

Controlled Vocabularies

Terms and Definitions

Version 4

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Revised by Dean Rehberger, Walter Hawthorne, Daryle Williams, Catherine Foley, Alicia Sheill, Sharon Leon, Steven Niven, and Kristina Poznan

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Enslaved.org uses controlled vocabularies for nine fields in order to promote searching, browsing, filtering, and visualizing data. Developed in collaboration with a team of historians and information scientists, the controlled vocabularies used by the project engage with the evolving scholarship on anti-racist classification and terminology in information studies and black digital humanities.¹

¹ Elizabeth Maddock Dillon, "By Design: Remapping the Colonial Archive" *Social Text* 33, no. 3 (December 2015): 142–147; P. Gabrielle Foreman, et al., "Writing about "Slavery"? This Might Help," accessed March 8, 2021; Marisa J. Fuentes, *Dispossessed Lives: Enslaved Women, Violence, and the Archive* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2016); Kim Gallon, "Making a Case for the Black Digital Humanities," in *Debates in the Digital Humanities*, ed. Matt K. Gold and Lauren F. Klein: 42–49 (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2016); Lae'l Hughes-Watkins, "Moving Toward a Reparative Archive: A Roadmap for a Holistic Approach to Disrupting Homogenous Histories in Academic Repositories and Creating Inclusive Spaces for Marginalized Voices," *Journal of Contemporary Archival Studies* 5, Article 6 (2018); Jessica Marie Johnson, "Markup Bodies: Black [Life] Studies and Slavery [Death] Studies at the Digital Crossroads" *Social Text* 36, no. 4 (December 2018): 57–79; Zita Cristina Nunes, "Cataloging Black Knowledge: How Dorothy Porter Assembled and Organized a Premier Africana Research Collection," *Perspectives on History* (December 2018), accessed March 8, 2021; Roopika Risam, "Decolonizing Digital Humanities in Theory and Practice," in *The Routledge Companion to Media Studies and Digital Humanities*, ed. Jentery

The first iteration of Enslaved.org's controlled vocabularies, released in July 2019, reflected the data available in the project's original datasets. Version 2, published in May 2021, refined or expanded several definitions, often with examples, mindful of historical heterogeneity and recent historiography on the slave trade and slave societies. A Change Log documenting the revisions appears at the end of this document. Version 3 added several roles of individuals in events and document types, reflecting the needs of new data submitted to the project. Contributors can propose additions and changes to the controlled vocabularies at any time if the current terms do not sufficiently reflect the information in their datasets and the experiences of enslaved people they are studying.

Enslaved.org's controlled vocabulary system includes 1 list for **EVENT**, 6 for **PERSON**, 1 for **PLACE**, and 1 for **SOURCE**. All terms and definitions currently in use by Enslaved.org are listed in this document. The categories herein are not exhaustive; additions can be made to accurately represent new data.

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Sayers: 78-86 (UK: Routledge, 2018); "Archival Processing: DEI Description Guidelines," George A. Smathers Library, University of Florida, <https://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/c.php?g=419550&p=8529759>; Charlotte G. Lellman, "Guidelines for Inclusive and Conscientious Description," in *Center for the History of Medicine: Policies & Procedures Manual*, <https://wiki.harvard.edu/confluence/display/hmschommanual/Guidelines+for+Inclusive+and+Conscientious+Description#GuidelinesforInclusiveandConscientiousDescription-Audience&Accessibility>.

EVENT Vocabulary

Event Type

Definition

Type or category that communicates an event's overarching characteristic or outcome. The Event Type determines possible Role within Event options.

1. **Advertisement:** Event announcing the availability of goods or services for sale or hire; or promoting an event, such as a runaway, in a written or printed public notice especially a newspaper or poster.
2. **Appraisal:** Event in which a price is assigned to an enslaved person or other property or goods to represent their market or monetary value. Excludes inventories, which are categorized as Registrations.
3. **Baptism or Naming Ceremony:** Event in which a religious rite of initiation into a faith community or denomination is performed.
4. **Birth:** Event in which a child is born.
5. **Burial or Interment:** Event in which a human corpse is placed in a grave or tomb, with or without funerary rites.
6. **Death:** Event in which a person dies from any cause.
7. **Disappearance:** Event in which an enslaved person runs away, is kidnapped, or otherwise goes missing, including temporarily. Includes self-emancipation.
8. **Disembarkation:** Event in which one or more enslaved persons are removed from a vessel.
9. **Education:** Event in which a person acquires knowledge, skills, values, beliefs, and habits in a formal or informal setting.
10. **Emancipation or Manumission:** Event in which an enslaved person is recognized to be legally freed, in summary or conditional terms.
11. **Embarkation:** Event in which one or more enslaved persons are taken aboard a vessel for transport.
12. **Employment, Apprenticeship, or Indenture:** Event in which a person's labor and services are contracted or hired out, under voluntary or compulsory conditions.
13. **Enslavement:** Event in which a person is involuntarily bound to servitude by another person or an organization.
14. **Legal Proceeding:** Event involving civil or criminal actions to apply, enforce, or interpret laws, including freedom suits.
15. **Marriage:** Event in which two persons are joined in a domestic, common law, legal, ritual, conjugal, or religious union.
16. **Membership:** Event in which a person or organization acting as a single entity joins or participates in an organization.

