

Deconstructing for reconstructing :

the use of the BackBone Thesaurus for reorganising the PACTOLS Thesaurus

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Reorganisation programme, 2017-2021

To consolidate the structure
To enrich the vocabulary

Supported by Consortium
MASA
Led by Project Team

Thesaurus for Archaeology and Antiquity

Created in 1987
50.000 concepts
6 micro-thesauri
6 languages

PACTOLS

- ▶ M Anthroponymes
- ▶ M Chronologie
- ▶ M Lieux
- ▶ M Oeuvres
- ▶ M Peuples
- ▶ M Sujets

Free, Normalised, Citable

<https://pactols.frantiq.fr>

Free license ODbI
ISO 25964
Ark & Handle Identifiers
SKOS, Json, RDF

Updates

Ongoing but irregular
Contains obsolete or
incomplete vocabulary

Diversified Uses

Frantiq collective catalogue
Scientific journals
Research databases
Cultural heritage promotion

FAIR Heritage

Digital Methods, Scholarly Editing and
Tools for Cultural and Natural Heritage



LE STUDIUM
Loire Valley
Institute for Advanced Studies



The structural support of the BBT

DARIAH Meta-thesaurus for the Humanities,
Thesaurus Maintenance Working Group

https://vocabs.dariah.eu/backbone_thesaurus/

- Conceptual, simplified structure
- Inspired by the CIDOC-CRM
- Collaborative and evolving

How PACTOLS uses the BBT

- By creating a temporary BBT tree with additional lower levels
- By distributing PACTOLS concepts in the BBT categories, field by field
- By reorganising the contents systematically
- By correcting structural inconsistencies and confusion of categories in the branches
- By revising the entire vocabulary

Anthroponymes
‣ Antiquité après l'Antiquité
‣ Artistes
‣ Divinités
‣ Écrivains
‣ Gouvernants
‣ Héros
‣ Personnages
‣ Personnages judéo-chrétiens
‣ Savants
‣ M Chronologie
‣ datation absolue
‣ ères géologiques
‣ événements historiques
‣ périodisation
‣ M Lieux
‣ M Oeuvres
‣ manuscrits sur papyrus
‣ textes juridiques
‣ textes littéraires
‣ textes religieux
‣ œuvres artistiques
‣ M Peuples
‣ Cultures préhistoriques
‣ Peuples
‣ Peuples actuels
‣ M Sujets
‣ architecture
‣ art
‣ céramologie
‣ défense
‣ droit
‣ faune
‣ flore
‣ géographie
‣ histoire-civilisation
‣ iconographie
‣ loisir
‣ matériaux
‣ méthodologie
‣ mort
‣ paléographie
‣ philologie
‣ philosophie
‣ politique
‣ religion
‣ santé
‣ savoir
‣ site archéologique
‣ société
‣ vie économique
‣ vie financière
‣ vie quotidienne
‣ [nouveaux termes]

Backbone Thesaurus

Alphabetical

Hierarchy

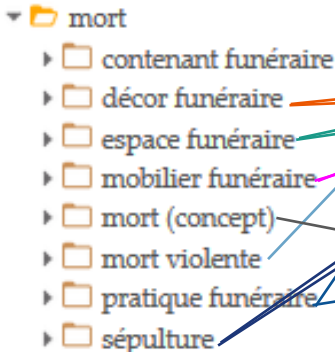
Groups

000001 activities
000010 disciplines
000011 human interactions
000012 intentional destructions
000013 functions
000002 natural processes
000015 natural disasters
000016 geneses
000003 materials
000004 material things
000017 mobile objects
000018 built environment
000019 physical features
000020 structural parts of material objects
000005 types of epochs
000006 conceptual objects
000021 symbolic objects
000022 propositional objects
000023 methods
000024 concepts
000007 groups and collectivities
000008 roles
000025 offices
000026 roles of interpersonal relations
000009 geopolitical units
000049 geometric extents
000050 points
000051 surface areas
000052 3d-volumes
000053 linear extent

Deconstruction, the example of Death

Death in PACTOLS 1

- 1 specific file
- 133 concepts



Backbone Thesaurus	
Alphabetical	Hierarchy
000001	activities
000010	disciplines
000011	human interactions
000012	intentional destructions
000013	functions
000002	natural processes
000015	natural disasters
000016	geneses
000003	materials
000004	material things
000017	mobile objects
000018	built environment
000019	physical features
000020	structural parts of material objects
000005	types of epochs
000006	conceptual objects
000021	symbolic objects
000022	propositional objects
000023	methods
000024	concepts
000007	groups and collectivities
000008	roles
000025	offices
000026	roles of interpersonal relations
000009	geopolitical units
000049	geometric extents
000050	points
000051	surface areas
000052	3d-volumes
000053	linear extent

... and in PACTOLS v2

BBT-Activites
BBT-Human interactions
pratiques funéraires
rituel funéraire
BBT-intentional destructions
mort violente
BBT-natural processes
BBT-geneses
mort (biologie)
BBT-material things
BBT-mobile objects
contenants funéraires
mobilier funéraire
BBT-built environment
[complexe bâti par fonction]
espace funéraire et mortuaire
[unités bâties par fonction]
édifice funéraire
aménagement de la tombe
marqueur de tombe
monument funéraire
sépulture
entités biologiques
restes humains
BBT-conceptual objects
BBT-methods
traitement du cadavre
BBT-propositional objects
mort (concept)

- Creation of additional levels
- Redefinition of concepts
- Updating and augmenting vocabulary (176)

Permanent checking by experts

Reconstruction : focus on readability



Concepts

- systemisation of definitions,
- addition of non descriptors, synonyms and related terms,
- creation of pertinent associative relationships

Hierarchical organisation

- redistribution of large categories (activities, material objects, conceptual objects,...)
- rearrangement of existing categories into 15 new entries,
- personalisation of headings,
- keeping track of equivalent categories with
 - BBT facets
 - CIDOC-CRM classes

A first assessment

