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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 qualify, share-able, metadata. A variety of metadata challenges arise from metadata designed in a project-specific context. Metadata management approaches applied across multiple digital collections may happen within limits of individual collections. Lack of a systematic, comprehensive and integrated metadata design data driven approach is required to ensure metadata quality control process (if present at all). Metadata is based on one or more standards, or local convention. Material formats may not have been established in a project or across collections. Digital collections metadata sets should be derived from metadata set specified in MDD. A single repository can be created in which digital collections will be defined as views (or subsets) of this repository. Searches would be conducted through specific metadata (application profile) and digital collections will be provided by metadata standards. 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 formatting and content building focused on the specific context of the data. Little attention is paid to structure and content building focused on the specific context of the data. Little attention to was paid to structure and content building focused on the specific context of the data.

What are the consequences of this problem?

- Inability to search and retrieve information from multiple sources.
- Loss of metadata values due to non-conformity with standards.
- Inconsistency in metadata across collections.
- Difficulty in integrating and comparing metadata from different sources.
- Reduced interoperability and accessibility.
- Increased maintenance and development costs.
- Limited ability to support research and scholarly communication.
- Potential loss of valuable data.

What is a Metadata Dictionary?

MDD is a repository of metadata elements (meta-data) specified for local digital collections. Its main purpose is to serve as a reference for managing metadata across various digital collections. An MDD stores information about metadata standards such as guidelines for data creation are refinements of the general guidelines provided by metadata standards.

What are the Metadata Dictionary 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?
- Which metadata elements are consistent throughout all digital collections?
- What are locally developed controlled vocabularies?
- What metadata elements are shared in all collections?

What does MDD mean for the future?

- Systematize digital collection development.
- Facilitate preservation since all digital collections will share common metadata.
- Enhance user access.
- Potential cost saving.
- Systematic digital collection development.
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Who can benefit from using MDD?

- Digital collection end users will have access to consistent, high-quality metadata.
- Digital collection creators will be provided with more consistent data, which makes it easier to search and compare.
- Catalogers and other content creators will have access to detailed information.
- Other content creators will have access to consistent metadata elements.
- Metadata librarian will use MDD as a main source for designing metadata schemes for new projects.
- Digital collection end users will be provided with more consistent data, which makes it easier to search and compare.
- Other content creators will have access to consistent metadata elements.

Who can benefit from using MDD?

- Digital collection end users: will have access to detailed information for designing new collections.
- Aggregators or service providers: will have access to consistent metadata elements.
- Content creators: will have access to consistent metadata elements.
- Other content creators: will have access to consistent metadata elements.