence  
 243.cuban+immigrants  
 244.cuban+immigrants  
 245.cubans  
 246.cultural+competency  
 247.currency  
 248.cushman  
 249.Cutrell  
 250.Daugherty  
 251.daumier  
 252.Daumier  
 253.deaf  
 254.deaf+child  
 255.Deerfield  
 256.Deerfield  
 257.deerfield  
 258.deerfil%5Celd  
 259.demography  
 260.dentist  
 261.dentist  
 262.design  
 263.Detroit  
 264.Detroit  
 265.Detroit  
 266.Detroit+Boat+Club  
 267.detroit+historical+museums  
 268.detroit+river  
 269.diaries+from+the+1930s+under+the+New+  
     Deal+agencies  
 270.digital+dress  
 271.digital+dress  
 272.digital+dress  
 273.dinosaur  
 274.dinosaurs  
 275.dissertations  
 276.documenting+american+south  
 277.documenting+the+american+south  
 278.dogs  
 279.dogs  
 280.dolphins  
 281.dolphins%5C  
 282.don+quijote  
 283.don+quixote  
 284.dorothea  
 285.dorothea+lange  
 286.dorothea+lange  
 287.dorothea+lange  
 288.Dorothea+Lange  
 289.dorothea+lange  
 290.dorothea+lange  
 291.dorothea+lange&submit=Search  
 292.dortha+lange  
 293.dottie+long  
 294.dottie+lucille+long  
 295.drabik  
 296.dresses+from+the+1900+to+1980  
 297.durer  
 298.earth+field+trip  
 299.easter  
 300.eastern+Europe  
 301.Eastman  
 302.economics  
 303.economics  
 304.economics  
 305.edge+of+the+cedars+museum+collection  
 306.education+by+design  
 307.edward+curtis  
 308.edward+curtis+wax+cylinder  
 309.Edward+Mattis  
 310.edwards  
 311.Egypt  
 312.eico+369  
 313.Elsevier  
 314.empire+state+building  
 315.empire+state+building  
 316.epistemology  
 317.erik+satie

318.eubie+blake  
 319.eubie+blake  
 320.eubie+blake+scores+free  
 321.eugenics  
 322.exploratorium  
 323.fairport+ny  
 324.family  
 325.family+tree  
 326.farming+  
 327.fashion  
 328.fashion  
 329.fashion  
 330.fashion+for+the+1800-1849  
 331.fashion+for+the+1800-1849%5C  
 332.feeding  
 333.feeding  
 334.feeding+America  
 335.feeding+america  
 336.feeding+america  
 337.ferrotype+Lincoln  
 338.FILM  
 339.find+it  
 340.fire  
 341.florida  
 342.florida  
 343.Florida&type=dataset&type=interactive+res  
     ource  
 344.Florida&type=dataset&type=soun  
 345.florida+folklife  
 346.flying+cloud  
 347.folkstreams  
 348.Fox+%2Cet+al+First+steps+to+accreditatio  
     n+%2C+1992+gazette  
 349.fragrance  
 350.Frances+Lee+Pratt  
 351.freemasonry  
 352.french+art&type=image  
 353.french+art&type=image  
 354.freshwater+mussels  
 355.gabriel+Moulin  
 356.gambling  
 357.gandhi  
 358.gardener  
 359.GATT  
 360.gauguin  
 361.GEM  
 362.Genealogical  
 363.genealogy  
 364.genealogy  
 365.genealogy&type=image&type=text  
 366.george+washington  
 367.gerd  
 368.Giant+Squid  
 369.glen+genz  
 370.global+warming  
 371.glopad  
 372.google  
 373.grainger  
 374.grand+central+station  
 375.graves  
 376.graybar+building  
 377.great+lakes  
 378.Gros+Ventres  
 379.Guinea  
 380.Hamonic  
 381.Hamonic+Fire  
 382.harry+collins  
 383.hartford+Connecticut  
 384.haven%2C+maine  
 385.haven+colony  
 386.Hawaii  
 387.hawaii%2C  
 388.hearth  
 389.heliotrope  
 390.Heliotropium  
 391.Heliotropium+tenellum  
 392.henry+fordmuseum+and+greenfiel+village  
 393.henry+fordmuseum+and+greenfiel+village  
 394.Hibi  
 395.higher+education  
 396.Highland+Park  
 397.Highways  
 398.hippopotamus  
 399.hippopotamus&type=image

400.hisako  
 401.historic+atlas  
 402.historic+atlase  
 403.historic+atlases  
 404.History  
 405.history  
 406.history+of+highways  
 407.history+of+physical+education  
 408.Hokusai  
 409.Hollywood  
 410.Hollywood  
 411.holocaust  
 412.holocuast  
 413.homefront  
 414.honore  
 415.honre  
 416.horse  
 417.House  
 418.housing  
 419.Housing+for+Shipyard+Workers  
 420.hungary  
 421.Icy+Hot+Bottle+Co.  
 422.ieee+collections  
 423.ieee+publications  
 424.ilgwu  
 425.illinois  
 426.illinois  
 427.Image  
 428.imigration+diaries  


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 429.imigration+photographs  
 430.immigration+  
 431.immigration+diaries  
 432.impeachment  
 433.indian  
 434.indian  
 435.indian  
 436.indian  
 437.Indian  
 438.indian  
 439.indian  
 440.indian  
 441.Indian+House+Door  
 442.INDIAN+MOUND  
 443.Indians  
 444.indians  
 445.Indonesian  
 446.industrial+models  
 447.infomine  
 448.INFOMINE&type=unknown  
 449.information+  
 450.injection  
 451.inoculation  
 452.inquisition+  
 453.insurance  
 454.insurance  
 455.insustrial+models  
 456.international+pewter  
 457.Internet  
 458.interstate+compacts  
 459.Interstate+Water+Compacts  
 460.Interstates  
 461.Iquique  
 462.Iranian  
 463.irish  
 464.irish+american  
 465.irish+country+people  
 466.Irish+folk+tales  
 467.iron  
 468.iron+forge  
 469.israel  
 470.Israel  
 471.israel  
 472.italy  
 473.j.+b.+priestley  
 474.jabotinsky  
 475.jackson  
 476.jackson+davis  
 477.jackson+davis  
 478.jacques+louis+david  
 479.jameskojack  
 480.japan  
 481.Japan&type=moving+image  
 482.Japanese+art&type=image&type=physical+  
 object

483. Japanese+art&type=moving+image%2C+physical+object

484. Japanese+art&type=moving+image&type=physical+object

485. Japanese+art&type=physical+object

486. jerusalem

487. jew

488. jewish

489. jews

490. Jews

491. john+brow

492. john+brown+invoice

493. john+cage

494. K-12

495. Kansas

496. Karachi

497. kendall+thomas

498. kendall+Thomas

499. kennywood

500. kentucky

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506. King+Philipe+II

507. King+Phillip+II

508. klan

509. klimt

510. kmoddl

511. knowledge+wins

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515. ladies+garmet+workers+of+1900

516. lake+st+clair

517. Lakota

518. land+development

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525. letters+from+19th+century

526. lewis

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536. Lincoln

537. lincoln+blood

538. linking+florida

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541. list+of+cherokee+registry+names

542. liver

543. liver+disease

544. logging

545. los+angeles

546. losier

547. love+letters+

548. Lowry

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550. LU.+65

551. lyman

552. madison+county

553. maine+memory

554. making+results-based+state+government+work

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729.quilts	770.Scavenger
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737.raid+on+deerfield	778.ship+images
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