17. **Mention:** Event in which a person is referenced in an incidental way, for example e.g. correspondence that notes an encounter.
18. **Military Service:** Event involving the participation (voluntary or involuntary) of a person in an army, militia, navy, or regiment.
19. **Mortgage:** Event in which enslaved persons or other assets are used as collateral in a loan or exchange.
20. **Narrative:** Event in which a person or organization records or publishes an account of connected life events.
21. **Resistance and Rebellion:** Event involving the planning or execution of acts of opposition to or subversion of the authority of an enslaver or to established authority. Excludes Disappearance.
22. **Registration:** Event in which one or more persons are officially recorded or cataloged. Includes census enumeration and inventories.
23. **Relocation:** Event involving a change of residence for a person or family.
24. **Residence:** Event in which a person or family takes up living in a particular site or place.
25. **Sale or Transfer:** Event in which one or more enslaved persons are proffered for purchase or exchange, or are bought, bartered, gifted, inherited, or exchanged. Includes auctioning and self-purchase.
26. **Trade:** Event involving the purchase, sale, or exchange of any commodities, goods, or services other than enslaved persons. (For trade that involves enslaved persons, use one of the other more specific Event Type options, for example Sale or Transfer or Voyage.)
27. **Voyage:** Event involving the long distance transport of enslaved person(s) for sale or exchange.

PERSON Vocabularies

Sex

Definition

Sex of the named person as designated in or derived from source document(s), often based on observations by a third party of the person's body, comportment, or self-presentation, and reinforced by gendered naming practices. Sex or gender is imputed in many datasets.

1. **Female:** Person identified to be female.
2. **Intersex:** Person identified to be between sexes.
3. **Male:** Person identified to be male.

Age Category

Definition

General age classification of persons, as measured by the number of years since birth. The age may be extracted as a number from the original source or imputed from textual information.

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

Profession, trade, or vocation of the named person (multiple term selection allowed).

1. **Abolitionism:** Work involving the organized opposition to involuntary servitude and slaveholder rights, up to and including their total eradication.
2. **Agriculture, Husbandry, and Forestry:** Work involving the cultivation of soils or plants; harvest of crops; care of draft animals, livestock, or poultry; and/or the management of trees or forests. Includes farmer, field hand, gleaner, herder, lumberjack, peasant, etc.
3. **Arts and Entertainment:** Work involving the creation, circulation, or performance of artistic or creative works and activities.
4. **Banking, Insurance, and Commerce:** Work involving the operations of financial and credit institutions such as banks and insurers, and/or medium- to large-scale commercial institutions. Includes broker, wholesaler, and importer-exporter.
5. **Crafts and Trades:** Work involving specialized skills, tools, and knowledge. Includes barber, baker, butcher, cabinet or furniture maker, carpenter, cobbler, cook, cooper, dairy maid, distiller, furnace-keeper, hairdresser, leather worker, mason, seamstress or tailor, smith, weaver, woodworker, wright, etc.
6. **Crime:** Work involving a livelihood of illegal and extralegal activities. Includes bandit, pirate, slave-stealer, smuggler, thief, etc.
7. **Domestic Service:** Work involving the management and care of the home or family of an enslaver, employer, or guardian. Includes butler, coachman, footman, gardener, laundress or starcher, maidservant, messenger, nursemaid, etc. Excludes Midwifery and Wet-nursing.
8. **Fishing, Gathering, and Hunting:** Work involving catching fish or shellfish; collecting wild plants; or pursuing animals for food, recreation, or trade.
9. **Government:** Work involving state employment or office holding. Includes cabinet minister, civil servant, diplomat, legislator, mayor, or statesman. Excludes Policing and Corrections, Military and Militia, and Public Works.

