

Jennifer Whitt  
SLIS 5223  
Spring 2005

## Creating Records: Dublin Core and Electronic Resource Citation

### Introduction

Five different items are contained in this document. Two records have been created for each material, one using Electronic Resource Citation (ERC) and one using Dublin Core (DC). A discussion follows the two sets of records exploring the differences between and the similarities shared by ERC and DC metadata schemes. A conclusion and summary wrap up the document.

### Electronic Resource Citation Records

#### Record 1

who: Brand, Amy | Daly, Frank | Meyers, Barbara  
what: Metadata Demystified  
when: 2003  
where: [http://www.niso.org/standards/resources/Metadata\\_Demystified.pdf](http://www.niso.org/standards/resources/Metadata_Demystified.pdf)

#### Record 2

who: DCMI-Libraries Working Group  
what: Library Application Profile  
when: 2004  
where: <http://dublincore.org/documents/2004/09/10/library-application-profile/>

#### Record 3

who: Joint Information Systems Committee | JISC  
what: JISC Information Environment Architecture  
when: 2003  
where: <http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/distributed-systems/jisc-ie/arch/>

#### Record 4

who: Lynch, Clifford A  
what: Institutional Repositories: Essential Infrastructure for Scholarship in the Digital Age  
when: February 2003  
where: <http://www.arl.org/newsltr/226/ir.html>

#### Record 5

who: Library of Congress  
what: METS: An Overview & Tutorial  
when: 2004  
where: <http://www.loc.gov/standards/mets/METSOverview.v2.html>

erc: about  
what: Metadata encoding | transmission standard

## Dublin Core Records

## Record 1

```

<META NAME="DC.Title" LANG="en" CONTENT="Metadata Demystified: A Guide for
Publishers">
<META NAME="DC.Creator" LANG="en" CONTENT="Brand, Amy">
<META NAME="DC.Creator" LANG="en" CONTENT="Daly, Frank">
<META NAME="DC.Creator" LANG="en" CONTENT="Meyers, Barbara">
<META NAME="DC.Subject" LANG="en" CONTENT="Metadata">
<META NAME="DC.Subject" LANG="en" CONTENT="ONIX">
<META NAME="DC.Description" LANG="en" CONTENT="Guide for publishers covering
the importance and use of metadata with references to OAI and ONIX">
<META NAME="DC.Publisher" LANG="en" CONTENT="The Sheridan Press">
<META NAME="DC.Publisher" LANG="en" CONTENT="NISO Press">
<META NAME="DC.Date" LANG="en" CONTENT="2003-07">
<META NAME="DC.Type" LANG="en" CONTENT="text">
<META NAME="DC.Format" LANG="en" CONTENT="text/html">
<META NAME="DC.Identifier" LANG="en" CONTENT="ISBN 1880124599">
<META NAME="DC.Identifier" LANG="en"
CONTENT="http://www.niso.org/standards/resources/Metadata_Demystified.pdf">
<META NAME="DC.Language" LANG="en" CONTENT="en">

```

## Record 2

```

<META NAME="DC.Title" LANG="en" CONTENT="Library Application Profile">
<META NAME="DC.Creator" LANG="en" CONTENT="DCMI-Libraries Working Group">
<META NAME="DC.Subject" LANG="en" CONTENT="Dublin Core Metadata Element Set">
<META NAME="DC.Subject" LANG="en" CONTENT="DCMI">
<META NAME="DC.Description" LANG="en" CONTENT="This document proposes a
possible application profile that clarifies the use of the Dublin Core
Metadata Element Set in libraries and library-related applications and
projects. It was originally prepared by the DCMI-Libraries Application
Profile drafting committee, a subset of the DCMI-Libraries Working Group.">
<META NAME="DC.Publisher" LANG="en" CONTENT="Dublin Core Metadata
Initiative">
<META NAME="DC.Contributor" LANG="en" CONTENT="Clayphan, Robina">
<META NAME="DC.Contributor" LANG="en" CONTENT="Guenther, Rebecca">
<META NAME="DC.Date" LANG="en" CONTENT="2004-09-10">
<META NAME="DC.Type" LANG="en" CONTENT="text">
<META NAME="DC.Format" LANG="en" CONTENT="text/html">
<META NAME="DC.Identifier" LANG="en"
CONTENT="http://dublincore.org/documents/2004/09/10/library-application-
profile/">
<META NAME="DC.Language" LANG="en" CONTENT="En">
<META NAME="DC.Rights" LANG="en"
CONTENT="http://dublincore.org/about/copyright/index.shtml#documentnotice">
<META NAME="DC.Rights" LANG="en"
CONTENT="http://dublincore.org/about/software/">

