

# Metadata in Digital Libraries

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# What is Metadata?

Metadata is structured information that describes, explains, locates, or otherwise makes it easier to retrieve, use or manage an information resource. Metadata is often called data about data or information about information (Hodge, 2001).

# Types of Metadata

The Library of Congress Making of America II project has identified a threefold division of metadata (Making of America II 1998):

- Descriptive metadata - primarily used for resource discovery. Formats currently used include the MARC formats, Encoded Archival Description (EAD) and Dublin Core.
- Structural metadata - data that a system can use to help present a particular digital object to a user.
- Administrative metadata - data that allows the management of a digital collection (Day, 1999).

# Administrative Metadata

- “Policy” would be another term for administrative metadata.
  - Administrative metadata facilitates both short-term and long-term management and processing of digital collections
    - includes technical data on creation and quality control
    - includes rights management, access control and use requirements
    - preservation action information
- (Cornell University Library/Research Department, 2003).

# Administrative Metadata

- Preservation is essentially about management. In this scheme, preservation metadata (as with rights metadata) is a specialized form of administrative metadata (Day, 1999).
- For further information on preservation metadata, refer to Michael Day's article and/or OAIS.

# Administrative Metadata

## Sample Elements:

Technical data such as scanner type and model, resolution, bit depth, color space, file format, compression, light source, owner, copyright date, copying and distribution limitations, license information, preservation activities (refreshing cycles, migration, etc.) (Cornell University Library/Research Department, 2003).

# Administrative Metadata

## Implementations:

- MOA2, Administrative Metadata Elements

<http://www.clir.org/pubs/abstract/pub87abst.html>

- National Library of Australia

Preservation Metadata for Digital Collections

<http://www.nla.gov.au/preserve/pmeta.html>

- CEDARS

<http://www.leeds.ac.uk/cedars/metadata.html>

(Cornell University Library/Research Department, 2003).



# Descriptive Metadata

- To repeat the Library of Congress' definition:  
**Descriptive metadata** - *primarily used for resource discovery. Formats currently used include the MARC formats, Encoded Archival Description (EAD) and Dublin Core.*
- These formats are used for resource discovery and resource description (example, the Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting).

# OAI-PMH Metadata

- Repositories are required to expose their metadata as the Dublin Core Metadata Element Set (DCMES).
- Repositories are strongly encouraged to expose their metadata in more expressive formats.
- Examples of other formats in use:
  - MARC
  - RFC-1807
  - Open Languages Archives Community Metadata Set
  - Electronic Theses and Dissertation Metadata Set (Nelson, 2001)

# Example OAI\_DC Record

```
- <record>
- <header>
  <identifier>oai:arXiv.org:acc-phys/9411001</identifier>
  <datestamp>2003-02-05</datestamp>
  <setSpec>physics:acc-phys</setSpec>
  <setSpec>physics:physics</setSpec>
</header>
- <metadata>
- <oai_dc:dc xmlns:oai_dc="http://www.openarchives.org/OAI/2.0/oai_dc/"
  xmlns:dc="http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/" xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-
  instance" xsi:schemaLocation="http://www.openarchives.org/OAI/2.0/oai_dc/
  http://www.openarchives.org/OAI/2.0/oai_dc.xsd">
  <dc:title>Symplectic Computation of Lyapunov Exponents</dc:title>
  <dc:creator>Habib, Salman</dc:creator>
  <dc:creator>Ryne, Robert D.</dc:creator>
  <dc:subject>Accelerator Physics</dc:subject>
  <dc:description>..</dc:description>
  <dc:description>Comment: 12 pages, uuencoded PostScript (figures included)</dc:description>
  <dc:date>1994-10-31</dc:date>
  <dc:type>text</dc:type>
  <dc:identifier>http://arXiv.org/abs/acc-phys/9411001</dc:identifier>
</oai_dc:dc>
</metadata>
</record>
```

# Problems with Metadata

- Missing Data

- Data missing from the DC “format” and “type” elements

- Incorrect Data

- Content that should be in one kind of element was in a different kind of element. For example, “creator” content in the “language” content.
  - Default strings showing no content available: “unknown”, “—”, “...”, etc. (Dushay & Hillmann, 2003).

# Problems with Metadata

- **Confusing Data**
  - Strings of names inconsistently ordered:
    - Smith, John, George Jackson, Humphrey Little and Stanley Black
    - A more correct format should read: Smith, John; Jackson, George; Little, Humphrey; Black, Stanley.
- **Insufficient Data**
  - Minimal DC requirements combined with inconsistent usage make it difficult to interpret the metadata for more refined services, like searching (Dushay & Hillman, 2003).

