

Introduction to Metadata

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Some definitions of metadata

- Data about data
- “Structured information about an information resource of any media type or format.” (Caplan)
- “Structured information that describes, explains, locates, or otherwise makes it easier to retrieve, use, or manage an information resource.” (NISO)
- “A relationship that someone claims to exist between two entities” (<indec>)

Refining a definition

- Other characteristics
 - Structure
 - Control
- Origin
 - Machine-generated
 - Human-generated
- In practice, the term often covers data and meta-metadata

Metadata and cataloging

- Depends on what you mean by:
 - metadata, and
 - cataloging!
- But, in general:
 - Metadata is broader in scope than cataloging
 - Much metadata creation takes place outside of libraries
 - Good metadata practitioners use fundamental cataloging principles in non-MARC environments
 - Metadata created for many different types of materials

What metadata is *not*

- Just a new word for cataloging
- Only for Internet resources
- Necessarily in electronic form
- Only created by professionals
- A fundamentally new idea
- A reason to forget everything we know about describing and managing resources

Some forms of metadata in cultural heritage institutions

- Catalog cards
- OPACs
- Finding aids
- Inventories
- Registers
- Slide labels

Uses of metadata in cultural heritage institutions

- Searching
- Browsing
- Display for users
- Interoperability
- Management of digital objects
- Preservation
- Navigation

Some types of metadata

Type	Use
Descriptive metadata	Searching Browsing Display Interoperability
Technical metadata	Interoperability Digital object management Preservation
Preservation metadata	Interoperability Preservation
Rights metadata	Interoperability Digital object management
Structural metadata	Navigation

How metadata is used

League of Nations. Secretariat. The aims, methods, and activity of the League of Nations. Geneva : Secretariat of the League of Nations, 1935.

View full record: [JUCAT](#)

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[\[view larger image\]](#)

- Front Matter
 - **Title page**
 - Verso
 - Table of Contents
- Body
 - Part 1
 - Chapter 1
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 - Part 2
 - Chapter 1
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 - Part 3
 - Chapter 1
 - Chapter 2
 - Conclusion
 - Part 4
 - Chapter 1
 - Chapter 2
 - Chapter 3
 - Chapter 4
- Back Matter
 - Publications
 - Preservation colophon

The Aims, Methods and Activity of the

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

GENEVA 1935





SECRETARIAT OF THE LEAGUE
OF NATIONS

League of Nations. Secretariat. The aims, methods, and activity of the League of Nations. Geneva : Secretariat of the League of Nations, 1935. Page 1 of 224

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A taxonomy of standards

	<i>Material Culture</i> <i>Libraries</i> <i>Archives</i> <i>Museums</i>	<i>Bibliographic</i> <i>Libraries</i> <i>Archives</i> <i>Museums</i>	<i>Archival</i> <i>Libraries</i> <i>Archives</i> <i>Museums</i>
 Data Structure	CDWA	MARC	EAD
 Data Content	CCO	AACR2 (RDA)	DACS
 Data Format	XML	XML/ISO2709	XML
 Data Exchange	OAI	OAI Z39.50 SRU/SRW	OAI

Some data structure standards

- For general use
 - MARC and MARCXML
 - MODS
 - Dublin Core
- More specialized for this community
 - VRA Core
 - CDWA Lite

Brief display of LC MARC record with field labels

LC Control Number: 92005291

Type of Material: Book (Print, Microform, Electronic, etc.)

Brief Description: [Sandburg, Carl, 1878-1967.](#)

Arithmetic / Carl Sandburg : illustrated as an anamorphic adventure by Ted Rand.

1st ed.

San Diego : Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, c1993.

1 v. (unpaged) : ill. (some col.) ; 26 cm.

ISBN: 0152038655 :

CALL NUMBER: [PS3537.A618 A88 1993](#)

Copy 1

-- **Request in:** Jefferson or Adams Bldg General or Area Studies Reading Rms

-- **Status:** Not Charged

CALL NUMBER: [PS3537.A618 A88 1993 FT MEADE](#)

