

## PROPOSAL FOR A CONCEPTUAL ORGANIZATION OF NINETEENTH CENTURY PLUCKED STRING INSTRUMENTS IN BRAZIL

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### Abstract

Plucked strings musical instruments are present in all continents. Notably during the Age of Exploration, in the 15th and 16th Centuries, they were spread among many different cultures. The Portuguese brought those instruments with them to Brazil and they could gradually be found in all parts of the country. Today Brazilian musical manifestations make an outstanding use of different kinds of plucked string instruments. However, to choose these instruments as a study object is a hard task: historical sources are scarce and terminology used to refer to them varies according to region, social group, time period, etc. Seeking to contribute to the history of music and of musical instruments in Brazil, we developed a research project focusing on terminology used to refer to those instruments. Terminology aims at guaranteeing perfect communication among researchers of specific fields but it can have different meanings depending on research areas and methodologies. With this in mind, and considering the complexity of our research object, we decided that an interdisciplinary research involving Musicology and the field of Knowledge Organization would be a fruitful approach. We began our project trying to find out the convergence points that could be found between these two areas from the 3rd century B.C. to the present times in which the Web dictates new ways of dealing with organization and availability of knowledge.

After this initial approach we developed a conceptual model for the universe of plucked strings musical instruments. Our information sources were Dictionaries of Music and the works on methods of study of plucked strings published in Portuguese. We took into account methodologies used for the elaboration of thesaurus and we tried to anticipate adaptation to new technologies used for collections organization in the Web, as it is the case of ontologies. Although there is still a long way to go to well organize, represent and make available knowledge on this subject, we believe that a useful step was taken by developing an organization model for plucked string musical instruments using a methodology that can be extended to other areas of musicology.

*Keywords: conceptual model, terminology, organology*