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Metadata dictionary database: A proposed tool for academic library metadata management

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What is the problem?
Efficient management of metadata is critical for developing quality, sharable, metadata. A variety of metadata challenges arise from metadata designed in a project-specific context. An academic library digitization program may face severe metadata management problems. There is a risk of metadata de-synchronization. Developed metadata is not usable, metadata. A variety of metadata standards can be applied across multiple digital collections. Metadata quality control process (if present at all) has lost in harvesting processes.

What are the consequences of this problem?
- Quality of metadata across collection not controlled.
- Interoperability not achieved.

What is Metadata Dictionary Database?
- Metadata elements and their specific guidelines (best practices).
- Metadata is based on one or more standards, or local convention. Material formats may not have been mapped to standards.
- Metadata quality control process (if present at all) happens within limits of individual collections.
- Lack of a systematic, comprehensive and integrative approach for designing digital collections may lead to various levels of inconsistency across them.

What does MDD mean for the future?
- All digital collections should use MDD in order to guarantee interoperability.
- New metadata elements can only be created for values that don’t conform to any standard metadata element (these metadata values are likely to be lost in harvesting processes).
- Digital collection end users will be provided with more consistent data, which leads to consistency, quality and interoperability across local digital collections.
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Who can benefit from using MDD?
- Metadata librarian: will use MDD as a documentation reference for metadata collection.
- Catalogers: will use MDD as a documentation reference for metadata collection.
- Metadata standards at all.
- Additional work (initially) creating documentation about data value and data mapping for harvesting.

Rules to use MDD as a design tool:
- Digital collections metadata sets should be derived from metadata set specified in MDD.
- New metadata elements can only be created for values that don’t conform to any standard metadata element (these metadata values are likely to be lost in harvesting processes).
- Metadata quality questions that MDD can support:
  - What are the metadata elements defined for each collection?
  - Which metadata elements are specific for each collection?
  - Which metadata elements are common to various collections?
  - Are these metadata elements consistently defined?
  - What are the metadata elements defined for each collection?
  - Which metadata elements are specific for each collection?
  - Which metadata elements are common to various collections?