

Metadata Documentation

Overview

Version 1

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Overview

*Enslaved: Peoples of the Historical Slave Trade*¹ is a digital platform to learn about the lives of individuals who were enslaved, owned slaves, or participated in the historic slave trade.

Enslaved.org connects datasets from numerous contributors so that scholars, students, genealogists, and members of the public can search and browse the data, create visualizations, and explore short biographies of enslaved people.

Contributors can share data with *Enslaved.org* by mapping their datasets to a core set of fields and standardized terms. These are enumerated in ***Enslaved.org* Metadata** and ***Enslaved.org* Controlled Vocabularies**.

Enslaved.org developed its metadata and controlled vocabularies in collaboration with a team of historians of slavery to build an interconnected system of tools to search, browse, visualize, and analyze disparate datasets. The resulting ***Enslaved.org* Metadata** documentation defines four record types commonly used in historic slave trade data projects: **EVENT**, **PERSON**, **PLACE**, and **SOURCE**. There are 43 *Enslaved.org* fields: 9 **EVENT** fields, 3 of which are required; 19 **PERSON**

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fields, 2 required; 9 **PLACE** fields, 3 required; and 6 **SOURCE** fields, 5 required. **Enslaved.org Controlled Vocabularies** lists and defines terms that standardize data in nine *Enslaved.org* fields.

Individual contributors are welcome to collect additional data in more or different fields than those described in the **Enslaved.org Metadata** documents and use different terms from those defined in the **Enslaved.org Controlled Vocabularies**. However, *Enslaved.org* will only link data contained in the **Enslaved.org Metadata** fields, drawing on its controlled vocabularies to help ensure data consistency across the platform. Contributor data beyond the **Enslaved.org Metadata** fields will always remain available on the contributor's website or as part of the original dataset published on the *Enslaved.org* Publishing Platform.

New data extraction projects might consider using **Enslaved.org Metadata** fields and field names as these recur in many data collection projects that examine the history of slavery. Further, should these new projects decide to contribute to *Enslaved.org*, using the same or similar fields will expedite the integration of their new data into *Enslaved.org*.

In the near future, *Enslaved.org* will finalize best practice guidelines for data mapping so that datasets in a variety of configurations can be included in the *Enslaved.org* platform. Our flexible mapping workflow will align, standardize, and link data in fields that overlap with **Enslaved.org Metadata** while maintaining the original arrangement of a dataset on the contributor's website or on the *Enslaved* Publishing Platform.