- 10. Hiring:** Work involving for-hire labor and service rendered in exchange for cash or credit, managed by an enslaved person, an enslaver, or a guardian. Includes day laborer, jobber, and slave rental (e.g., hireling; *escravo de ganho*).
- 11. Industry:** Work involving economic activity concerned with processing of raw materials and/or manufacture of finished goods. Includes mining.
- 12. Landowning:** Work involving the ownership, cultivation, and profit of real estate, including income from the rent or other use of land, waterways, and improvements. Includes owners of estates, mills, plantations, and ranches.
- 13. Legal:** Work involving courts of law or the judicial system. Includes clerk, commissioner, interpreter, judge, lawyer, etc. Excludes Policing and Corrections.
- 14. Supervision:** Work involving the control, management, or oversight of people, labor, or operations. Includes chef or head cook, driver, foreman, majordomo, or overseer.
- 15. Manual Labor:** Work involving physical strength and stamina, often involving the movement of heavy loads. Includes laborer, ditch-digger, water-carrier, etc.
- 16. Maritime:** Work involving the operations and supply of seafaring vessels. Includes cabin boy, caulker, captain, chandler, crew, coxswain, sailmaker, shipwright, steward, or whaler. Excludes Slave Trade.
- 17. Marketing, Retail, and Trading:** Work involving the small-scale sale or exchange of goods and services. Includes but not limited to shopkeeping, street vending, and lodging. Distinct from Banking, Insurance, and Commerce. Excludes Slave Trade.
- 18. Medical and Funerary:** Work involving the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease, illness, or bodily injury; the preparation of medications or cures; or the handling of dead bodies. Includes apothecary, bloodletter, coroner, dentist, grave-digger, healer, herbalist, mortician, nurse, orderly, physician, surgeon, and undertaker.
- 19. Midwifery and Wet-nursing:** Work involving the birthing, care, and feeding of infants born to others.
- 20. Military and Militia:** Work involving defense, garrisoning, and acts of war.
- 21. Policing and Corrections:** Work involving law enforcement and civil order, property protection, bounty hunting, and the pursuit, confinement, and punishment of fugitives, law-breakers, and rebels. Includes jailer, executioner, sheriff, slave-catcher, and warden.
- 22. Public Works:** Work involving the construction and maintenance of roads, infrastructure, and public spaces or buildings as well as public services such as street illumination and waste removal.
- 23. Religious:** Work involving beliefs, operations, or worship in a denomination, faith, or spiritual community. Includes cleric, initiate, shaman, and a lay or regular member of a religious order.
- 24. Slave Trade:** Work involving the apprehension and detention, exchange or sale, or transport of enslaved people.
- 25. Teaching:** Work involving the transfer of knowledge, skills, values, beliefs, and habits in a formal or informal setting. Includes instructor or professor.
- 26. Transportation:** Work involving the movement of people and goods via land, rail, or water. Includes barge or boat pilot, litter-carrier, muleteer, railyard worker, oarsman, shipper, and wagoner. Excludes Slave Trade.

- 27. Writing and Publishing:** Work involving the creation, editing, and publication of an original spoken or written work.
- 28. Other Occupation:** Work that does not fall into any of the other occupational categories.

Relationship

Definition

Persistent blood, fictive, or legal connection among persons or organizations. May include non-familial relationship(s) (e.g., enslaver, employer). Transitory and ephemeral associations -- for example, those between people who embarked on the same slave ship, or priests at a baptism -- will instead be connected through participation in the same EVENT.

- 1. Parent:** The biological or adopted mother or father of a child.
- 2. Child:** The biological or adopted offspring of a parent.
- 3. Grandparent:** The parent of one's father or mother.
- 4. Grandchild:** The child of one's son or daughter.
- 5. Sibling:** A person having one or both parents in common.
- 6. Spouse:** A person who is a partner in a marriage, civil union, or common-law marriage.
- 7. In-law:** A kinship relationship between two or more persons as the result of a marriage. Includes mother-in-law, father-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, etc.
- 8. Cousin:** The 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. Nephew:** The son of one's brother, sister, brother-in-law or sister-in-law.
- 12. Niece:** The daughter of one's brother, sister, brother-in-law or sister-in-law.
- 13. Godparent:** A person who sponsors someone at baptism and/or who is recorded as a godparent in a document.
- 14. Godchild:** A person for whom another person becomes a sponsor at baptism or who is recorded as a godchild in a document.
- 15. Kin:** A person who is recognized as family.
- 16. Enslaved Person:** Person whose body, labor, and reproductive rights are owned by or fall under the dominion of another person or organization in a social or legal system of involuntary servitude.
- 17. Enslaver or Owner:** Person or organization who owns or has dominion over the body, labor, and reproductive rights of another person in a social or legal system of involuntary servitude. For prior enslaver and owner, see "Former Enslaver or Owner."
- 18. Former Enslaver or Owner:** Person or organization who FORMERLY owned or had dominion over the body, labor, and reproductive rights of another person in a social or legal system of involuntary servitude.
- 19. Employer:** A person or organization who employs, hires, or takes guardianship of a person's labor or services as an apprentice, servant, ward, etc.

- 20. Employee:** A person 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 legal or social standing, on a spectrum of bondage to freedom, of a person or organization involved in an event -- determined at the *outcome* of the event. This field focuses on broad groupings often of interest to researchers of the historical slave trade and slave societies. Sometimes this status is taken directly from an original source (e.g., certificate of manumission, fugitive slave advertisement; registry of free persons of color, baptismal registry of enslaved or free persons; slave ship manifest). In other instances, the status is imputed by the researcher.