# Problems with Metadata

- The top five elements are used 71% of the time while the bottom five elements are only used 6% of the time
  - Most- to least- used: creator, identifier, title, date, and type
  - Most- to least- used: language, format, relation, contributor, and source
- 54% of DPs use only two elements (creator, identifier) for approximately 50% of all element usage

# Problems with Metadata

- The DCMES is not used to its fullest extent <understatement>
- Due to this underutilization of the DCMES, it will be difficult for the OAI community to build relevant cross-resource services based on it (Ward, 2003)

# Domain-Specific Metadata

## Bioinformatics

### Multiple Metadata formats:

- MAML (Microarray Markup Language)
  - GeneXML
  - GEML
  - Genbank, PDB, GAME, SBML, CellML, DAS
- OLAC
- Others: GIS, Genome Sequencing



# Domain-Specific Metadata

## Open Languages Archive Community

### Metadata Elements:

Contributor, Coverage, Creator, Date, Description, Format, Format.cpu, Format.encoding, Format.markup, Format.os, Format.sourcecode, Identifier, Language, Publisher, Relation, Rights, Source, Subject, Subject.language, Title, Type, Type.functionality, and Type.linguistic

<http://www.language-archives.org/OLAC/olacms.html>

# Metadata Conversion

## LaRC MARC to DC Mapping (excerpt)

<b>LaRC MARC Metadata Set</b>	<b>Dublin Core</b>
D245a, D245d, D245e, D245n, D245p, D245s	title
D513a, D513b	coverage
D520b	description
D072a, D072b(001), D650a, D659a	subject
D090a(000), D013a, D020a, D088a, D856q, 856w	identifier

Liu, et al. (2002)

# Metadata Conversion

## DC to Sandia Mapping

<b>Dublin Core element</b>	<b>Sandia Metadata Field</b>
identifier	report numbers
identifier -- URI	URL
subject	subject category codes
title	title
subject	keywords
creator	personal names
creator	corporate names
date	date
format -- extent	extent
description	notes
rights	classification & dissemination

Liu, et al. (2002)

# Bibliography

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- Day, M. (1999). Issues and Approaches to Preservation Metadata. Retrieved 5 June 2003 from <http://www.rlg.org/preserv/joint/day.html>.
- Dushay, N. & Hillmann, D. (2003). Analyzing Metadata for Effective Use and Re-use. Draft submitted to the 2003 Dublin Core Conference. Available [http://www.cs.cornell.edu/naomi/DC2003/dushay\\_hillmann\\_\\_draft.pdf](http://www.cs.cornell.edu/naomi/DC2003/dushay_hillmann__draft.pdf).
- Hodge, G. (2001). Metadata Made Simpler. NISO Press. Retrieved 5 June 2003 from [http://www.niso.org/news/Metadata\\_simpler.pdf](http://www.niso.org/news/Metadata_simpler.pdf).

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- Nelson, M. (2001). Better Interoperability Through the Open Archives Initiative. The New Review of Information Networking. 7, 133-146.
- Ward, J. (2003). A Quantitative Analysis of Unqualified Dublin Core Metadata Element Set Usage within Data Providers Registered with the Open Archives Initiative. Proceedings of the Third ACM/IEEE Joint Conference on Digital Libraries, 315-317.

# Further Information

- Open Archives Initiative
  - <http://www.openarchives.org>
- UKOLN Metadata Resources
  - <http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/metadata/>
- RLG – Issues and Approaches to Preservation Metadata
  - <http://www.rlg.org/preserv/joint/day.html>
- Open Archival Information System
  - Preservation Metadata and the OAIS Information Model  
[http://www.oclc.org/research/pmwg/pm\\_framework.pdf](http://www.oclc.org/research/pmwg/pm_framework.pdf)

# Further Information

- Digital Libraries: Metadata Resources
  - <http://www.ifla.org/II/metadata.htm>
- MARC
  - <http://lcweb.loc.gov/marc/RFC-1807>
- Open Languages Archives Community Metadata Set
  - <http://www.language-archives.org/OLAC/olacms.html>
- Electronic Theses and Dissertation Metadata Set
  - <http://www.ndltd.org/standards/metadata/etd-ms-v1.01.html>

Questions?