

Assignment #8: Systems Integration – Analyze

System Integration Source:

The Metropolitan Museum of Art - Brooklyn Museum Costume Institute Collection

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search?pageSize=0&sortBy=Relevance&sortOrder=asc&searchField=All&department=62>

Descriptive Points:

- **What is the institution (or collection within an institution?)**

My institution of choice is the Metropolitan Museum of Art (the Met) and more specifically, the Brooklyn Museum Costume Institute Collection which is part of The Costume Institute collection at the Met.

- **Who maintains it? How many records does it have? What types of resources are they organizing?**

There are a total of 23,500 works in the collection and it is currently maintained by the Met, however, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation financially supported the Brooklyn Museum to catalogue and document the objects before their transfer to the Met. The items that make up this collection and that are being organized consist of “masterpieces and signature objects by some of the most famous American and European fashion designers” from the late 19th to mid-20th century, as well as a selection of costumes, patterns, and accessories such as hats and shoes.¹

- **What systems are at play?**

- **Data Format** → The data format is unknown as you can’t export an item as raw data from the front-facing database.
- **Content Standard** → Given the level of consistency throughout the collection, it is certain that there is a content standard in place on how to list various attributes and fill in the detail of each value field. The content standard is not publicly available.
- **One or more controlled vocabulary** → It is also likely that an internal controlled vocabulary is being used, possibly the Getty’s Art and Architecture Thesaurus,

¹ “The Metropolitan Museum of Art: Brooklyn Museum Costumes,” Artstor, accessed March 26, 2022, <https://www.artstor.org/collection/metropolitan-museum-art-brooklyn-museum-costumes/>.

given the types of resources that are being organized.² Keyword tagging is also used to describe and locate items.

- **Classification scheme** → The only discernible classification scheme is the Accession Number, which includes the year of acquisition followed by a series of numbers.

ANALYTICAL POINTS:

- **What is interacting with the records like? What does the resulting system seem to favour in terms of description and interactivity?**

Interactivity with the records varies according to how much information is available. However, there is a standard set of descriptive fields which outline “Artwork Details,” including Title, Department Store, Date, Culture, Medium, Credit Line, and Accession Number. The title of the object, date / era of creation, creator name (designer), and display status are also included alongside photo documentation of the item.

² Unable to be confirmed.

The Collection / The Costume Institute

Toque

ca. 1960

Saks Fifth Avenue American

📍 Not on view



📄 Due to rights restrictions, this image cannot be enlarged, viewed at full screen, or downloaded.

Artwork Details

Title: Shoe prototype

Designer: Steven Arpad (French, 1904–1999)

Date: 1939

Culture: French

Medium: leather, wood

Credit Line: Brooklyn Museum Costume Collection at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Gift of the Brooklyn Museum, 2009; Gift of Arpad, 1947

Accession Number: 2009.300.1146

Signatures, Inscriptions, and Markings

Marking: Inscribed: "48"

Exhibition History

Brooklyn Museum. "American High Style: Fashioning a National Collection," May 7, 2010–August 1, 2010.

Legion of Honor, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. "High Style:

API Access

The Met Collection API is where all makers, creators, researchers, and dreamers can now connect to the most up-to-date data and images for more than 470,000 artworks in The Met collection. As part of [The Met's Open Access program](#), the data is available for unrestricted commercial and noncommercial use without permission or fee.

[Learn more](#)

A description outlining the history of the object is also present for a selection of the collection's records. The item record also includes details such as "Signatures, Inscriptions, and Markings" and "Exhibition History." Interactivity (in this case meaning access) seems to be prioritized as each record in the collection features information about "API Access," a part of The Met's Open Access program, which makes up-to-date data and more than 470,000 artworks in the Met collection available for unrestricted commercial and non-commercial use without permissions or fees.³ Each record also provides a selection of related records based on common descriptive elements. Additional features include the placement of the object into a "Timeline of Art History" and the identification of "Museum Publications" in which the item is featured in.

Related Artworks

All Related Artworks

By Saks Fifth Avenue

Brooklyn Museum Costume Collection

Costume Institute

Caps

Costume

Fur


Hair

Toques


From North and Central America

From United States


From A.D. 1900–present



Turban
Saks Fifth Avenue (American, founded 1924)
ca. 1960

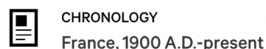


Sandals
Saks Fifth Avenue (American, founded 1924)
ca. 1940



Boots
Saks Fifth Avenue (American, founded 1924)
ca. 1966

Timeline of Art History



Museum Publications



- **What is your impression of how records are put together here?**

The records are compiled in a very organized and aesthetically pleasing way. While I couldn't find information on who creates the records, based on the level of consistency and detail it is likely that they are trained information professionals and have good

³ "Steven Arpad: Shoe prototype," The Met, accessed March 26, 2022, https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/155829?searchField=All&sortBy=Relevance&deptids=62&ft=*&offset=0&rpp=40&pos=2

workflows in place to maintain conformity.

- **What is your impression of why this particular set of systems is at play here?**

Given that there are not a lot of identifiable systems in place or that are viewable to the public, it seems like the managers of the collection are less concerned about following professional standards and instead, are using an internal set of systems that meet the individual needs of the institution. Unfortunately, I was unable to find any literature that discussed the systems being used to organize and catalogue the Met's Brooklyn Museum Costume Institute Collection.

Sources

“Steven Arpad: Shoe prototype.” The Met. Accessed March 26, 2022.

https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/155829?searchField=All&sortBy=Relevance&deptids=62&ft=*&offset=0&rpp=40&pos=2

“The Metropolitan Museum of Art: Brooklyn Museum Costumes.” Artstor. Accessed March 26, 2022.

<https://www.artstor.org/collection/metropolitan-museum-art-brooklyn-museum-costumes/>.