

Digital Resource Description

A.K.A.
Metadata

DATA

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Resources Description in the Digital Age

The breakdown of the cataloging and indexing environment as it was changing around the year 1997

It is necessary to remember that this is an important time that began the surge of the library profession's investigation into digital libraries and the competition brought on by the ever growing and easy to use web search engines

Coalition of Networked Information

- Document descriptions by creator
- HTML extraction (webcrawlers)
- Library descriptive cataloging
- MARC practices and multiple schemes
- GILS and TOPNODE
- Authority files
- Mixing controlled and uncontrolled vocabularies
- Access to non-textual media
- Descriptions of aggregate objects and information spaces

Professional Initiatives

- Defining Dublin Core
- Library catalogs and record structures
- Persistent resource locations
- Data registry creation to promote metadata interoperability

Surrogate and Metadata Needs

- Registration (uniform resource names)
- Terms and conditions of use
- Document / object structure for instructional access purposes
- History of use
- Context, which includes description and subject analysis

Professional Consensus

“one over arching plan for cataloging, searching and retrieving data from the many trillions of bytes of digital material that tomorrow's networked collections will contain” is not feasible
(Jackson, 1995)

Dublin Core (DC)

6 principles carried out in 13 fields for ease of creation and applicability

DC principles

- Describes only intrinsic properties
- Eliminates use of external references
- Extendable to include additional information
- Syntax independent
- Optional and repeatable fields
- Qualifiers and modification to fields to convey additional meaning

Metadata Dilemma

Translation from one schema to another is difficult

In many cases human assistance is needed to adequately make the translations work

(side note) This has improved over time

Semantic Libraries

Libraries at this time were interested in the best ways to create semantic relationships within their catalogs

Specifically by:

Title

Author

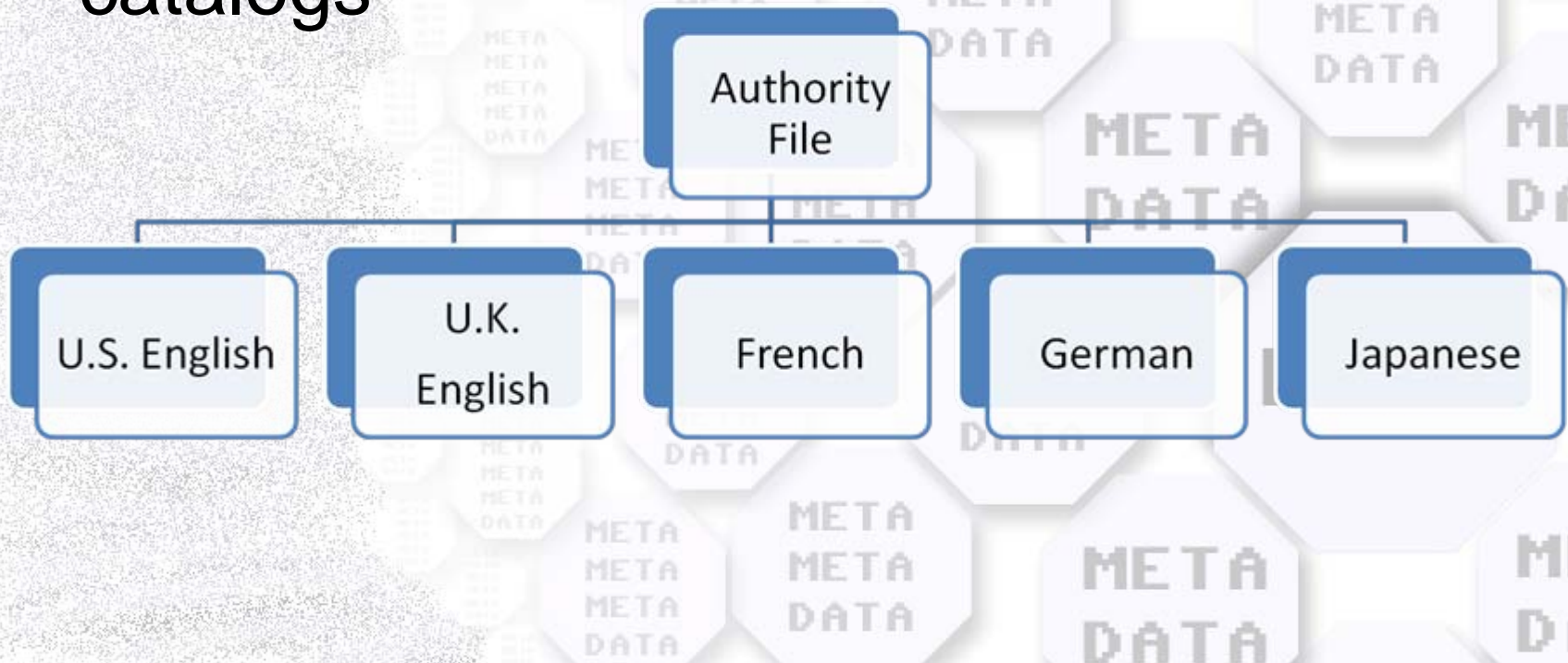
Date

Translations

Subjects

International Standards

- Investigation was beginning to find a way to create International Authority files that would link to records in world wide catalogs



Internet Cataloging

Several attempts have been made to create catalogs and indexes for internet resources

MARC has added a field to represent a web address

Problems persist with the determination of author names and titles

MARC Dilemma

Most libraries use MARC for their catalogs

MARC poses problems when creating hierarchical records

MARC is built to represent a single record for a single object

SGML Saves the Day

Encoded Archival Description (EAD) is one form of a document type definition that conforms to SGML requirements

Using SGML based schemes provides the ability to create hierarchical relationships between surrogate objects within a collection

This was very important for archives who wished to produce electronic finding aids

(SCR) SGML Catalog Record

- Created by Columbia University
- Promote relationships and record creation during digitization projects
- SCR's are designed to coexist with MARC Records
- This provides a flexible structure as well as standard cataloging fields

Younger's conclusion

- Need for better metadata conversion tools
- Need for persistent URL's or other strategies to prevent broken links
- Further use of metadata schemes to catalog internet resources
- The future still looks bright for information professionals

Dublin Core Example

13 element

Title
Subject
Author
Publisher
Other Agent
Date
Object Type
Form
Identifier
Relation
Source
Language
Coverage

15 element

Title
Subject
Description
Creator
Publisher
Contributor
Date
Type
Format
Identifier
Source
Language
Relation
Coverage
Rights

CDWA- Categories for the Description of Works of Art

Definitions of Categories

OBJECT, ARCHITECTURE, OR GROUP

Object/Work

Classification

Titles or Names

Creation

Styles/Periods/Groups/Movements

Measurements

Materials and Techniques

Inscriptions/Marks

State

Edition

Facture

Orientation/Arrangement

Physical Description

Condition/Examination History

Conservation/Treatment History

Subject Matter

Context

Descriptive Note

Critical Responses

Related Works

Current Location

Copyright/Restrictions

Ownership/Collecting History

Exhibition/Loan History

Cataloging History

Related Visual Documentation

Related Textual References

AUTHORITIES

Person/Corporate Body Authority

Place/Location Authority

Generic Concept Authority

Subject Authority

VRA- Visual Resource Association

- work, collection, or image (*id*)
- agent
 - attribution
 - culture
 - dates (*type*)
- earliestDate (*circa*) latestDate (*circa*)
- name (*type*)
- role
- culturalContext
- date (*type*)
 - earliestDate (*circa*)
 - latestDate (*circa*)
- description
- inscription
 - author
 - position
 - text (*type*)
- location (*type*)
 - name (*type*)
 - refid (*type*)
- material (*type*)
- measurements (*type, unit*)
- relation (*type, relids*)
- rights (*type*)
 - rightsHolder
 - text
- source
 - name (*type*)
 - refid (*type*)
- stateEdition (*count, num, type*)
 - description
 - name
- stylePeriod
- subject
 - term (*type*)
- technique
- textref
 - name (*type*)
 - refid (*type*)
- title (*type*)
- worktype

The background consists of a grid of light gray hexagons. Each hexagon contains the text 'META META DATA' in a smaller, gray font. One hexagon in the lower right quadrant contains the word 'DATA' in a larger, bold, black font. The overall effect is a textured, data-oriented background.

Any Questions?