

Controlled Vocabularies

Terms and Definitions

Version 1

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Enslaved.org uses controlled vocabularies for 9 fields in order to promote searching, browsing, filtering, and data visualizations on the Enslaved.org Hub. Developed in collaboration with a team of historians of slavery, there is 1 controlled vocabulary for EVENT, 6 for PERSON, 1 for PLACE, and 1 for SOURCE. All terms and definitions are listed in this document.

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EVENT Vocabulary

Event Type

Definition

Type or category that captures an event's overarching impact or purpose. The Event Type determines possible Role within Event (Role) options.

1. **Baptism or Naming Ceremony:** Event involving a religious rite of initiation into a faith community
2. **Birth:** Event in which a child is born
3. **Death:** Event in which a person dies
4. **Disappearance:** Event in which an enslaved person runs away, is kidnapped, or otherwise disappears
5. **Education:** Event in which a person acquires knowledge, skills, values, beliefs, and habits either in a formal or informal setting
6. **Emancipation or Manumission:** Event in which an enslaved person is legally freed.
7. **Employment, Apprenticeship, or Indenture:** Event in which labor services are contracted
8. **Enslavement:** Event in which a person is captured for bondage
9. **Legal Proceedings:** Event involving civil or criminal actions to enforce laws
10. **Marriage:** Event involving the legal or formal joining of people in a domestic partnership
11. **Membership:** Event in which an individual or organization acting as a single entity participates in an organization
12. **Military Service:** Event involving the participation of an individual or organization in the armed services
13. **Narrative:** Event in which an individual or organization records their account of connected life events
14. **Rebellion:** Event involving an act of violent or open resistance to an established authority. Includes the planning of such an event
15. **Registry:** Event in which enslaved individuals are officially recorded
16. **Relocation:** Event involving a change of residence
17. **Residence:** Event in which an individual or organization lives in a particular place
18. **Sale:** Event involving the purchase of enslaved person(s)
19. **Self-Purchase:** Event in which an enslaved person purchases his/her own freedom
20. **Trade:** Event involving the purchase or sale of any commodities, goods, or services other than enslaved persons. (For trade that involves enslaved people, use one of the other more specific Event Type options, for example Sale or Voyage.)
21. **Voyage:** Event involving the long distance transport of enslaved person(s)

PERSON Vocabularies

Sex

Definition

Biological sex of the named individual as designated in or derived from source document(s), often based on observations by a third party of the individual's physical characteristics

1. **Female:** Person with biologically female reproductive organs
2. **Intersex:** Person with innate variations in sex characteristics such that they differ from norms for male or female bodies
3. **Male:** Person with biologically male reproductive organs

Age Category

Definition

General age class of the named individual imputed/assigned based on the number of years the individual has been alive

1. **Infant Age Group:** Age category covering period from nursing to walking, or from birth until 2 years of age.
2. **Child Age Group:** Age category covering period from walking to puberty, or from 2 years of age up until the age of 14
3. **Adult Age Group:** Age category covering period from puberty, or from 14 to 40 years
4. **Older Person Age Group:** Age category covering period from 40 years of age onwards

Occupation

Definition

Skills or trade of the named individual (multiple term selection allowed)

1. **Agriculture, Forestry, and/or Livestock:** Work involving the practice of farming through the cultivation of soil or rearing of livestock for commercial purposes as well as the planting, management, and caring for trees and forests.
2. **Arts and Entertainment:** Work involving the creation and dissemination of artistic pieces and activities as a means of audience amusement or enjoyment
3. **Banking and Commerce:** Work involving financial institutions such as banks and credit unions, or work in the exchange of goods and services, especially on a large scale
4. **Crafts and Trades:** Work involving particular skills and knowledge required of specialized trade. Includes but not limited to smiths, coopers, tailors, cobblers, masons, etc.

