

FAST
Frequently Asked Questions

1	What is FAST?	<p>FAST stands for, “Faceted Application of Subject Terminology”.</p> <p>FAST is a vocabulary of controlled terms that can be used to describe the subject content of any kind of intellectual or creative work, including novels, plays, images, motion pictures, songs, articles, data sets, and maps.</p> <p>The terms used by FAST are derived from the Library of Congress Subject Headings system, which is widely used by Libraries in the United States of America and in other countries where English is spoken.</p> <p>FAST uses a simplified syntax which makes it easier to understand, apply and use than LCSH.</p>
2	Who maintains FAST?	<p>FAST is an OCLC Service, developed in collaboration with the Library of Congress.</p> <p>FAST Policy and Outreach Committee</p> <p>In 2018 OCLC partnered with representatives from the library community to create the FAST Policy and Outreach Committee (FPOC). FPOC is an advisory and outreach body that will represent the interests of FAST users.</p> <p>Regulations</p> <p>FPOC Membership</p>
3	What are the FAST facets?	<p>Facets are a means by which complex concepts can be separated into their distinct aspects, including time and place, to aid understanding and facilitate use by humans and machines.</p> <p>FAST has eight FACETS.</p> <p>Seven facets define aspects of the subject of a resource that is being indexed. They describe what the content of the resource is about.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Topical: controlled terms that identify concepts or objects that are the subject of a resource. ● Personal Names: controlled terms that identify names of individual persons or families who are the subject of a resource.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Corporate Names: controlled terms that identify names of organizations, or groups of persons that act as an entity, who are the subject of a resource. ● Event: controlled terms that identify events that are the subject of a resource. An event is something that occurs during a particular time period. ● Uniform Titles: controlled terms that identify titles of works that are the subject of a resource. ● Chronological: controlled terms that identify time periods that are the subject of a resource. ● Geographic: controlled terms that identify place names, including names of jurisdictions, that are the subject of a resource <p>The eighth facet defines what the resource is.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Form/Genre: a controlled term that identifies the form or genre of a resource.
4	Are all the FAST Facets necessary?	<p>The FAST facets reflect the scope of the Library of Congress Subject Headings system, from which FAST was generated.</p> <p>FAST is designed for the convenience of its users who are at liberty to use any or all of the facets.</p> <p>FAST terms may be used together with terms from other vocabularies.</p>
5	Who uses FAST?	<p>FAST can be used by anyone who needs to assign subject terms to a resource.</p> <p>A survey conducted by OCLC and FAST users in late 2017/early 2018 found that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 113 (30% of 586 respondent) were using FAST ● 41 (7%) had plans to use FAST future ● 95% of respondents were from English speaking countries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ United States of America ○ United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ○ Canada ○ Australia ○ New Zealand ● FAST is used by libraries, including : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ British Library

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Harvard Library ○ Columbia University Libraries ○ Cornell University Library ○ Brown University Library <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is also used by research organizations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Analysis & Policy Observatory, Melbourne
6	Where can I find FAST terms?	<p>FAST can be searched directly using the searchFAST tool http://fast.oclc.org/searchfast/</p> <p>No registration or log-in is required</p> <p>For further guidance see the guide: http://fast.oclc.org/searchfast/searchFastHowto.pdf</p>
7	Can I download the FAST vocabulary?	<p>FAST is also available for download in the following formats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MARC XML ● RDF ● ISOMARC <p>Downloads are updated periodically.</p> <p>Files are zipped. Facets may be downloaded separately or collectively.</p> <p>Visit the download page: https://www.oclc.org/research/themes/data-science/fast/download.html</p>
	Are there any restrictions on use of FAST	<p>FAST download files are made available subject to the following license.</p> <p>License The FAST (Faceted Application of Subject Terminology) data files are made available by OCLC under the Open Data Commons Attribution License (ODC-By): https://www.oclc.org/research/activities/fast/odcby.htm. The License allows the data to be used for study and research, among other things, with attribution in works produced from the database. The plain language summary of the License can be read here.</p>
9	How do I ask a question or raise an issue about FAST?	<p>Contact the FAST team: https://www.oclc.org/research/forms/feedback-form.html?project=FAST</p>

