

Report on Creating Metadata Records

Introduction

The following report documents the writer's experience creating metadata records for five different online resources. Two records were created for each resource. One record contains the Electronic Resource Citation metadata scheme and the other contains the Dublin Core metadata scheme. Generic Metadata Editor was used to create both types of records. The records created appear in the next two sections of this report.

Electronic Resource Citation Records

who: Niso Press
what: Understanding Metadata
when: 2004
where: <http://www.niso.org/standards/resources/UnderstandingMetadata.pdf>

who: Le Boeuf, Patrick
what: Brave New FRBR World
when: (:unkn)
where: http://www.ddb.de/news/pdf/papers_leboeuf.pdf

who: International DOI Foundation
what: The Digital Object Identifier System
when: 2004 11 23
where: <http://www.doi.org/index.html>

who: Research Libraries Group
what: Trusted Digital Repositories: Attributes and Responsibilities
when: 2002
where: <http://www.rlg.org/longterm/repositories.pdf>

who: Miller, Eric
what: An Introduction to the Resource Description Framework
when: 1998
where: <http://www.dlib.org/dlib/may98/miller/05miller.html>

Dublin Core Records

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<META NAME="DC.Title" LANG="en" CONTENT="Understanding Metadata">  
<META NAME="DC.Creator" LANG="en" CONTENT="Niso Press">  
<META NAME="DC.Subject" LANG="en" CONTENT="Metadata">  
<META NAME="DC.Subject" LANG="en" CONTENT="Resource discovery">  
<META NAME="DC.Subject" LANG="en" CONTENT="Dublin Core (DC)">  
<META NAME="DC.Subject" LANG="en" CONTENT="Metadata Encoding and Transmission  
Standard (METS)">
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<META NAME="DC.Subject" LANG="en" CONTENT="Metadata Object Description Schema
(MODS)">
<META NAME="DC.Subject" LANG="en" CONTENT="Text Encoding Initiative (TEI)">
<META NAME="DC.Subject" LANG="en" CONTENT="Encoded Archival Description
(EAD)">
<META NAME="DC.Subject" LANG="en" CONTENT="Learning Object Metadata (LOM)">
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ECommerce Systems (<indecs>)">
<META NAME="DC.Subject" LANG="en" CONTENT="Online Information Exchange
(ONIX)">
<META NAME="DC.Subject" LANG="en" CONTENT="Categories for the Description of
Works of Art (CDWA)">
<META NAME="DC.Subject" LANG="en" CONTENT="VRA Core Categories">
<META NAME="DC.Subject" LANG="en" CONTENT="MPEG Multimedia Metadata">
<META NAME="DC.Subject" LANG="en" CONTENT="Content Standard for Digital
Geospatial Metadata (CSDGM)">
<META NAME="DC.Subject" LANG="en" CONTENT="Data Documentation Initiative
(DDI)">
<META NAME="DC.Description" LANG="en" CONTENT="Discusses several aspects of
metadata and describes various metadata schemes.">
<META NAME="DC.Contributor" LANG="en" CONTENT="Guenther, Rebecca">
<META NAME="DC.Contributor" LANG="en" CONTENT="Radebaugh, Jacqueline">
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<META NAME="DC.Format" LANG="en" CONTENT="text/html">
<META NAME="DC.Identifier" LANG="en"
CONTENT="http://www.niso.org/standards/resources/UnderstandingMetadata.pdf">
<META NAME="DC.Language" LANG="en" CONTENT="en">

<META NAME="DC.Title" LANG="en" CONTENT="Brave New FRBR World">
<META NAME="DC.Creator" LANG="en" CONTENT="Le Boeuf, Patrick">
<META NAME="DC.Subject" LANG="en" CONTENT="Functional Requirements for
Bibliographic Records ">
<META NAME="DC.Subject" LANG="en" CONTENT="Cataloging">
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<META NAME="DC.Language" LANG="en" CONTENT="en">