5. **Crime:** Work that involves making a living from illegal and extralegal activities. For example, thief.
6. **Domestic Service:** Work involving the care of an employer's home and/or family
7. **Fishing, Hunting, and/or Gathering:** Work involving the activities of trying to catch fish; collecting wild plants for food; or pursuing any living thing for food, recreation, or trade
8. **Government:** Any work under the employment of the state that does not include the police or military. For example, elected representative, state clerk, etc.
9. **Healthcare and Medical:** Work involving the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease, illness, and injury
10. **Industry:** Work involving economic activity concerned with the extraction and processing of raw materials and manufacturing of goods. Includes mining
11. **Landowning:** Work involving the ownership of a significant piece of land and drawing income from the rent or other use of that land. This includes plantation owners.
12. **Legal:** Work within the judicial system of the government. For example, judge, lawyer, etc.
13. **Management:** Work involving the coordination and control of people or activities
14. **Maritime:** Work involving the performance of tasks in ports and aboard seafaring vessels
15. **Marketing and Trading:** Work involving the sale of goods on a relatively small scale. For example, a street vendor selling fruit. Excludes the *slave trade*, which is its own category.
16. **Police and/or Military:** Work involving law enforcement, protecting people and property, preventing crime and civil disorder, or conducting acts of war. Includes jailers.
17. **Religious:** Work involving religious worship and the performance of other spiritual functions associated with beliefs and practices of religious faith, denomination, or spirituality
18. **Slave Trade:** Work involving the ownership, use, trade, or apprehension of enslaved people
19. **Teaching:** Work involving the transfer of knowledge, skills, values, beliefs, and habits in a formal or informal setting
20. **Writing and/or Publishing:** Work involving the creation, editing, and publication of an original spoken or written work
21. **Other Occupation:** Work that does not fall into any of the other occupational categories

Relationships

Definition

Connection or link to other named individuals. Can include non-familial relationship like owner-enslaved depending on data coming into the project. Other associations, for example those between people who embarked on the same Middle Passage ship or priests at a baptism, will be connected through participation in the same **EVENT**

1. **Parent:** The mother or father of a child
2. **Child:** The biological or adopted offspring of two people

3. **Grandparent:** The parents of one's father or mother
4. **Grandchild:** The child of one's son or daughter
5. **Sibling:** Persons having one or both parents in common
6. **Spouse:** Person who is a partner in a marriage, civil union, or common-law marriage
7. **In-law:** A kinship relationship that exists between two individuals as the result of a marriage (includes mother-in-law, father-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law)
8. **Cousin:** Child of one's uncle or aunt
9. **Aunt:** The sister of one's father or mother or the wife of one's uncle
10. **Uncle:** The brother of one's father or mother or the husband of one's aunt
11. **Godparent:** A person who sponsors someone at baptism and/or who is called a godparent in a document
12. **Godchild:** A person for whom another person becomes a sponsor at baptism or who is referred to as a godchild in a document
13. **Master or Owner:** Person who owns or owned slaves. Includes prior master/owner
14. **Enslaved Person:** Person whose body and labors are owned in involuntary bondage
15. **Employer:** An individual or organization who employs, hires, or takes guardianship of an individual's labor or services as an apprentice, indentured servant, etc.
16. **Employee:** An individual whose labor or services are engaged by a particular employer or business in exchange for money, kind, or debt relief. Includes those whose labor or services are secured through guardianship.

Person Status

Definition

Category identifying the "freedom" standing of an individual involved in a slave trade event -- determined at the *outcome* of the event. This field focuses on broad groupings often of interest to researchers of the historic slave trade and more general public audiences. Sometimes this "status" is implicit in the way a scholar collects dataset, for example focusing on manumissions, freed person registries, or Middle Passage manifests

1. **Enslaved Person:** Person whose body and labors are owned in involuntary bondage
2. **Free Person:** Person who is not enslaved
3. **Freed Person:** Person who was at one point enslaved but is no longer enslaved
4. **Indentured, Apprentice, or Pawn:** Person who is an employee (indenturee) within a system of unfree labor who is bound by a signed or forced contract (indenture) to work for a particular employer for a fixed time
5. **Master or Owner:** Person who owns or owned slaves. Includes prior master/owner
6. **Person with Liminal Status:** Person in a transitional phase from slavery to freedom or who has escaped but is not completely or legally free

