Defining & characterizing metadata

- Data about data
- Metadata = Catalog record
- Description of an information object/resource
- Structured data
- Elements that represent (i.e., describe and characterize) information objects
  - bibliographic data about a book
  - description of web information object
- One person’s data is another’s metadata
  - data -> metadata -> data

Different types and attributes of metadata

- **Descriptive metadata**: refers to the attributes of the object being described
- **Structural metadata**: refers to the structure and relationships of a set of digital objects (pages, chapters, index, bibliography, etc.)
- **Administrative metadata**: information on managing and administering information resources (rights, file type, technical information, etc.)
- **Preservation metadata**: refers to elements related to the preservation management of an information resource.

Lots of descriptive metadata schemes

- **Dublin Core**: A primary metadata scheme for resource description and resource discovery
- **Government Information Locator Service (GILS)**: Describes government information resources
- **Content Standards for Digital Geospatial Metadata (CSDGM)**
- **Encoded Archival Description (EAD)**
- **Metadata Object Description Schema (MODS)**
- **Online Information Exchange (ONIX)**
- **Text-Encoding Initiative (TEI)**
- **vCard Electronic Business Card (VCARD)**
  - Defines a common electronic business card form

vCard example

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Last Name Moen
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Version 2.1

vCard source

```
begin:vcard
n:Moen;William E.
tel;fax: 940-565-3101
email;internet: wemoen@unt.edu
title:Assistant Professor
adr:;P.O. Box 311068=0D=0AAvenue C and Chestnut St., ISB 205=0D=0ADenton;TX;76302-1068=0D=0AUSA
version:2.1
```

Metadata elements label pieces of information that represent an object.
Mini-Lecture Series: Metadata Examples

Dublin Core Metadata Element Set

- 15 simple elements: http://www.dublincore.org/
- Title
- Creator
- Subject
- Description
- Publisher
- Contributors
- Date
- Type
- Format
- Identifier
- Source
- Language
- Relation
- Coverage
- Rights

Can be qualified – Creator.Author, Creator.Illustrator

Dublin Core metadata example

- Title: The Nordic metadata project
- Creator: Hakala, Juha
- Subject: Dublin Core Metadata Element Set
- Subject: metadata
- Subject: Scandinavia
- Publisher: Helsinki University Library
- Contributor: Koch, Traugott
- Date: 1998-06-25
- Type: Text.Monograph
- Format: text/html
- Identifier: http://linnea.helsinki.fi/meta/nmfinal.htm
- Language: en
- Rights: Public domain

Other standards of interest

- Metadata Encoding and Transmission Standard (METS)
- Open Archival Information System (OAIS)
- Multimedia Content Description (MPEG) standards (MPEG-7, MPEG-21, etc.)
- Open Archives Initiative (OAI)
- Learning Object Metadata Standard (LOMS)

Other metadata schemes

- Metadata.net – http://www.metadata.net/
- Gateway to Educational Materials – http://www.thegateway.org/about/documentation/metadataElements/
- Government Information Locator Service – http://www.gils.net/prof_v2.html#annex_e

Applications using metadata

- Digital repositories
- Portal to Texas History – http://texashistory.unt.edu/
- Texas Digital Library – http://www.tdl.org/
- Metadata Education and Research Information Commons – http://meric.lis.unt.edu/