- 1. Enslaved Person:** Person whose body, labor, and reproductive rights are owned by or fall under the dominion of another person or organization in a social or legal system of involuntary servitude.
- 2. Free Person:** Person who is not enslaved (but may have been born to enslaved parents or freed by rights of free soil, abolition laws, or some other manner).
- 3. Freed Person:** Person who was at one point enslaved and subsequently manumitted by self-purchase or by acts of the former enslaver, a judge, or the state.
- 4. Indentured Person or Pawn:** Person who is a servant or ward whose labor and service are bound to a person or organization for a fixed term, sometimes under a contract, including as collateral against a debt.
- 5. Enslaver or Owner:** Person or organization who owns or has dominion over the body, labor, and reproductive rights of another person in a social or legal system of involuntary servitude. Also known as slave master or mistress, slave owner, or slaveholder. Includes former enslavers, concessionaires, and overseers.
- 6. Liberated African:** Person enslaved in Africa, intercepted during an act of clandestine slave trafficking and liberated under limited personal and legal autonomy by a civil authority, judge, mixed commission, or vice admiralty court. Includes *emancipado*, Free African, Freed African, or recaptive.
- 7. Liminal Status Person:** Person in an indeterminate, intermediate, or transitional status between servitude and freedom (i.e., dependent children born to the free womb; enslaved persons extended conditional liberty or promised future manumission; orphaned minors) or who has escaped bondage but neither lives nor is legally recognized as free or freed.

Role within Event (by specific Event Type)

Definition

How the named person 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 PERSONs will be connected to the EVENT as a generic "Participant" or "Mentioned." "Participant" asserts that a PERSON is involved in the EVENT in an unspecified way. "Mentioned" asserts that the PERSON is named by another individual within the EVENT in an unspecified way, but did not participate in the EVENT. Further details of unspecified involvement may be identified in Descriptive Role.

1. Roles in Advertisement Event

- 1.1. **Advertiser:** Person or company that pays for an advertisement.
- 1.2. **Mentioned Person:** Person who is noted in an incidental way but did not participate in the event. The name of this mentioned person could be included in correspondence that notes an encounter or a reference to a former enslaver in a register.
- 1.3. **Advertised Person:** Person whose body, service, or labor is offered as available for hire, barter, sale, or transfer.
- 1.4. **Participant:** Person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role.

2. Roles in Appraisal Event

- 2.1. **Appraised Person:** Enslaved person or otherwise unfree laborer who is assigned a valuation in monetary currency or equivalents at an assessment or appraisal.
- 2.2. **Appraiser:** Authorized person who assesses the value and/or assigns the valuation of an enslaved person or otherwise unfree laborer.
- 2.3. **Participant:** Person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role.
- 2.4. **Mentioned Person:** Person who is noted in an incidental way but did not participate in the event. The name of this mentioned person could be included in correspondence that notes an encounter or a reference to a former enslaver in a register.

3. Roles in a Baptism/Naming Ceremony Event

- 3.1. **Baptized Person or Initiate:** Person who is initiated into a faith community.
- 3.2. **Participant:** Person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role.
- 3.3. **Mentioned Person:** Person who is noted in an incidental way but did not participate in the event. The name of this mentioned person could be included in correspondence that notes an encounter or a reference to a former enslaver in a register.

4. Roles in a Birth Event
 - 4.1. **Child:** The biological or adopted offspring of a parent.
 - 4.2. **Parent:** The biological or adoptive mother or father of a child.
 - 4.3. **Participant:** Person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role.
 - 4.4. **Mentioned Person:** Person who is noted in an incidental way but did not participate in the event. The name of this mentioned person could be included in correspondence that notes an encounter or a reference to a former enslaver in a register.

5. Roles in a Burial or Interment Event
 - 5.1. **Deceased Person:** Person who ceases to live or is buried.
 - 5.2. **Participant:** Person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role.
 - 5.3. **Mentioned Person:** Person who is noted in an incidental way but did not participate in the event. The name of this mentioned person could be included in correspondence that notes an encounter or a reference to a former enslaver in a register.

6. Roles in a Death Event
 - 6.1. **Deceased Person:** Person who ceases to live or is buried.
 - 6.2. **Participant:** Person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role.
 - 6.3. **Mentioned Person:** Person who is noted in an incidental way but did not participate in the event. The name of this mentioned person could be included in correspondence that notes an encounter or a reference to a former enslaver in a register.

7. Roles in a Disappearance Event
 - 7.1. **Missing Person:** Person who does not have a runaway status but is missing.
 - 7.2. **Runaway:** Person listed in a document as having fled or possibly disappeared.
 - 7.3. **Enslaver or Owner:** Person or organization who owns or has dominion over the body, labor, and reproductive rights of another person in a social or legal system of involuntary servitude.
 - 7.4. **Participant:** Person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role.
 - 7.5. **Mentioned Person:** Person who is noted in an incidental way but did not participate in the event. The name of this mentioned person could be included in correspondence that notes an encounter or a reference to a former enslaver in a register.