Role within Event (by specific Event Type)

Definition

How the named individual was involved in one specific **EVENT**. A **PERSON** can have 1 Role within Event (Role) per **EVENT**. The type of **EVENT** determines possible Role options. Role is granular for the primary or main **PERSON**(s) involved in the **EVENT**. Other **PERSON**s will be connected to the **EVENT** as a generic "Participant." "Participant" asserts that a **PERSON** is involved in the **EVENT** in an unspecified way.

1. Roles in a Baptism/Naming Ceremony Event
 - 1.1. **Baptized Person** or **Initiate**: Person who is initiated into a faith community
 - 1.2. **Participant**: Person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role

2. Roles in a Birth Event
 - 2.1. **Child**: The biological or adopted offspring of two people
 - 2.2. **Parent**: The mother or father of a child
 - 2.3. **Participant**: Person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role

3. Roles in a Death Event
 - 3.1. **Deceased**: Person who ceases to live or is buried
 - 3.2. **Participant**: Person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role

4. Roles in a Disappearance Event
 - 4.1. **Missing Person**: Person who does not have a runaway status but is missing
 - 4.2. **Runaway**: Person listed in a document as having fled or possibly disappeared
 - 4.3. **Participant**: Person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role

5. Roles in an Education Event
 - 5.1. **Student**: Person who is instructed in the acquisition of knowledge or skills in an educational setting
 - 5.2. **Participant**: Person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role

6. Roles in a Emancipation/Manumission Event
 - 6.1. **Manumitter**: An individual or organization who emancipates someone from enslavement
 - 6.2. **Emancipated Person**: Person who was freed through an immediate or conditional manumission

- 6.3. **Participant:** Person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role

- 7. Roles in an Employment or Apprenticeship or Indenture Event
 - 7.1. **Employer:** An individual or organization who employs, hires, or takes guardianship of an individual's labor or services as an apprentice, indentured servant, etc.
 - 7.2. **Employee:** An individual whose labor or services are engaged by a particular employer or business in exchange for money, kind, or debt relief. Includes those whose labor or services are secured through guardianship.
 - 7.3. **Participant:** Person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role

- 8. Roles in a Enslavement Event
 - 8.1. **Captured Person:** Person who is taken captive, placed in bondage, and/or transported as a slave
 - 8.2. **Participant:** Person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role

- 9. Roles in a Legal Proceedings Event
 - 9.1. **Party:** An individual or organization in a lawsuit or other legal proceeding who has an interest in the outcome. A party includes the plaintiff, defendant, petitioner, respondent, cross-complainant, cross-defendant, etc.
 - 9.2. **Participant:** Person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role

- 10. Roles in a Marriage Event
 - 10.1. **Spouse:** Person who is a partner in a marriage, civil union, or common-law marriage
 - 10.2. **Participant:** Person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role

- 11. Roles in a Membership Event
 - 11.1. **Member:** Person who joins or is inducted into a social group or organization
 - 11.2. **Participant:** Person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role

- 12. Roles in a Military Service Event
 - 12.1. **Soldier:** Person who joins, is inducted into, or serves in armed forces
 - 12.2. **Participant:** Person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role

- 13. Roles in a Narrative Event

- 13.1. **Subject:** Person telling the history of their life events
- 13.2. **Recorder:** Person who writes or records the account of another person's life
- 13.3. **Participant:** Person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role

- 14. Roles in a Rebellion Event
 - 14.1. **Rebel:** Person who plans or participates in an act of violence or open resistance to an established authority
 - 14.2. **Participant:** Person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role

- 15. Roles in a Registry Event
 - 15.1. **Registered Person:** Person who is counted or recorded
 - 15.2. **Participant:** Person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role

- 16. Roles in a Relocation Event
 - 16.1. **Relocated Person:** An individual or organization who changes place of residence, in voluntary or involuntary circumstances
 - 16.2. **Participant:** Person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role

