# Issue 386 Physical Human-Made

CEO, 19.06.2020

## The origin of the issue

In the 41st joined meeting of the CIDOC CRM SIG and ISO/TC46/SC4/WG9 and the 34th FRBR - CIDOC CRM Harmonization meeting, the sig resolving the issue 191, reviewed the Martin' proposal and accepted that

"the identity and coming into existence of a Physical Man-made thing must not be bound to the fact of an accidental or intentional Modification of any microscale - this can adequately be described as adding a man-made feature to the thing (and if not, it is indeed a production), but must be tied to the functional identity of the thing, in the same way we describe it for aggregates"

The sig decided to open a new issue for keeping track the discussion about modification of the scope note of E24 and P31 in order to be harmonized with Martin's proposal.

Lyon, May 2018

## Current state

In the 45th joint meeting of the CIDOC CRM SIG and SO/TC46/SC4/WG9; 38th FRBR – CIDOC CRM Harmonization meeting, the sig reviewed CEO’s HW (to rework the definition of E24 Physical Human Made Thing supplied by MD) and accepted them (see here).

Having agreed with CEO’s assessment that the subclasses of E24 Physical Human Made Thing require editing for the sake of consistency with the model, the sig appointed CEO (HW) to come forth with a proposal on what needs changing.

Heraklion, October 2019

## Task and Home Work

The original scope note of E24 Physical Human-Made Thing contained the following formulation: “This class comprises man-made objects, such as a swords, and man-made features, such as rock art. No assumptions are made as to the extent of modification required to justify regarding an object as man-made”. The last sentence is now considered problematic and the class too open. The moon, for example, should not be considered human made although there is some human modification of the surface. The new scope note of E24 Physical Human-Made Thing is quoted below.

The class E24 Physical Human-Made Thing has three sub classes, E22 Human-Made Object, E25 Human-Made Feature, E78 Curated Holding. The need for adjustment of the existing scope note is discussed under each subclass below

### E24 Physical Human-Made Thing

Subclass of: [E18](#_E18_Physical_Thing) Physical Thing

[E71](#_E71_Man-Made_Thing) Human-Made Thing

Superclass of: [E22](#_E22_Man-Made_Object) Human-Made Object

[E25](#_E25_Man-Made_Feature) Human-Made Feature

[E78](#_E78_Collection) Curated Holding

Scope Note: This class comprises all persistent physical items of any size that are purposely created by human activity. This class comprises, besides others, Human-Made objects, such as a swords, and Human-Made features, such as rock art. For example, a “cup and ring” carving on bedrock is regarded as instance of E24 Physical Human-Made Thing.

Instances of Human-Made thing may be the result of modifying pre-existing physical things, preserving larger parts or most of the original matter and structure, which poses the question if they are new or even Human-Made, the respective interventions of production made on such original material should be obvious and sufficient to regard that the product has a new, distinct identity and intended function and is human-made. Substantial continuity of the previous matter and structure in the new product can be documented by describing the production process also as instance of E81 Transformation.

Whereas interventions of conservation and repair are not regarded to produce a new Human-Made thing, the results of preparation of natural history specimen that substantially change their natural or original state should be regarded as physical Human-Made things, including the uncovering of petrified biological features from a solid piece of stone. On the other side, scribbling a museum number on a natural object should not be regarded to make it Human-Made. This notwithstanding, parts, sections, segments, or features of a physical Human-Made thing may continue to be non-Human-Made and preserved during the production process, for example natural pearls used as a part of an eardrop.