8. Roles in a Disembarkation Event

- 8.1. **Captured Person:** Person who is taken captive, placed in bondage, and/or transported as an enslaved person. Includes Recapture Events.
 - 8.2. **Vessel Captain:** Person in command aboard a sailing vessel.
 - 8.3. **Vessel Owner:** Person(s) or company who owns an interest in a sailing vessel or voyage.
 - 8.4. **Participant:** Person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role.
 - 8.5. **Mentioned Person:** Person who is noted in an incidental way but did not participate in the event. The name of this mentioned person could be included in correspondence that notes an encounter or a reference to a former enslaver in a register.
9. Roles in an Education Event
- 9.1. **Student:** Person who is instructed in the acquisition of knowledge or skills in an educational setting.
 - 9.2. **Participant:** Person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role.
 - 9.3. **Mentioned Person:** Person who is noted in an incidental way but did not participate in the event. The name of this mentioned person could be included in correspondence that notes an encounter or a reference to a former enslaver in a register.
10. Roles in a Emancipation or Manumission Event
- 10.1. **Manumitter:** A person or organization who emancipates someone from enslavement.
 - 10.2. **Emancipated Person:** Person who is freed through an immediate or conditional manumission.
 - 10.3. **Participant:** Person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role.
 - 10.4. **Mentioned Person:** Person who is noted in an incidental way but did not participate in the event. The name of this mentioned person could be included in correspondence that notes an encounter or a reference to a former enslaver in a register.
11. Roles in an Embarkation Event
- 11.1. **Captured Person:** Person who is taken captive, placed in bondage, and/or transported as an enslaved person. Includes Recapture Events.
 - 11.2. **Vessel Captain:** Person in command aboard a vessel.
 - 11.3. **Vessel Owner:** Person(s) or company who owns an interest in a vessel or voyage.
 - 11.4. **Participant:** Person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role.
 - 11.5. **Mentioned Person:** Person who is noted in an incidental way but did not participate in the event. The name of this mentioned person could be included in

correspondence that notes an encounter or a reference to a former enslaver in a register.

12. Roles in an Employment, Apprenticeship, or Indenture Event

- 12.1. Employer:** A person or organization who employs, hires, or takes guardianship of a person's labor or services as an apprentice, servant, ward, etc.
- 12.2. Employee:** A person 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.
- 12.3. Leased Person:** A person whose labor and services, or the profits derived thereof, are granted to another person or organization as part of a contract or agreement.
- 12.4. Participant:** A person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role.
- 12.5. Mentioned Person:** Person who is noted in an incidental way but did not participate in the event. The name of this mentioned person could be included in correspondence that notes an encounter or a reference to a former enslaver in a register.

13. Roles in an Enslavement Event

- 13.1. Captured Person:** Person who is taken captive, placed in bondage, and/or transported as an enslaved person. Includes Recapture Events.
- 13.2. Enslaver or Owner:** Person or organization who owns or has dominion over the body, labor, and reproductive rights of another person in a social or legal system of involuntary servitude.
- 13.3. Participant:** Person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role.
- 13.4. Mentioned Person:** Person who is noted in an incidental way but did not participate in the event. The name of this mentioned person could be included in correspondence that notes an encounter or a reference to a former enslaver in a register.

14. Roles in a Legal Proceeding Event

- 14.1. Party:** A person or organization in a lawsuit or other legal proceeding. Includes plaintiff or defendant and their legal representation, as well as petitioner, respondent, witness, etc.
- 14.2. Participant:** A person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role.
- 14.3. Mentioned Person:** Person who is noted in an incidental way but did not participate in the event. The name of this mentioned person could be included in correspondence that notes an encounter or a reference to a former enslaver in a register.

15. Roles in a Marriage Event

- 15.1. **Spouse:** Person who is a partner in a marriage, civil union, or common-law marriage.
 - 15.2. **Participant:** Person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role.
 - 15.3. **Mentioned Person:** Person who is noted in an incidental way but did not participate in the event. The name of this mentioned person could be included in correspondence that notes an encounter or a reference to a former enslaver in a register.
16. Roles in a Membership Event
- 16.1. **Member:** Person who joins or is inducted into a social group or organization.
 - 16.2. **Participant:** Person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role.
 - 16.3. **Mentioned Person:** Person who is noted in an incidental way but did not participate in the event. The name of this mentioned person could be included in correspondence that notes an encounter or a reference to a former enslaver in a register.
17. Roles in a Mention Event
- 17.1. **Mentioned Person:** Person who is noted in an incidental way but did not participate in the event. The name of this mentioned person could be included in correspondence that notes an encounter or a reference to a former enslaver in a register.
 - 17.2. **Participant:** Person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role.
18. Roles in a Military Service Event
- 18.1. **Soldier or Sailor:** Person who joins, is inducted into, or serves in an army, militia, navy, or regiment.
 - 18.2. **Participant:** Person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role.
 - 18.3. **Mentioned Person:** Person who is noted in an incidental way but did not participate in the event. The name of this mentioned person could be included in correspondence that notes an encounter or a reference to a former enslaver in a register.
19. Roles in a Mortgage Event
- 19.1. **Mortgaged Person:** Person whose body, service, or labor is used as collateral in a loan or exchange.
 - 19.2. **Participant:** Person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role.
 - 19.3. **Mentioned Person:** Person who is noted in an incidental way but did not participate in the event. The name of this mentioned person could be included in