		<p>Join FACETVOC-L, a listserv discussion of all Faceted Controlled Vocabularies, including FAST.</p> <p>To subscribe, simply send an e-mail message to listserv@occlists.org with the word "subscribe FACETVOC-L" in the body of your message. To post messages, simply send an e-mail message to FACETVOC-L@occlists.org.</p>
10	How can I contribute to FAST development?	<p>We welcome your engagement. There are several ways in which you can get involved:</p> <p>Participate in discussions of FAST developments by joining FACETVOC-L, a listserv discussion of all Faceted Controlled Vocabularies.</p> <p>Join FACETVOC-L, a listserv discussion of all Faceted Controlled Vocabularies. To subscribe, simply go to the Internet Subscription form and provide your information. To post messages, simply send an e-mail message to FACETVOC-L@occlists.org.</p> <p>Join a FAST working group. Watch for announcements on the FPOC website or on the listserv.</p> <p>Advocate by talking to your service providers about enabling efficient use of FAST.</p> <p>Influence FAST by standing for election to FPOC. Anyone willing and able to contribute to the development of FAST is eligible for election to the committee. The nomination process will be documented on the website and announced by email.</p>
11	What FAST applications or tools are available?	<p>searchFAST http://fast.oclc.org/searchfast/ Find FAST terms.</p> <p>FAST Converter http://fast.oclc.org/lcsh2fast/ MARC 21 users! Convert your LCSH headings to FAST.</p> <p>assignFAST http://experimental.worldcat.org/fast/assignfast/ Enter text and FAST will offer suggested terms. [This is a demonstrator]</p> <p>importFAST (beta) http://fast.oclc.org/importfast/ Import Library of Congress Personal or Corporate names into the FAST Authorities.</p>
12	How should I cite FAST?	We'd be glad if you attributed us like this:

		<p>“This [title of report or article or dataset] contains information from FAST (Faceted Application of Subject Terminology) Data which is made available by OCLC Online Computer Library Center, Inc. under the ODC Attribution License. “</p> <p>If including implicit links isn't possible, links can be included explicitly:</p> <p>“This [title of report or article or dataset] contains information from FAST (Faceted Application of Subject Terminology) Data (http://www.oclc.org/research/activities/fast/datafiles.htm) which is made available by OCLC Online Computer Library Center, Inc. under the ODC Attribution License (http://www.oclc.org/research/activities/fast/odcby.htm).”</p>
13	Where can I obtain training in FAST	<p>We are developing user guides and training materials. Further details will be announced when they are available.</p> <p>A guide to searchFAST is available</p> <p>http://fast.oclc.org/searchfast/searchFastHowto.pdf</p>
14	We can't/don't use FAST. What should I do with FAST terms in our bibliographic records?	<p>We strongly encourage retention of FAST terms, even if your current systems do not support their use FAST terms and URIs may prove valuable in the future to supplement or supersede current vocabularies.</p>
15	How should we index FAST terms in our discovery system?	<p>How you index FAST headings will depend on the needs of your user community and will be constrained by your systems architecture and the configurability of your systems. However, there are some general principles to consider:</p> <p>FAST is predominantly a subject vocabulary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Index the Form/Genre facet as form/genre ● Index all other facets as subjects. <p>Bibliographic records contain FAST headings. FAST headings are the preferred terms. Indexing the FAST headings only does not enable navigation between FAST terms and constrains discoverability.</p> <p>FAST authority records provide the thesaural links between terms (Broader, Narrower, Related, Use for) and scope</p>

		<p>notes. Indexing the authority records enables navigation between FAST terms and enhances discoverability.</p> <p>FAST and LCSH share the same terminology and can share the same keyword index.</p> <p>FAST is a faceted post co-ordinate subject system and terms can be effectively indexed in a key word index.</p>
16	Can I get FAST subject headings through my system vendor or library service supplier?	<p>OCLC generates FAST for records contributed to WorldCat which already contain LCSH. WorldCat also contains records contributed to OCLC by FAST users.</p> <p>Bibliographic records containing FAST headings are also available from the British Library's free data service.</p>
17	Is FAST available as linked data?	<p>Yes, FAST Linked Data is available as open linked data.</p> <p>FAST Linked Data authorities are formatted using schema.org and SKOS (Simple Knowledge Organization System).</p> <p>The SRW/SRU API to access the FAST Linked Data is described at the OCLC Developers Network https://www.oclc.org/developer/develop/web-services/fast-api/linked-data.en.html.</p> <p>A profile of N-Triple predicates and external links is available at FAST Link Data N-Triples Statistics.</p> <p>The use of the FAST authorities is open and FAST is made available under an Open Data Commons Attribution (ODC-By) License. It is also available for download under this license at https://www.oclc.org/research/themes/data-science/fast/download.html.</p> <p>OCLC will update FAST periodically, at least twice yearly.</p> <p>FAST RDF is also available for download as N-triples.</p>
18	Does FAST provide alternative labels for terms specified in LCSH?	<p>No, but this is an issue that is under discussion. Tell us what you think.</p>