```

## Record 3

```

<META NAME="DC.Title" LANG="en" CONTENT="JISC Information Environment
Architecture">

```

```

<META NAME="DC.Creator" LANG="en" CONTENT="Powell, Andy">
<META NAME="DC.Subject" LANG="en" CONTENT="Information Architecture<META
NAME="DC.Subject" LANG="en" CONTENT="Information Environment Architecture">
<META NAME="DC.Subject" LANG="en" CONTENT="Technical Architecture">
<META NAME="DC.Description" LANG="en" CONTENT="The JISC Information
Environment technical architecture standards and protocols that provide
interoperability between the UK HE and FE community">
<META NAME="DC.Publisher" LANG="en" CONTENT="Joint Information Systems
Committee">
<META NAME="DC.Publisher" LANG="en" CONTENT="JISC">
<META NAME="DC.Publisher" LANG="en" CONTENT="UKOLN">
<META NAME="DC.Date" LANG="en" CONTENT="2003-07-03">
<META NAME="DC.Type" LANG="en" CONTENT="text">
<META NAME="DC.Format" LANG="en" CONTENT="text/html">
<META NAME="DC.Identifier" LANG="en"
CONTENT="http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/distributed-systems/jisc-ie/arch/">
<META NAME="DC.Language" LANG="en" CONTENT="En">
">
<META NAME="DC.Relation" LANG="en" CONTENT="IsPartOf The Joint Information
Systems Committee">
<META NAME="DC.Relation" LANG="en" CONTENT="IsPartOf JISC">
">

```

#### Record 4

```

<META NAME="DC.Title" LANG="en" CONTENT="Institutional Repositories:
Essential Infrastructure for Scholarship in the Digital Age">
<META NAME="DC.Creator" LANG="en" CONTENT="Lynch, Clifford A.">
<META NAME="DC.Subject" LANG="en" CONTENT="Institutional Repository">
<META NAME="DC.Subject" LANG="en" CONTENT="Institutional Repositories">
<META NAME="DC.Description" LANG="en" CONTENT="Overview of Institutional
Repositories">
<META NAME="DC.Publisher" LANG="en" CONTENT="ARL">
<META NAME="DC.Publisher" LANG="en" CONTENT="Association of Research
Libraries">
<META NAME="DC.Date" LANG="en" CONTENT="2003-02">
<META NAME="DC.Type" LANG="en" CONTENT="text">
<META NAME="DC.Format" LANG="en" CONTENT="text/html">
<META NAME="DC.Identifier" LANG="en"
CONTENT="http://www.arl.org/newsltr/226/ir.html">
<META NAME="DC.Language" LANG="en" CONTENT="En">
<META NAME="DC.Relation" LANG="en" CONTENT="IsPartOf ARL Bimonthly Report
226 p. 1-7">
<META NAME="DC.Rights" LANG="en" CONTENT="ARL policy is to grant blanket
permission to reprint any article in the Bimonthly Report for educational use
as long as full attribution is made. Exceptions to this policy may be noted
for certain articles. This is in addition to the rights provided under
sections 107 and 108 of the Copyright Act. For commercial use, a reprint
request should be sent to ARL Director of Information Services, Julia
Blixrud.">

```

#### Record 5

```

<META NAME="DC.Title" LANG="en" CONTENT="METS: An Overview & Tutorial">
<META NAME="DC.Creator" LANG="en" CONTENT="Library of Congress">
<META NAME="DC.Subject" LANG="en" CONTENT="Administrative Metadata">
<META NAME="DC.Subject" LANG="en" CONTENT="Descriptive Metadata">
<META NAME="DC.Subject" LANG="en" CONTENT="Metadata Encoding">