- 17. Roles in a Residence Event
 - 17.1. **Resident:** Person or organization establishing domicile in a particular place
 - 17.2. **Participant:** Person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role

- 18. Roles in a Sale Event
 - 18.1. **Seller:** An individual or organization authorized to sell an enslaved person or commodities, goods, and services
 - 18.2. **Buyer:** An individual or organization authorized to buy an enslaved person or commodities, goods, and services
 - 18.3. **Sold Person:** Person bought or sold
 - 18.4. **Participant:** Person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role

- 19. Roles in a Self-Purchase Event
 - 19.1. **Emancipated Person:** Person who was freed through an immediate or conditional manumission
 - 19.2. **Master or Owner:** Person who owns or owned slaves or acts on behalf of an owner. Includes prior master/owner
 - 19.3. **Participant:** Person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role

20. Roles in a Trade Event

20.1. **Seller:** An individual or organization authorized to sell an enslaved person or commodities, goods, and services

20.2. **Buyer:** An individual or organization authorized to buy an enslaved person or commodities, goods, and services

20.3. **Participant:** Person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role

21. Roles in a Voyage Event

21.1. **Captured Person:** Person who is taken captive, placed in bondage, and/or transported as a slave

21.2. **Participant:** Person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role

PLACE Vocabulary

Place Type

Definition

Generic category or class of location -- distinct from the place's spatial aspects; used to group together similar places such as ports or courts.

1. **Cemetery** or **Burial Ground:** A site for burial or commemoration of the deceased
2. **City, Town, or Village:** A settlement or grouping of buildings in close proximity.
3. **Continent:** Any of the world's main continuous expanses of land (e.g. Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, South America).
4. **Coordinate:** A specific point on the Earth's surface defined by longitude and latitude.
5. **Country:** An autonomous political division with distinct characteristics
6. **County** or **Parish:** A defined political or ecclesiastical jurisdiction within a larger state or province
7. **Court:** A judicial institution with the authority to adjudicate criminal, civil, or religious matters within a given jurisdiction
8. **Domicile:** Main place of dwelling
9. **Maroon Community:** A place of refuge for people escaping slavery
10. **Plantation:** An extensive area of large-scale agricultural production
11. **Port:** A defined place on a coast, shore, harbor, or riverbank where ships land
12. **Province:** A territorial entity within a colony, country, or state that has a political jurisdiction
13. **Region:** A geographical area defined by specific qualities

14. Worship Site: A building or site used for religious purposes

15. Other Place Type: A place that does not fall into any of the other place type categories

SOURCE Vocabulary

Document Type

Definition

General category describing the historical document or secondary resource from which **EVENT**, **PERSON**, and **PLACE** data were drawn

- 1. Auction Notice:** A public document that describes an auction or sale of enslaved person(s)
- 2. Bill of Sale or Receipt:** A document that records the sale or transfer of enslaved person(s)
- 3. Census or Register:** A document including an enumeration or survey of a population
- 4. Civil:** A document related to civil disputes
- 5. Criminal:** A document related to alleged violations of criminal law
- 6. Freedom or Emancipation Document:** A legal document certifying the free status of an individual or individual(s)
- 7. Legislation:** Codes of law regulating the rights, comportment, and governance of a people
- 8. Membership List:** A document that records the participants in an organization or association.
- 9. Life History:** An oral or written account of a life experience or portion thereof in the first or third person
- 10. Petition:** A formal written document requesting a right or benefit from a person, group, judicial, or representative body
- 11. Runaway Ad:** A public notice of a missing enslaved person that requests his/her return or compensation for the individual's capture
- 12. Sacramental or Religious:** A document that records a religious ceremony or sacrament, such as a baptism or marriage
- 13. Ship Registry or Manifest:** A document listing the ownership, nationality, cargo, passengers, and/or crew of a ship
- 14. Tax Record:** A document used to report tax information
- 15. Will:** A legally binding document defining the distribution of an individual's assets after death

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