

## Creating Metadata Records

### I. Introduction

The proceeding records are the results of the examination of five distinct information objects. The data chosen to describe these objects, commonly referred to by information scientists as metadata, are listed in two varying formats; these are the Electronic Resource Citation (ERC) and the Dublin Core (DC). Section II holds the ERC records, while section III contains DC records. The objects are described in the different formats in corresponding order.

### II. ERC Citation Records

#### Record 1:

who/contributor: Guenther, Rebecca| Radebaugh, Jacqueline  
what: Understanding Metadata  
when: 2004  
where: ISBN number 1-880124-62-9  
erc-support:  
who/publisher: National Information Standards Organization  
what: permanent content, publication of all information-related standards  
when: 1984  
where: <http://www.niso.org>

#### Record 2:

who/created: Multimedia Access across Enterprises, Networks, and Domains  
what/topic: metadata  
when/modified: 2004-10-12  
where: <http://metadata.net>  
erc-support:  
who: Distributed Systems Technology Centre  
what: permanent, evolving content  
when: 1992  
where: <http://www.dtsc.edu.au>

#### Record 3:

who/published: Dublin Core Metadata Initiative  
what/topic: Dublin Core| metadata| frequently asked questions  
when/created: 2003-31-10  
where: <http://dublincore.org/resources/faq/index.shtml>

## Record 4:

who/published: NISO AX Committee for the Open URL

what: Registry for the OpenURL Framework-ANSI/NISO Z39.88-2004

when: 2004

where: <http://alcme.oclc.org/openurl/servlet/OAIHandler?verb=ListSets>  
erc-support:

who: National Information Standards Organization Committee AX| Van de Velde, Eric F.

what: permanent content, works of committee on openURL standardization

when: 2003-15-4

where: <http://library.caltech.edu/openurl/default.htm>

## Record 5:

who: Moen, William E.

what: Resource Discovery Using Z39.50: Promise and Reality

when: 2001-23-01

where: [http://www.loc.gov/catdir/bibcontrol/moen\\_paper.html](http://www.loc.gov/catdir/bibcontrol/moen_paper.html)

**III. DC Citation Records**

## Record 1:

<META NAME="DC.Title" LANG="en" CONTENT="Understanding Metadata">

<META NAME="DC.Creator" LANG="en" CONTENT="National Information Standards Organization">

<META NAME="DC.Subject" LANG="en" CONTENT="metadata, structures, schemes, element sets, creation of, exchange, future development of">

<META NAME="DC.Description" LANG="en" CONTENT="a guide to the creation of metadata through its various schemes. Includes a list of resources and a glossary of terms.">

<META NAME="DC.Publisher" LANG="en" CONTENT="National Information Standards Organization">

<META NAME="DC.Contributor" LANG="en" CONTENT="Guenther, Rebecca; Radebaugh, Jacqueline">

<META NAME="DC.Date" LANG="en" CONTENT="2004">

<META NAME="DC.Format" LANG="en" CONTENT="text/pdf">

<META NAME="DC.Identifier" LANG="en" CONTENT="ISBN number 1-880124-62-9">

<META NAME="DC.Language" LANG="en" CONTENT="English-US">

<META NAME="DC.Relation" LANG="en" CONTENT="IsBasedOn Metadata Made Simpler: A Guide for Libraries">

<META NAME="DC.Coverage" LANG="en" CONTENT="2001-2004">

<META NAME="DC.Rights" LANG="en" CONTENT="Copyright 2004, National Information Standards Organization">

## Record 2:

<META NAME="DC.Title" LANG="en" CONTENT="Metadata.net">  
 <META NAME="DC.Creator" LANG="en" CONTENT="Multimedia Access across  
 Enterprises, Networks, and Domains">  
 <META NAME="DC.Subject" LANG="en" CONTENT="metadata, initiatives, projects, tools  
 and services, schema, registries, journals, resources">  
 <META NAME="DC.Description" LANG="en" CONTENT="website; discusses all pertinent  
 aspects of continual workgroup meetings concerning the creation and display of metadata">  
 <META NAME="DC.Publisher" LANG="en" CONTENT="Distributed Systems Technology  
 Centre">  
 <META NAME="DC.Date" LANG="en" CONTENT="modified 2004-12-10">  
 <META NAME="DC.Format" LANG="en" CONTENT="text/html">  
 <META NAME="DC.Identifier" LANG="en" CONTENT="http://metadata.net">  
 <META NAME="DC.Language" LANG="en" CONTENT="English-AU">  
 <META NAME="DC.Coverage" LANG="en" CONTENT="1992-2004">

