



Information School
UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

SIMM
SEATTLE INTERACTIVE
MEDIA MUSEUM

UW/SIMM Video Game Metadata Schema: Controlled Vocabulary for Setting

University of Washington Information School
Game Metadata Research (GAMER) Group
and Seattle Interactive Media Museum

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SN: Scope note

USE: Preferred term (*See*)

USE FOR: Equivalent term, lead-in term

BT: Broader term

NT: Narrower term

RT: Related term (*See also*)

World: Used to specify the type of world the game takes place in. *Choose one.* If our world or alternate world is chosen, fill out Time Period and Place; it is not required for imagined world.

Term	Information
Our world	SN: Game worlds created to represent reality.
Alternate world	SN: A fictional world with designs based in reality.
Imagined world	SN: A self-consistent fictional setting with elements that differ from reality.

Time Period

<i>Period</i>	
Prehistoric	SN: Features early technologies; stone tools and fire. Employs a mix of prehistoric creatures, dinosaurs, and cavemen.
Ancient	SN: Seen as the dawn of civilization with technologies containing Swords and Sandals. This time period is also known to be heavily steeped in mythology and god-lore.
Byzantine	SN: The Byzantine time period encompasses the Crusades, and is characterized by strong Roman and Greek influences. ¹
Cold war	SN: The time period following the end of World War II (circa 1947-1991), in which tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union were high. It is characterized by a clash of political ideals between democracy and communism.
Dark ages	USE: Medieval
Medieval	SN: Castles are in abundance; the government style tends to focus on feudalism and in many cases there is a hereditary monarchy in place. USE FOR: Dark ages
Reformation	SN: The time period marked by “religious, political, intellectual, and cultural upheaval” that split apart Catholic Europe during the 16 th century. High profile individuals of this time include Martin Luther, John Calvin, and Henry VIII. ²

¹ Byzantine Empire. (n.d.). In *History*. Retrieved from <http://www.history.com/topics/ancient-history/byzantine-empire>

² The Reformation. (n.d.). In *History*. Retrieved from <http://www.history.com/topics/reformation>

Renaissance	SN: Time period when gunpowder is first introduced; cultures are more focused on philosophy and the arts.
Imperial	SN: Pre World War I period of colonization, discovery, industrialization, and travel.
Modern	SN: A time of war and rebuilding of super powers; World War II to the contemporary period. Technologies include cars, planes, and electronics.
Contemporary	SN: The part of history still in living memory.
Futuristic	SN: Focuses on interstellar exploration/colonization, interaction with alien species, and future empire building all while still having some relationship with Earth.
Western	SN: The time period characterized by cowboys, outlaws, and saloons.
Unspecified	SN: Not stated clearly or exactly.
<i>Specific Year</i>	
Year (YYYY)	SN: In the style of the Gregorian calendar only if the specific year is present within the game. Also only used if Our World or Alternate World are selected.

Place

Term	Information
Natural Environment	SN: All living and non-living things that are naturally on Earth.
Beach	SN: Landform along the coast of an ocean, sea, lake, or river that consists of loose particles like sand or rock. BT: Wilderness BT: Natural Environment RT: Island
Caves	SN: Hollow place in the ground, especially a large underground space that humans can enter. BT: Wilderness BT: Natural Environment
Forest	SN: Area of land covered with trees or other woody vegetation. BT: Wilderness BT: Natural Environment
Island	SN: A body of land surrounded entirely by the ocean. It is often tropical in climate, but varying environments may exist closer to its center. RT: Beach
Jungle	SN: Area of land covered with dense vegetation. BT: Wilderness BT: Natural Environment
Lake	USE: Water
Mars	USE: Outer Space
Natural Reserve	USE: Wilderness
Ocean	USE: Water