correspondence that notes an encounter or a reference to a former enslaver in a register.

20. Roles in a Narrative Event

20.1. Subject: Person telling the history of their life events.

20.2. Recorder: Person who writes or records the account of another person's life.

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

20.4. Mentioned Person: Person who is noted in an incidental way but did not participate in the event. The name of this mentioned person could be included in correspondence that notes an encounter or a reference to a former enslaver in a register.

21. Roles in a Rebellion Event

21.1. Rebel: Person who plans or participates in an act of violence or open resistance to an established authority.

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

21.3. Mentioned Person: Person who is noted in an incidental way but did not participate in the event. The name of this mentioned person could be included in correspondence that notes an encounter or a reference to a former enslaver in a register.

22. Roles in a Registration Event

22.1. Registered Person: Person who is counted or recorded.

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

22.3. Mentioned Person: Person who is noted in an incidental way but did not participate in the event. The name of this mentioned person could be included in correspondence that notes an encounter or a reference to a former enslaver in a register.

23. Roles in a Relocation Event

23.1. Relocated Person: A person or organization who changes place of residence under voluntary or involuntary circumstances.

23.2. Participant: A person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role.

23.3. Mentioned Person: Person who is noted in an incidental way but did not participate in the event. The name of this mentioned person could be included in correspondence that notes an encounter or a reference to a former enslaver in a register.

24. Roles in a Residence Event

- 24.1. **Resident:** A person or organization establishing a domicile in a particular place.
 - 24.2. **Participant:** A person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role.
 - 24.3. **Mentioned Person:** Person who is noted in an incidental way but did not participate in the event. The name of this mentioned person could be included in correspondence that notes an encounter or a reference to a former enslaver in a register.
25. Roles in a Sale or Transfer Event
- 25.1. **Seller:** A person or organization authorized to sell an enslaved person or commodities, goods, and services.
 - 25.2. **Buyer:** A person or organization authorized to buy an enslaved person or commodities, goods, and services.
 - 25.3. **Sold Person:** A person bought or sold.
 - 25.4. **Transferred Person:** A person who is bartered, gifted, inherited, or exchanged. Use for Sale or Transfer event and for events recorded in Document Types: Deed; Bill of Sale, Invoice, or Receipt; Inventory or Probate Record.
 - 25.5. **Participant:** A person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role.
 - 25.6. **Mentioned Person:** Person who is noted in an incidental way but did not participate in the event. The name of this mentioned person could be included in correspondence that notes an encounter or a reference to a former enslaver in a register.
26. Roles in a Trade Event
- 26.1. **Seller:** A person or organization authorized to sell an enslaved person or commodities, goods, and services.
 - 26.2. **Buyer:** A person or organization authorized to buy an enslaved person or commodities, goods, and services.
 - 26.3. **Participant:** A person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role.
 - 26.4. **Mentioned Person:** Person who is noted in an incidental way but did not participate in the event. The name of this mentioned person could be included in correspondence that notes an encounter or a reference to a former enslaver in a register.
27. Roles in a Voyage Event
- 27.1. **Captured Person:** A person who is taken captive, placed in bondage, and/or transported as an enslaved person. Includes Recapture Events.
 - 27.2. **Participant:** A person or organization involved in an event in an unspecified way or in a non-primary role.
 - 27.3. **Mentioned Person:** Person who is noted in an incidental way but did not participate in the event. The name of this mentioned person could be included in

correspondence that notes an encounter or a reference to a former enslaver in a register.

PLACE Vocabulary

Place Type

Definition

Generic category or class of location – distinct from the place's spatial aspects; used to group together similar places associated with the historical slave trade and the social and economic functions of slave societies.