## Record 3:

<META NAME="DC.Title" LANG="en" CONTENT="DCMI Frequently Asked Questions  
 (FAQ)">  
 <META NAME="DC.Creator" LANG="en" CONTENT="Dublin Core Metadata Initiative">  
 <META NAME="DC.Subject" LANG="en" CONTENT="Dublin Core Metadata Initiative,  
 questions concerning">  
 <META NAME="DC.Description" LANG="en" CONTENT="list of questions and their  
 respective answers about the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI)">  
 <META NAME="DC.Publisher" LANG="en" CONTENT="Dublin Core Metadata Initiative">  
 <META NAME="DC.Date" LANG="en" CONTENT="2003-10-31">  
 <META NAME="DC.Format" LANG="en" CONTENT="text/html">  
 <META NAME="DC.Identifier" LANG="en"  
 CONTENT="http://dublincore.org/resources/faq/index.shtml">  
 <META NAME="DC.Language" LANG="en" CONTENT="en">  
 <META NAME="DC.Coverage" LANG="en" CONTENT="1995-2005">  
 <META NAME="DC.Rights" LANG="en"  
 CONTENT="http://dublincore.org/about/copyright/index.shtml#copyright">

## Record 4:

<META NAME="DC.Title" LANG="en" CONTENT="Registry for the OpenURL Framework ANSI/NISO Z39.88-2004">

<META NAME="DC.Creator" LANG="en" CONTENT="The NISO AX Committee for the OpenURL">

<META NAME="DC.Subject" LANG="en" CONTENT="Uniform Resource Locator, framework, components of, American National Standards Institute, National Information Standards Organization, Z39.88">

<META NAME="DC.Description" LANG="en" CONTENT="detailed descriptions of namespaces, character encodings, serializations, constraint languages, context object formats, metadata formats, transports, community profiles">

<META NAME="DC.Publisher" LANG="en" CONTENT="Advanced Library Collection Management Environment of Online Computer Library Center">

<META NAME="DC.Contributor" LANG="en" CONTENT="Van de Velde, Eric F.">

<META NAME="DC.Date" LANG="en" CONTENT="2004">

<META NAME="DC.Format" LANG="en" CONTENT="text/html">

<META NAME="DC.Identifier" LANG="en" CONTENT="http://alcme.oclc.org/openurl/servlet/OAIhandler?verb=ListSets">

<META NAME="DC.Language" LANG="en" CONTENT="English-US">

<META NAME="DC.Relation" LANG="en" CONTENT="Requires itemization by the Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting">

## Record 5:

<META NAME="DC.Title" LANG="en" CONTENT="Resource Discovery Using Z39.50: Promise and Reality">

<META NAME="DC.Creator" LANG="en" CONTENT="Moen, William E.">

<META NAME="DC.Subject" LANG="en" CONTENT="American National Standards Institute, National Information Standards Organization, Z39.50 protocol, information retrieval, networked environment">

<META NAME="DC.Description" LANG="en" CONTENT="discusses the flexibility of an information retrieval standard as it moves from use on a remote system to universal utilization over many networks, especially those dispensing electronic information">

<META NAME="DC.Publisher" LANG="en" CONTENT="Library of Congress">

<META NAME="DC.Date" LANG="en" CONTENT="2001-01-23">

<META NAME="DC.Format" LANG="en" CONTENT="text/html">

<META NAME="DC.Identifier" LANG="en" CONTENT="http://www.loc.gov/catdir/bibcontrol/moen\_paper.html">

<META NAME="DC.Language" LANG="en" CONTENT="English-US">

<META NAME="DC.Rights" LANG="en" CONTENT="Copyright 2001, Library of Congress">

#### IV. Discussion

In general, this researcher found the Notetab text editor most beneficial while entering data into the records; this was especially true of the Dublin Core Records, as pull down lists for certain elements expedited the creation of the records by adding clarity that the researcher would have been unable to provide independently. Examples of this clarity are noted in the instances where a relation element is included in a record. A pick list naming possible relationships of the information object to another object assisted the record author in best defining an identified relation.