Outer Space	SN: Void that exists between celestial bodies. NT: Sky BT: Natural Environment USE: Space
Plains	SN: Flat region of land. BT: Wilderness BT: Natural Environment USE FOR: Prairie
Prairie	USE: Plains
River	USE: Water
Sea	USE: Water
Sky	SN: Everything that lies above the surface of earth, including the atmosphere, including outer space. BT: Natural Environment
Space	USE: Outer Space
Swamp	USE: Wilderness
Tundra	USE: Wilderness
Underground	SN: An area located beneath the ground/surface level where the majority of human activity typically occurs. It is often characterized as an area where there is no sunlight. RT: Cave
Underwater	SN: An area located beneath the water's surface level, in which marine and aquatic life thrive. RT: Water
Volcano	SN: A mountain with a crater or vent that allows contents from the earth's core (like lava) to surface.
Water	SN: Transparent fluid which forms the world's streams, lakes, oceans and rain, and is the major constituent of the fluids of living things. BT: Wilderness BT: Natural Environment RT: Underwater
Wilderness	SN: Natural environment on Earth that has not been significantly modified by humans. BT: Natural Environment Use For: Nature Reserve

Term	Information
Built Environment	SN: Material, spatial, and cultural product of human labor that combines physical elements and energy in forms for living, working and playing.
Aircraft	USE: Vehicles
Amusement Park	USE: Recreational site
Aquarium	USE: Recreational site

Apartment	USE: Home
Arcade	USE: Recreational site
Arena	SN: An enclosed area, often circular or oval-shaped for sporting events or other purposes. BT: Built Environment Use For: Stadium, Coliseum
Asylum	USE: Hospital
Castle	SN: A monumentally large building, often constructed with stone, that houses and protects royalty (kings and queens).
Church	USE: Religious site
Circus	USE: Recreational site
City	USE: Urban
Coliseum	USE: Arena
Cyberspace	SN: Environment in which communication over computer networks occurs. BT: Built Environment
Farm	SN: Area of land that is devoted primarily to agricultural processes. BT: Built Environment
Fortress	USE: Military Base
Home	SN: Place used as a permanent or semi-permanent residence for an individual, family, household, etc. BT: Built Environment Use For: House, Apartment
Hospital	SN: An institution dedicated to administering healthcare services.
House	USE: Home
Jails	USE: Prison
Laboratory	USE: Scientific Laboratory
Labs	USE: Scientific Laboratory
Maze	SN: A “confusing intricate network of passages.” ³
Military Base	SN: Facility owned and operated by the military that shelters military equipment and personnel, and facilitates training and operations. BT: Built Environment
Mine	SN: A pit or tunnel from which minerals (such as coal, gold, diamonds, etc.) are taken. ⁴
Park	USE: Recreational site
Playground	USE: Recreational site

³ Maze. (n.d.) In *Merriam-Webster online*. Retrieved from <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/maze>

⁴ Mine. (n.d.) In *Merriam-Webster online*. Retrieved from <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/mine>

Prison	SN: Facility in which inmates are confined and denied a variety of freedoms under the authority of state as a form of punishment. BT: Built Environment Use For: Jail
Recreational site	SN: A place for recreational activities Use For: Arcade, Aquarium, Amusement park, Circus, Park, Playground, Zoo
Religious site	SN: A place of worship, usually for religions. Use For: Church
Restaurant	SN: An establishment in which you may buy food that is cooked and prepared at that location. Patrons typically sit down and eat there, or get their food to go.
Ruins	SN: Remains of human-made architecture: structures that were once complete, as time went by, have fallen into a state of partial or complete disrepair. BT: Built Environment
Rural area	SN: Geographic area that is located outside of the cities and towns. Use For: Rural, Village
School	SN: Institution designed to teach students led by teachers. BT: Built Environment
Scientific Laboratory	SN: Facility that provides controlled conditions for scientific or technological research, experiments, measurements, etc. BT: Built Environment Use For: Labs, Laboratory
Ship	USE: Vehicles
Spaceship	USE: Vehicles
Stadium	USE: Arena
Submarine	USE: Vehicles
Suburban	SN: Geographic area that exists as part of a city or urban area or as a separate residential community within commuting distance of a city. BT: Built Environment
Subway	USE: Train
Town	USE: Urban
Train	USE: Vehicles
Urban	SN: Geographic area that is characterized by a high population density and vast human-built features. BT: Built Environment Use For: Town, City
Vehicles	Use For: Aircraft, Ship, Spaceship, Submarine, Train
Village	USE: Rural area
Zoo	USE: Recreational site
Unspecified	SN: Not stated clearly or exactly.
<i>Specific Locale</i>	

Specific Location	SN: Used to denote specific locations in game. Provide Continent, state or province, city or town.
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