

Art and Artist Vertical Files README and LICENSE

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General Information

Art and Artist Files is an inventory of the vertical files held in the Smithsonian Libraries on artists, galleries, museums, sitters, patrons, and occasionally subjects. Each record represents one or more file folders containing ephemera such as newspaper clippings, press releases, exhibition invitations, reviews, résumés, or brochures related to that person or institution.

The database does not contain sensitive Personally Identifiable Information for individual artists.

The majority of names are not authority controlled (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Authority_control). However, if the record uses the authorized form of the name, per the Library of Congress Name Authority File, the "authorityrecord" field will be = 1 (TRUE). Most of the institutional, i.e., corporate, name records *are* under authority control and include the VIAF number (Virtual International Authority File id number) in the "VIAFid" field.

Location of the physical file is indicated in the atAAPG, atAFA, atCHM, etc. fields which use our in-house abbreviations for the various art library branches. Abbreviations are:

- atAAPG - American Art Museum / National Portrait Gallery Library
- atAFA - Warren M. Robbins Library, National Museum of African Art
- atANAC - Anacostia Community Museum Library
- atCHM - Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum Library
- atFSG - Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Library
- atHMSG - Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden Library
- atNMAI - The Vine Deloria, Jr. Library, National Museum of the American Indian

Each location has its own way of arranging the physical files. This is sometimes reflected in the record data, such as the inclusion of country in personal name records from the Warren M.

Robbins Library, NMAfA or the inclusion of city and state in corporate name records from the American Art Museum / National Portrait Gallery Library.

For more information on each library's collections see <http://www.sil.si.edu/DigitalCollections/art-design/artandartistfiles/more.htm>

License

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Technical Information

The data is refreshed nightly and made available as a tab-delimited .txt file with the field names in the first row. All values are text format unless noted below.

Field name	description
firstname	given name
lastname	family name
firstname_alt	alternate first name, e.g., pseudonym or nickname (old field - now using additional_names).
lastname_alt	alternate last name, e.g., pseudonym or maiden name (old field - now using additional_names).
NameNonRoman	name in original script, e.g., in Chinese, Japanese or Korean. name order follows language convention.
lifedates	birth and death year in the format YYYY-YYYY, YYYY- or sometimes b. YYYY or b. ca. YYYY
nationality	primarily used for tribal affiliations. when multiple values are in this field they are comma delimited.
country	files in the African Art library collections contain artist country of origin, as do most corporate records
products	aka field or medium. used only for CHM African-American and Latino - Hispanic designers
atAAPG	Location of physical file.
atAFA	Location of physical file.
atANAC	Location of physical file.
atCHM	Location of physical file.
atFSG	Location of physical file.
atHMSG	Location of physical file.
At NMAI	Location of physical file.
id	unique identifier for the record within the Artist Files database
authorityrecord	bit (1/0). indicates if the authorized version of the name is being used. accuracy of this field is dubious.
updatedate	datetime format. when the record was last updated.
corporate_name	name of organization, e.g., gallery or museum name
additional_names	Ntext (blob) format in original database. semi-colon ; delimited list of related or alternate names for people or institutions.
topic	(not yet used)
state	primarily used for corporate name records. location of organization
city	primarily used for corporate name records. location of organization
VIAFid	Virtual International Authority File number

Each line (record) is terminated by a CRLF and an HTML
 tag.