Examples:

* the Forth Railway Bridge (E22) (The Forth Railway Bridge centenary 1890-1990 ICE Proceedings, 1990, Vol.88(6), pp.1079-1107.
* the Channel Tunnel (E25) (Holliday, I., Marcou, G., and Vickerman, R. W., 1991)
* the Historical Collection of the Museum Benaki in Athens (E78) (Georgoula, E., 2005)
* the Rosetta Stone (E22)
* my paperback copy of Crime & Punishment (E22) (fictitious)
* the computer disk at ICS-FORTH that stores the canonical Definition of the CIDOC CRM v.3.2 (E22)
* my empty DVD disk (E22) (fictitious)

In First Order Logic:

E24(x) ⊃ E18(x)

E24(x) ⊃ E71(x)

Properties:

[P62](#_P62_depicts_(is_depicted by)) depicts (is depicted by): [E1](#_E1_CRM_Entity) CRM Entity

(P62.1 mode of depiction: [E55](#_E55_Type) Type)

[P65](#_P65_shows_visual_item (is shown by)) shows visual item (is shown by): [E36](#_E36_Visual_Item) Visual Item

## The subclass E22 Human-Made Obect.

The scope note contains the original and now obsolete formulation form E24 Physical Human-Made Thing. In CRM there are no tradition to repeat the scope note of the superclasses. However we can copy some of the information from the two superclasses

### E22 Human-Made Object

Subclass of: [E19](#_E19_Physical_Object) Physical Object

[E24](#_E24_Physical_Man-Made_Thing) Physical Human-Made Thing

Scope note: This class comprises all persistent physical objects of any size that are purposely created by human activity and have physical boundaries that separate them completely in an objective way from other objects.

The class also includes all aggregates of objects made for functional purposes of whatever kind, independent of physical coherence, such as a set of chessmen.

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Examples:

* Mallard (the World’s fastest steam engine) (Solomon, 2003)
* the Portland Vase (Walker, 2004)
* the Coliseum (Hopkins, 2005)

In First Order Logic:

E22(x) ⊃ E19(x)

E22(x) ⊃ E24(x)

## The subclass E25 Human-Made Feature.

The scope note contains the original and now obsolete formulation form E24 Physical Human-Made Thing. There is no need to keep this formulation

### E25 Human-Made Feature

Subclass of: [E24](#_E24_Physical_Man-Made_Thing) Physical Human-Made Thing

[E26](#_E26_Physical_Feature) Physical Feature

Scope Note: This class comprises physical features that are purposely created by human activity, such as scratches, artificial caves, artificial water channels, etc. In particular, it includes the information encoding features on mechanical or digital carriers.

Examples:

* the Manchester Ship Canal (Famie, 1980)
* Michael Jackson’s nose following plastic surgery
* The laser-readable “pits” engraved June 2014 on Martin Doerr’s CD-R, copying songs of Edith Piaf’s.
* The carved letters on the Rosetta Stone

In First Order Logic:

E25(x) ⊃ E24(x)

E25(x) ⊃ E26(x)

## The subclass E78 Curated Holding.

No changes are needed.

### E78 Curated Holding

Subclass of: [E24](#_E24_Physical_Man-Made_Thing) Physical Human-Made Thing

Scope note: This class comprises aggregations of instances of E18 Physical Thing that are assembled and maintained (“curated” and “preserved,” in museological terminology) by one or more instances of E39 Actor over time for a specific purpose and audience, and according to a particular collection development plan. Typical instances of curated holdings are museum collections, archives, library holdings and digital libraries. A digital library is regarded as an instance of E18 Physical Thing because it requires keeping physical carriers of the electronic content.

Items may be added or removed from an E78 Curated Holding in pursuit of this plan. This class should not be confused with the E39 Actor maintaining the E78 Curated Holding often referred to with the name of the E78 Curated Holding (e.g. “The Wallace Collection decided…”).

Collective objects in the general sense, like a tomb full of gifts, a folder with stamps or a set of chessmen, should be documented as instances of E19 Physical Object, and not as instances of E78 Curated Holding. This is because they form wholes either because they are physically bound together or because they are kept together for their functionality.

Examples:

* the John Clayton Herbarium
* the Wallace Collection (Ingamells, 1990)
* Mikael Heggelund Foslie’s coralline red algae Herbarium at Museum of Natural History and Archaeology, Trondheim, Norway
* The Digital Collections of the Munich DigitiZation Center (MDZ) accessible via <https://www.digitale-sammlungen.de/> at least in January 2018.

In First Order Logic:

E78(x) ⊃ E24(x)

Properties:

[P109](#_P109_has_current_or former curator ) has current or former curator (is current or former curator of): [E39](#_E39_Actor) Actor