

# Chronology Web Service

## Period names and time-span definitions

The Chronology Web Service provides names and time-span definitions in SKOS format for a wide range of cultural and historical periods. Uniform resource identifiers provide access to each period. Preferred labels and alternate labels (synonyms), scope notes, and history notes are provided in both French and English. Links to concept schemes, broader terms and narrower terms are given as `rdf:resource` links.

Definitions may also be retrieved by name using preferred or alternate labels in French or English. Standard SQL wildcards are accepted.

Output is returned as RDF/SKOS or as serialised PHP.

### Request URL

`http://api.open-world.ch/chrono`

### Request parameters

`[/id/999999] [/term/aaaa...] [/year/[-]9999] [/lang/en|fr]  
[output/xml|php]`

The web service accepts either HTTP GET or HTTP POST requests.

Parameter	Value	Description
id	string	A comma separated list of unique identification codes.
term	string	A comma separated and case insensitive list of labels, which may include wildcards '*'. Term selects all definitions that match one or more of the terms specified.
year	integer	A signed integer value. Year selects all definitions which contain the given year.
lang	string :en, fr	The preferred language for data, either <i>en</i> (English) or <i>fr</i> (French). By default, both are included.
output	string: xml (default), php	The format for the output. If <i>php</i> is requested, the results will be returned in Serialized PHP format.

### Response fields

Field	Description
rdf:RDF	Encapsulates the response
skos:ConceptScheme	Reference to the chronology scheme. Encapsulates the Top Concept
skos:hasTopConcept	Reference to the Top concept of the chronology scheme (Eternity)
skos:Concept	Encapsulates each period definition. The <code>rdf:about</code> attribute gives the URI of the concept.

skos:prefLabel	The preferred labels of the period name. The xml:lang attribute specifies the language ( <i>en / fr</i> )
skos:altLabel	Alternative (/non-preferred) labels of the period name. The xml:lang attribute specifies the language ( <i>en / fr</i> )
skos:scopeNote	Explanation of the scope and use of the period name. The xml:lang attribute specifies the language ( <i>en / fr</i> )
skos:definition	Time-span definition of the period range given as an starting date and an end date. Dates are usually given in years. Dates BCE are represented as negative integers.
skos:broader	Broader term related to the current concept definition. The URI of the BT is specified by the rdf:resource attribute.
skos:inScheme	General concept scheme that contains the current concept definition
skos:narrower	Narrower term related to the current concept definition. The URI of the NT is specified by the rdf:resource attribute.

## Errors

The ISO 21127 service returns standard HTTP errors. There are no service-specific errors.

## Sample response

`http://open-world.ch/api/chrono/term/august*`

The following is a sample response for the query above:

```
<rdf:RDF>
- <skos:ConceptScheme rdf:about="http://api.open-world.ch/chrono">
  <skos:hasTopConcept rdf:resource="http://api.open-world.ch/chrono/id/3184313"/>
  </skos:ConceptScheme>
- <skos:Concept rdf:about="http://api.open-world.ch/chrono/id/3184810">
  <skos:prefLabel xml:lang="en">Augustus</skos:prefLabel>
  <skos:prefLabel xml:lang="fr">Auguste</skos:prefLabel>
  <skos:scopeNote xml:lang="en">27 BCE - 14</skos:scopeNote>
  <skos:scopeNote xml:lang="fr">27 av. JC - 14</skos:scopeNote>
  <skos:definition>-0027/0014</skos:definition>
  <skos:broader rdf:resource="http://api.open-world.ch/chrono/id/3184809"/>
  <skos:inScheme rdf:resource="http://api.open-world.ch/chrono"/>
  </skos:Concept>
</rdf:RDF>
<!--
  Open-World Chronology thesaurus service : 2014-12-07 06:27:44 Comments: nicholas[at]crofts.ch
-->
```

## Comments

Please sent comments, suggestions and candidate terms to:

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