Copy 2

-- **Request in:** Main or Science/Business Reading Rms - STORED OFFSITE

-- **Status:** Not Charged

“Classic” LC MARC record with field tags

01142cam 2200301 a 4500
000
001 92005291
003 DLC
005 19930521155141.9
008 920219s1993 caua j 000 0 eng
010 |a 92005291
020 |a0152038655 :|c\$15.95
040 |aDLC|cDLC|dDLC
042 |alcac
050 00|aPS3537.A618|bA88 1993
082 00|a811/.52|220
100 1 |aSandburg, Carl,|d1878-1967.
245 10|aArithmetic /|cCarl Sandburg ; illustrated as an anamorphic adventure by Ted Rand.
250 |a1st ed.
260 |aSan Diego :|bHarcourt Brace Jovanovich,|cc1993.
300 |a1 v. (unpaged) :|bill. (some col.) :|c26 cm.
500 |aOne Mylar sheet included in pocket.
520 |aA poem about numbers and their characteristics. Features anamorphic, or distorted, drawings which can be restored to normal by viewing from a particular angle or by viewing the image's reflection in the provided Mylar cone.
650 0|aArithmetic|xJuvenile poetry.

MARCXML record

```
</datafield>
- <datafield tag="245" ind1="1" ind2="0">
  <subfield code="a">Arithmetic </subfield>
  - <subfield code="c">
    Carl Sandburg ; illustrated as an anamorphic adventure by Ted Rand
  </subfield>
</datafield>
- <datafield tag="250" ind1=" " ind2=" ">
  <subfield code="a">1st ed.</subfield>
</datafield>
- <datafield tag="260" ind1=" " ind2=" ">
  <subfield code="a">San Diego :</subfield>
  <subfield code="b">Harcourt Brace Jovanovich,</subfield>
  <subfield code="c">c1993.</subfield>
</datafield>
- <datafield tag="300" ind1=" " ind2=" ">
  <subfield code="a">1 v. (unpaged) :</subfield>
  <subfield code="b">ill. (some col.) ;</subfield>
  <subfield code="c">26 cm.</subfield>
</datafield>
- <datafield tag="500" ind1=" " ind2=" ">
  <subfield code="a">One Mylar sheet included in pocket.</subfield>
</datafield>
- <datafield tag="520" ind1=" " ind2=" ">
  - <subfield code="a">
    A poem about numbers and their characteristics. Features anamorphic, or distorted, drawings which can be restored to normal by
    viewing from a particular angle or by viewing the image's reflection in the provided Mylar cone.
  </subfield>
```

Some data content standards

- Anglo-American Cataloging Rules, 2nd edition (AACR2)
- Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS)
 - Replaces APPM
- Cataloging Cultural Objects (CCO)

Also standards for individual fields

- Controlled vocabularies
 - Names: LCNAF, ULAN, etc.
 - “Subjects”: LCSH, AAT, etc.
 - Geographic places: LCSH, TGN, etc.
- Classification schemes, e.g., LCC
- Encoding schemes, e.g., W3CDTF

Some fields may not be covered by a content standard, or you may choose to override the guidance of a content standard for a particular field

Creating descriptive metadata

- “Digital library” systems
 - ContentDM
 - ExLibris Digitool
 - Greenstone
- Library catalogs
- Spreadsheets & databases
- XML

Challenges for descriptive VR metadata

- No infrastructure for copy cataloging
- Often describe unique rather than mass-produced works
- Description tends to be more subjective than traditional library cataloging
- Many whole/part and derivative relationships
- Generally describe surrogates rather than actual works

Work vs. image

Work = image content



Agent = Auguste Rodin, sculptor
Title = The Thinker
Work type = sculpture
Descriptive metadata

Museum inventory # = R9876
Exhibition status = on display
Administrative metadata

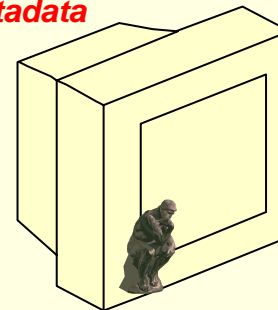
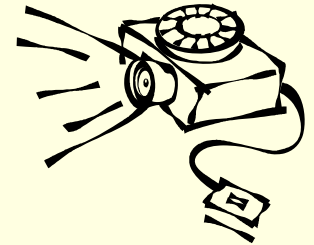
Image = view of a work



Agent = Joe Dokes, photographer
Title = Full view from front left
Work type = color transparency
Descriptive metadata

Call number = 275.R692
Class = French Modern Sculpture
Accession # = 654321
Administrative metadata

Measurements = 350 kb
Work type = digital image
Technical metadata



The role of community

- There's no one "right way" to record descriptive metadata
- But we shouldn't each have to start from scratch with our own planning
- Collaboration within defined communities is the key to success