1. **Cemetery** or **Burial Ground**: A site for interment or commemoration of the deceased.
2. **City, Town, or Village**: A human 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. **Corrections Facility**: A site for the detention, discipline, or corporal punishment of convicts, inmates, prisoners-of-war, enslaved persons, or the indigent. Includes dungeon, jail, poorhouse, prison, stocks, whipping post, or workhouse.
6. **Country**: An autonomous political division with distinct characteristics.
7. **County** or **Parish**: A defined jurisdiction whether political, ecclesiastical, etc. within a larger city, state, or province.
8. **Court**: A judicial institution with the authority to adjudicate criminal, civil, or religious matters within a given jurisdiction.
9. **Domicile**: A primary place of residence. Excludes Slave Quarters.
10. **Hospital**: An institution where the sick or injured are given medical or surgical care.
11. **Maroon Community**: A place of refuge for people escaping slavery
12. **Plantation, Estate, or Ranch**: A landed property of medium- to large-scale agro-pastoral production run by a variety of labor regimes including chattel slavery
13. **Port**: A defined place on a coast, shore, harbor, or riverbank where ships dock
14. **Province**: A territorial entity within a colony, country, or state that has a political jurisdiction
15. **Region**: A geographical area defined by specific qualities
16. **Religious Site**: A building or site used for spiritual ritual and worship or the housing of clergy and other religious figures. Includes chapel, church, convent, seminary, etc.
17. **Slave Quarters**: A site of domicile or domestic life of enslaved persons and families. Includes outdoor spaces adjacent to such structures. Includes provision grounds.

- 18. Other Place Type:** A place that does not fall into any of the other place type categories. Or is not discernible or specified by the data contributor.

SOURCE Vocabulary

Document Type²

Definition

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

- 1. Appraisal or Assessment:** A document that sets a valuation on enslaved person(s), real property, and other assets.
- 2. Auction or Sale Notice:** A public document announcing the auction or sale of enslaved person(s), real property, and other assets.
- 3. Bill of Sale, Invoice, or Receipt:** A document that records the sale, transfer, or hire of enslaved person(s), labor services, real property, and other assets.
- 4. Census or Register:** A document including an enumeration or survey of a population. Includes slave schedule.
- 5. Civil Document:** A document related to matters of civil law including non-ecclesiastical registries of births, marriage, and deaths; child custody; contested property rights; or interpersonal disputes. Excludes Inventory or Probate Record and Will and Testament.
- 6. Contract:** A written or verbal agreement on the obligation, payment, purchase, rental, sale, and/or use of goods, labor services, liabilities, profits, and/or property between two or more parties, typically with an understanding that the terms are enforceable by law.
- 7. Criminal Document:** A document related to matters of criminal law.
- 8. Death or Burial Document:** A document recording a human death or interment.
- 9. Deed:** A document that records the terms of transfer of ownership or indicates ownership of property - whether real property (meaning land and improvements) or personal property (including enslaved persons) - from one party to another. May include Deed of Manumission.
- 10. Diary/Daybook/Journal:** A document, usually bound, containing a daily or periodic personal record of the author's experiences and observations.
- 11. Digital Data Repository:** An archival collection of digitized and/or digital-native materials that document a wide range of facets of enslavement and slave societies.
- 12. Freedom or Emancipation Certificate:** A legal document certifying the free status of a formerly enslaved person or persons.

² Many of the record types and definitions herein are based on those established by "Unknown No Longer" at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture, now part of the Library of Virginia's "Virginia Untold: The African American Narrative" collection, https://lva.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/collectionDiscovery?vid=01LVA_INST:01LVA&collectionId=81107304620005756&lang=en.

- 13. Freedom Suit:** A document or documents related to a legal proceeding, most often initiated by an enslaved person, to establish the right to outright freedom or the terms of manumission.
- 14. Inventory or Probate Record:** A listing of property or possessions (as enslaved people were considered at that time), usually associated with the settlement of an estate, determining the validity and execution of a will, or the contents and distribution of a decedent's assets and liabilities. Includes post-mortem inventory.
- 15. Legislation or Decree:** A code of law regulating the rights, comportment, and governance of a people, place, or activity.
- 16. Letter:** A written or printed communication addressed to a person or organization and usually transmitted by mail.
- 17. Life History or Narrative:** An oral or written account of a life experience or portion thereof in the first or third person.
- 18. Map:** A graphic, typically flat representation of features of the Earth including areas of land or sea showing physical features, cities, roads, etc.
- 19. Membership List:** A document that records the participants in an organization or association. Excludes Military Service Record.
- 20. Military Service Record:** A document related to service or payment of militiamen, sailors, soldiers, and others in uniform. Includes court-martial, muster roll, and veteran pensions.
- 21. Newspaper:** A printed publication, issued daily, weekly, or at some other regular interval, containing current news, editorials, feature articles, and usually advertising.
- 22. Runaway Advertisement:** A public notice seeking the capture and return of a fugitive or missing person, often on promise of compensation
- 23. Sacramental or Religious Registry:** An ecclesiastical document recording a religious ceremony or sacramental rite, such as a baptism or marriage
- 24. Secondary Source** – Written work that analyzes, interprets, and assesses an historical event, person, phenomenon, etc., based on primary source materials; includes scholarly books and articles.
- 25. Ship Registry, Log, or Manifest:** A document listing the cargo, crew, itinerary, nationality, ownership, and/or passengers of a vessel
- 26. Tax Record:** A document reporting the obligation or collection of a tax, fee, or levy.
- 27. Will and Testament:** A document defining the distribution of a person's assets and liabilities after death. May include the emancipation of enslaved persons.