```

```

<META NAME="DC.Description" LANG="en" CONTENT="An overview and tutorial of
metadata encoding and transmission standards">
<META NAME="DC.Publisher" LANG="en" CONTENT="The Library of Congress Help
Desk">
<META NAME="DC.Date" LANG="en" CONTENT="2004-09-23">
<META NAME="DC.Type" LANG="en" CONTENT="text">
<META NAME="DC.Format" LANG="en" CONTENT="text/html">
<META NAME="DC.Identifier" LANG="en"
CONTENT="http://www.loc.gov/standards/mets/METSOverview.v2.html#admMD">
<META NAME="DC.Language" LANG="en" CONTENT="En">
<META NAME="DC.Rights" LANG="en" CONTENT="Whenever possible, the Library of
Congress provides factual information about copyright owners and related
matters in the catalog records, finding aids and other texts that accompany
collections. As a publicly supported institution, the Library generally does
not own rights in its collections. Therefore, it does not charge permission
fees for use of such material and generally does not grant or deny permission
to publish or otherwise distribute material in its collections. Permission
and possible fees may be required from the copyright owner independently of
the Library. It is the researcher's obligation to determine and satisfy
copyright or other use restrictions when publishing or otherwise distributing
materials found in the Library's collections. Transmission or reproduction of
protected items beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written
permission of the copyright owners. Researchers must make their own
assessments of rights in light of their intended use.">

```

## Discussion

Electronic Resource Citation is a fairly simple set-up. There are only four elements: who, what, when, and where. This initial set of elements represents the author or creator, the title of the material, the copyright or creation date and finally, the whereabouts of the item. In the case of the records in this document, these were always URLs.

There are options for extending the anchoring stories using the same elements while representing a different set of information. ERC: about is a second set of elements representing who the item is about, what the item is about, when the subject material takes place and where the subject material takes place.

Record 5 under ERC attempts to further the anchoring stories by using ERC: about. The only element that appeared to have a qualifier was "what". In this story, "what" represents the subjects identified in this particular item. The difficulty encountered using ERC is when to stop and when to continue to another anchoring story.

Using only the "what" element in the ERC: about scheme, causes the record to look flat and unfinished. However, using only the first initial set of elements does not provide enough information for a user to retrieve the item if they do not have a specific title or author.

Another issue with ERC is that the elements are not repeatable, although using a "pipe" symbol (|) is acceptable in order to separate multiple entries in one element. Record 3 under ERC uses the | symbol in order separate the creator of the document. The creator here is the Joint Information Systems Committee or the JISC. In order to be sure the user is able to retrieve this document, both versions of the name are included.

Dublin Core is made up of 15 different elements which are repeatable. A Dublin Core record that contains no information is still considered a complete record because the elements are all optional<sup>1</sup>. The DC metadata scheme contains a good range of elements for an item. Although depending on the item or specific material, each element could carry a different meaning. The records created for this document did not propose much of a problem as far as making decisions on how to represent each item.

All of the records created in this document with Dublin Core contain metadata for title, creator, subject, description, publisher, date, type, format, identifier and language. Two of the records had rights issues and two were attempts at representing a relation. One element of Dublin Core that is difficult to find appropriate data for is DC.Relation, especially as it applies to articles connected to websites that are contained under a larger entity.

Even just these five records varied enough to show that an ERC record would take more time to put together investigating and gathering extended anchoring stories. Library cataloging needs to be accomplished quickly and thoroughly in order to make the item available and retrievable to the user. Dublin Core accomplishes this by offering its elements up front, making them repeatable and acknowledging that they are optional.

The initial ERC story must contain information in all four of the elements even if it must be represented with characters signaling the reason information is missing or is unavailable. Dublin Core does not have special characters designed for this, so any information that is not included is not accounted for.

Since the creation of a record relies entirely on the knowledge and thoroughness of the creator, Dublin Core appears to be the better metadata scheme. ERC requires the record creator to make decisions on whether or not to extend the initial elements by creating additional anchoring stories. DC already has those "stories" built into its elements, allowing the creator to simply "fill in the blanks."

## Summary and Conclusion

Dublin Core presents a more precise representation of an object as compared to Electronic Resource Citation for the purposes of retrieval. Even though DC elements are optional, it must be assumed that the cataloguer is making the best decisions possible as to enter all of the available metadata as it applies to the particular item. However, that is where the greatest problem lies. Because it is up to a human entity to make these decisions, the idea of what best represents an object can be greatly varied.

Creating records can be very precise if the creator understands the concepts and definitions behind the metadata elements. Dublin Core still seems a better fit for most cataloging because it guides the user through the most important elements affecting the retrieval and use an item. Electronic Resource Citation is simplistic at first, but then becomes clouded with options. If a record creator were to simply follow the initial four elements

---

<sup>1</sup> Metadata Components 2: Rules and DataModule 1: The Need for Rules: Rules Address Constraints on Elements & Data

in the ERC record creation, that catalog's appearance would be reminiscent of a shelf-list and look less like a well-catalogued set of records.