During the creation of these metadata records, every attempt was made to fill the record with every available element identified by the Notetab text editor. However, during the examination of the information objects, the researcher could not determine how to best enter data for the DC.Type element, as all of the objects were better described by the DC.Format element. The five objects were all text objects, whether in print or electronic format. As a result, the type element was bypassed in favor of the format element, where the text objects could be further described as either html or pdf objects. Another element where no data could be detected was the DC.Source element. Upon examination, the objects did not appear to be excerpted or otherwise derived from another object; in addition, the text editor indicated that the utilization of the DC.Relation element was preferable to the source element, as any ties to another object could be more readily defined by the pick list present in the relation field.

Because the ERC scheme only utilizes four elements, these fields were easier to fill. For some of the records, however, the primary elements did not feel as though they held quite enough data to support the full 'story' of the object. In these instances, support data was attached to the record to indicate that the object was created by an institution that had permanence in the realm of the dissemination of credible information.

The approach to designing these records was to examine the information objects from the perspective of an end user, and to include all data about the object that a user would decipher easily from an initial glance at the object. While in most instances this method was successful, for at least one object, the first impression was not the correct one. The Registry for the OpenURL Framework was seemingly another informational webpage. Only after spending quite some time with the object was the researcher able to determine all of the relationships tied to the object. The page supplied a user with the information necessary to create an openURL that conforms to a group of newly-defined standards. The group which created the standards, the NISO Axillary Committee for the OpenURL, is taking advantage of open-source software supplied by the Open Archive Initiative (OAI), to allow those interested to create and register an openURL. The OAI is supported by the by the Advanced Library Collection Management Environment (ALCME), a project of the Online Computer Library Center. Even after spending time determining the nature of these relationships, the researcher could not, with full certainty, decide how to best delineate these relationships on paper, so a best educated guess was based on an understanding of information objects and a study of the description of their data.

It is possible that, especially in the case of the previously mentioned record, this researcher struggled with data input due to a lack of clear input rules. Consultation with the best sources available on the creation of metadata-*A Metadata Kernel for Electronic Permanence* by John Kunze and <http://dublincore.org>, was made for guidance, but in the end, the records creator relied on almost three years experience as a part time library student to enter the most relevant, yet conforming, terms as possible into the data fields for each element. Furthermore, in the case of the subject or what elements, the researcher's prior experience with the creation and utilization of a thesaurus for the supplication of terms for these fields may have made the results of the final records feel somewhat inadequate. Then again, the researcher has always possessed an obsession with perfection, for which treatment has been sought through Anal Retentives Anonymous (ARA).

## V. Summary and Conclusion

As I now step out of my *nom de guerre*-the researcher, I can say that, as best I could, I tried to stay away from the thoughts that I was "not doing this right" and embrace the idea that "this feels right, so go for it" while creating these records. I suppose it is up to others to judge whether this approach was the correct one, but I turn in this assignment secure in the knowledge that even if the information supplied herein is bloody awful, 75,000 people will not boo me on national television. I mention in the discussion section that I approached the records as a user, so in determining how streamlined or detailed to make a record, I thought about what a user would want. An end user, when examining metadata to decide if an information object meets perceived needs, does not want to read through two pages of information on a single object to make that determination. This factored into my decision to make the records as succinct as possible, although I admit I had to restrain myself a bit when entering data for the DC.Description element.

In conclusion, I take away from this assignment a couple of things. First, that the endeavor of creating and implementing standards for metadata utilization is an ever-evolving one, and that by 'jumping into the fray,' so to speak, a new information scientist like myself may wind up where everyone wants to be, regardless of their chosen field: on the cutting edge of something big. In addition, regardless of where my career in the information sciences takes me, a firm grasp of metadata fundamentals will help me be a better supplier of knowledge to those who seek it. The ability to both create and interpret metadata will lead users to a more positive searching experience, and I will have the satisfaction that I have supplied someone with that most precious commodity of all-information.