Change Log V.4

The following list describes changes made to the Enslaved.org controlled vocabularies between Version 3 (March 17, 2023) and Version 4 (September 9, 2024).

Role within Event - added 1 role, edited two definitions

- Mentioned Person - modified the definition to clarify that the named person did not participate in the event but was mentioned in the event. This could take the form of a Free Person of Color noting the name of a former enslaver when registering themselves in a city census or list of free Black individuals residing in a specific city, town, or area.
- Added updated Mentioned Person role to each type of event.
- Mentioned Person and Participant - elaborated discussion about implementation explaining that details of unspecified involvement in an event could be included in a Descriptive Role, for example noting that the mentioned person was in fact a former enslaver.
- Roles in an Enslavement Event - added Enslaver or Owner Role; mistakenly removed or was not included within previous versions.

Relationship - added two relationships, edited one definition

- Kin - added
- Former Enslaver or Owner - added
- Enslaver or Owner - edited definition referencing the new Former ENslaver or Owner relationship.

Change Log V.3

The following list describes changes made to the Enslaved.org controlled vocabularies between Version 2 (May 28, 2021) and Version 3 (March 17, 2023).

Event Type - added one term

- Advertisement

Relationship - added two terms

- Nephew
- Niece

Status - modified one term

- Liberated African - lightly modified the definition of this status to note limitations on an individual's personal and legal autonomy

Role within Event - added three terms and modified one term

- Advertiser - Added for new Advertisement event type

- Advertised Person - Added for new Advertisement event type
- Transferred Person - Added for Sale or Transfer event type
- Captured Person - Augmented definition to indicate that this role can be used for "Recapture Events".

Document Type - added five terms and reintroduced one dropped term

- Deed
- Diary/Daybook/Journal
- Map
- Military Service Record
- Secondary Source
- Tax Record - Re-added after being removed from Version 2 of the Enslaved.org Controlled Vocabulary documentation

Place Type - added one term and modified one term

- Hospital
- County or Parish - Minor update to definition

Change Log V.2.1

The following list describes changes made to the Enslaved.org controlled vocabularies between Version 1 (July 19, 2019) and Version 2 (May 28, 2021) but were not included in the Change Log V.2 (below).

Event Type - modified in V.2 but not mentioned in the V.2 Change Log

- Sale or Transfer - expanded definition of Sale to include transfers without a sale

Role within Event - added to V.2 list but not mentioned in the V.2 Change Log

- Appraised Person - For Appraisal event type
- Appraiser - For Appraisal event type
- Leased Person - For Employment or Indenture event type
- Mentioned Person - For Advertising event type
- Mortgaged Person - For Mortgage event type
- Party - For Legal Proceeding event type
- Vessel Captain
- Vessel Owner

Change Log V.2

The following list describes changes made to the Enslaved.org controlled vocabularies between Version 1 (July 19, 2019) and Version 2 (May 28, 2021).

There have been many changes to term labels and definitions. These are not tracked in this change log. Instead this list focuses on important or major modifications, for example the addition or deletion of new terms or substantive changes to labels or definitions.

Event Type

Added terms

- Appraisal
- Burial or Interment
- Embarkation
- Disembarkation
- Legal Proceeding
- Mention
- Mortgage
- Relocation

Deleted term

- Self-Purchase -- added to Sale or Transfer

Sex

Important definition changes

- Updated all three definitions to focus on Sex as socially defined by a variety of physical attributes, not by biology and reproductive organs alone

Occupations

Added terms

1. Abolitionism
2. Hiring
3. Manual Labor
4. Midwifery and Wet-nursing
5. Military and Militia -- split from from Police and/or Military
6. Policing and Corrections -- split from from Police and/or Military
7. Public Works
8. Transportation

Important label and definition changes

- Insurance added to Banking, Insurance, and Commerce
- Funerary added to Medical and Funerary
- Police and/or Military -- split into two categories: (1) Military and Militia and (2) Policing and Corrections
- Supervision replaces Management

Person Status

Important label and definition changes

- "Enslaver or Owner" replaces Master or Owner

Minor label change

- Removed "Apprentice" from Indentured, Apprentice, or Pawn

Added term

- Liberated African

Place Type

Added terms

- Corrections Facility
- Slave Quarters

Document Type

Added terms

- Appraisal or Assessment
- Contract
- Death or Burial Document
- Digital Data Repository
- Freedom or Emancipation Certificate
- Freedom Suit
- Inventory or Probate Record
- Letter
- Newspaper