

# VMQ Schema Descriptions (v3.3)

## 1. *Artwork*

An **artwork** is the group of common aspects of a piece that exist independent of any given showing. It is primarily the work of an **stakeholder** which may be either a single or a group of artists. The artwork is recorded by a **user**, who may be any account holder on the system with the proper permissions.

An artwork is made from **components**. Components are anything that are used in the construction or display of the artwork, and come in a variety of types including:

Source: The content of an artwork. This is usually specific and unique; a program, a video, even a mood or concept to be portrayed.

Material: A generic component that is required to supplement the artwork's source elements; a video monitor, a display stand. Materials are fungible, though they may have to fit certain specified parameters.

Environment: The environment in which an artwork is shown; a display area, a network.

Interaction: Intended interaction between the piece and its consumers; touching, manipulating, passive viewing.

If no existing component in the database fits the needs of the artwork, an existing component may be **branched** and customized. Generic components will be provided to seed the database for future custom components. When a component is attached to an artwork the recorder can choose a number of **questions** which define the parameters of that component. Some questions are grouped into **packages** by an administrator so that common aspects of a component are easily and completely defined. Each package has a **behavior** that describes the type of questions it contains. Other questions may be stand-alone or, if no satisfactory question has already been defined, added by the recorder of the artwork in question. When all components have been attached to an artwork and all questions attached to their components, a **custom questionnaire** is defined that describes all aspects of the artwork.

## 2. *Interviews*

An **interview** is created any time an artwork's custom questionnaire is completed. Multiple interviews can be created to describe the same **showing** of a work to reflect the perspectives of different stakeholders involved in the showing. While each interview is recorded by a single user, multiple stakeholders can contribute to creating the interview. In this case, each stakeholder is recorded, along with their role in the showing being described so that future readers can see the context of the interview.

The answer to a question is recorded as a **response** in the interview. A response may be a predefined **answer** to a multiple-choice question, a full-text response, or a combination of both. Multiple-choice answers are often created to reflect generalized preservation **strategies**, with the full-text portion of the response giving further details on the implementation of that strategy in the recorded showing. Each response also has a **strength** which indicates how important that response is to the component or overall artwork it describes. More than one response is allowed per question in the custom questionnaire, allowing both preferred and secondary strategies to be recorded.

### **3. Stakeholders**

A stakeholder is anybody or anything that participates in the creation, exhibition, or archiving of an artwork. This includes individual artists, artist groups, gallerists, curators, conservators, executors, institutions, and even outside viewers whose input has been used to create an interview. One stakeholder may have a defined **relation** to another; an artist who is a member of a group, or a curator who works at an institution. Stakeholders are independent from VMQ users, though each VMQ user has a corresponding stakeholder used to record their participation in archiving the artwork to the database.

Stakeholders are attached to both artworks and interviews, though in different ways. An artwork can only be created by a single stakeholder who is considered the primary source of the work, usually either an artist or group of artists. Interviews, however, record all stakeholders who participated in a showing or the recording of a showing, including (but not limited to) the original artists, the managers of the showing, the institution where the showing was held, and the user who created the interview. Each stakeholder's role in the interview is recorded as part of the interview.

### **4. Text**

All static **text** in the VMQ is subject to localization, including questions, answers, and interface text. Full-text responses, component names, stakeholders, and most other user-generated text is not expected to be translated. The exception to this rule is a user-created question. User-created questions are initially entered in only the native language of the user who creates them. After they are created, any user may translate them to another language used by the VMQ, but they are not considered **verified** translations until they are reviewed by administratively designated translators. If a question is unavailable in a user's language, the question is displayed in its original language and the user may request an official translation as soon as possible.