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<META NAME="DC.Description" LANG="en" CONTENT="A website providing
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objects in the digital environment.">
<META NAME="DC.Date" LANG="en" CONTENT="2004-11-23">
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<META NAME="DC.Format" LANG="en" CONTENT="text/html">
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members only">

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<META NAME="DC.Title" LANG="en" CONTENT="Trusted Digital Repositories:
Attributes and Repositories">
<META NAME="DC.Creator" LANG="en" CONTENT="Research Libraries Group">
<META NAME="DC.Subject" LANG="en" CONTENT="Digital repositories">
<META NAME="DC.Description" LANG="en" CONTENT="An RLC-OCLC report defining
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<META NAME="DC.Date" LANG="en" CONTENT="2002">
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<META NAME="DC.Language" LANG="en" CONTENT="en">

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<META NAME="DC.Title" LANG="en" CONTENT="An Introduction to the Resource
Description Framework">
<META NAME="DC.Creator" LANG="en" CONTENT="Miller, Eric">
<META NAME="DC.Subject" LANG="en" CONTENT="Resource Description Framework
(RDF)">
<META NAME="DC.Subject" LANG="en" CONTENT="Metadata">
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Description Framework infrastructure for managing metadata">
<META NAME="DC.Date" LANG="en" CONTENT="1998-05">
<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.dlib.org/dlib/may98/miller/05miller.html">
<META NAME="DC.Language" LANG="en" CONTENT="en">

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Discussion

Creating metadata records using Generic Metadata Editor is fairly simple, especially compared with creating MARC records in OCLC's CatME program. The Generic Metadata Editor does all the formatting automatically. CatME requires much more formatting by the user.

The five Electronic Resource Citation metadata records contained in this report provide an anchoring story for the resources they describe. The anchoring story in each record consists of the values for author, title, publication date, or date of update, and physical location of the resource. I chose to supply these values for the Who, What, When and Where elements for each anchoring story because I considered them to be the most salient for these resources. By choosing these elements I was able to provide values for almost all the elements in each of the records (One record has the value "(unkn)" for the date). If I had chosen the intellectual content as the anchoring story for these particular resources, the elements of Who, When and Where would have the value "not applicable" or would have a value that is not that salient. Also, as far as intellectual content is concerned, the titles for these resources are at least somewhat indicative. However, in the Dublin Core records for these same resources I was fairly liberal with the use of the subject element. The record for the resource, "Understanding Metadata" has numerous occurrences of the subject element. Because this resource discusses several specific metadata schemes, for which users might search by name, I thought it would be helpful to include the names for the schemes in the record. Also included in each Dublin Core record is a

brief description of the resource. Therefore, the Dublin Core records are much more descriptive of the intellectual content of the resources than the Electronic Resource Citation records.

As I mentioned above one of my ERC records has the value (unkn) for the When element. The resource "Brave New FRBR World" does not contain a date of publication or update. Therefore, the Dublin Core record for this resource is entirely without the Date element. That I could find there is no provision in either the Electronic Resource Citation scheme or the Dublin Core scheme for estimated dates, as there is in MARC. However, for the purposes that the ERC and Dublin Core schemes serve, it might be more appropriate not to have estimated dates. They might not be helpful and could be misleading.

Summary and Conclusions

This limited experience with the Electronic Records Citation and Dublin Core metadata schemes did not lead to a strong preference for one scheme over the other. I think the requirement of certain fields is a possible strength that ERC has over Dublin Core. However, in general, I like the flexibility of Dublin Core and think that it can provide a substantial description for resources. In conclusion, I can understand the need for alternatives to MARC for describing and aiding users in finding Internet resources. Many elements and fields in MARC are more for the benefit of catalogers than general users. ERC and Dublin Core do seem simpler more oriented toward the general user, but still require some thoughtful decision making on the part of the one using them to create metadata.