

# Dublin Core Application Profiles at the British Library – a Case Study

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***Tutorial 5: Application Profiles (part II)***

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## Background – why develop an Application Profile?

- **Multiplicity of metadata formats in existence in the library for historic reasons.**
- **Existing rich databases outside the ILS being put on-line**
- **Digitisation projects – on-going**
- **Interoperability difficulties**
  - Limited cross-searching of BL resources
  - Lack of visibility of digital resources
- **Two drivers for the creation of an AP –**
  - Control proliferation
  - Support a high-level cross-searching facility

# Digitisation Projects

- **Projects often with some external funding and collaborative partners**
- **Historically, development of customised metadata formats**
  - **material type, timescales, budget, available expertise**
- **Standalone systems**
  - **Usually with a web presence on BL site**
- **Without portal functionality these cannot be cross-searched with other BL resources**
- **Interoperability difficulties internally and externally**

# How did we develop the AP?

- **Recognised the need to identify a usable core of elements that have wide applicability across the library.**
- **Not a straightforward source – several overlapping initiatives:**
  - “Collect Britain” – an early implementation of qualified DC plus a few BL terms
  - DC-Lib – including some MODS terms
  - The European Library – some TEL terms
- **Politically – a need to ensure buy-in from all departments**
  - Establish a Metadata Working Group
    - MSS, Sound Archive, Web services, DOM, etc.
- **Defined an application profile based existing profiles and validated it internally via the WG**

# Strategy and Procedures

- Evolving Resource discovery strategy
  - **Complete infrastructure not yet in place**
  - ***Where metadata is being created outside the main BL systems .. must be be capable of exporting a file of coherent descriptive records in a format conforming to one of the supported BL standards. The minimum requirement is to supply records in the B-LAP encoded in XML .***
- Production of Digitisation Technical Guidelines
  - **Specific section on metadata**
- Digitisation Project Approval Form - inclusion of a couple of metadata questions

# Features of B-LAP

- It is a superset of terms thought to have wide applicability across the library
  - **50 terms, 17 encoding schemes**
- Terms are taken from four metadata vocabularies
  - **DCMI, TEL, MODS and BL**
  - **Will necessitate the creation of a BL namespace**
- It deliberately tried to avoid material-specific terms as it is intended to be generic
  - **Projects may develop their own AP based on B-LAP**
- Terms may be added if they have generic applicability
- BL usage rules, recommendations and constraints added
- It is expressed following the CEN DCAP Guidelines
  - [www.cenorm.be/sh/mmi-dc](http://www.cenorm.be/sh/mmi-dc)

# Terms in B-LAP

<b>Title (M)</b>	<b>Modified</b>	<b>Replaces</b>
<b>Alternative</b>	<b>dateCaptured</b>	<b>Is Required By</b>
<b>Edition</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Requires</b>
<b>Creator (R)</b>	<b>Format</b>	<b>Is Part Of</b>
<b>Contributor (R)</b>	<b>Extent</b>	<b>Has Part</b>
<b>Publisher</b>	<b>Extent Original</b>	<b>Is Referenced By</b>
<b>Place of Publication</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>References</b>
<b>Subject (R)</b>	<b>Medium Original</b>	<b>Is Format Of</b>
<b>Description (R)</b>	<b>Identifier (M)</b>	<b>Has Format</b>
<b>Abstract</b>	<b>BibliographicCitation</b>	<b>Conforms To</b>
<b>Table of Contents</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Coverage</b>
<b>Thumbnail</b>	<b>Item Number</b>	<b>Spatial</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>Language</b>	<b>Temporal</b>
<b>Created (R)</b>	<b>Relation</b>	<b>Rights (R)</b>
<b>Valid</b>	<b>Is Version Of</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Available</b>	<b>Has Version</b>	<b>Record ID</b>
<b>Issued (R)</b>	<b>Is Replaced By</b>	

# B-LAP example of external term

27

<b>Name of Term</b>	identifier
<b>Term URI</b>	<a href="http://purl.org/dc/element/1.1/identifier">http://purl.org/dc/element/1.1/identifier</a>
<b>Label</b>	Identifier
<b>Defined By</b>	<a href="http://dublincore.org/documents/dcmi-terms/">http://dublincore.org/documents/dcmi-terms/</a>
<b>Source Definition</b>	An unambiguous reference to the resource within a given context
<b>BLAP Definition</b>	
<b>Source Comments</b>	Recommended best practice is to identify the resource by means of a string or number conforming to a formal identification system. Formal identification systems include but are not limited to the Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) (including the Uniform Resource Locator (URL)), the Digital Object Identifier (DOI) and the International Standard Book Number (ISBN).
<b>BLAP Comments</b>	BL rule: always use an encoding scheme when creating metadata. This will be the identifier for the digital resource being described. To identify the original, whether physical or digital use Source or Relation.
<b>Type of term</b>	Element
<b>Refines</b>	
<b>Refined By</b>	bibliographicCitation
<b>Has Encoding Scheme</b>	URI, URL, OpenURL, DOI, ISBN, ISSN and many others from a list that will be compiled. This will include a BL identifier which may be or incorporate the shelf mark.
<b>Obligation</b>	<b>M</b>
<b>Datatype</b>	string, possibly structured according to an encoding scheme
<b>Occurrence</b>	Repeatable



# B-LAP – example of local term

24

<b>Name of Term</b>	extentOriginal
<b>Term URI</b>	<a href="http://labs.bl.uk/metadata/blap/terms.html#extentOriginal">http://labs.bl.uk/metadata/blap/terms.html#extentOriginal</a>
<b>Label</b>	Extent Original
<b>Defined By</b>	<a href="http://labs.bl.uk/metadata/blap/terms.html">http://labs.bl.uk/metadata/blap/terms.html</a>
<b>Source Definition</b>	The physical measurements or time duration of the original object that was digitised expressed as a string in a standard form.
<b>BLAP Definition</b>	
<b>Source Comments</b>	
<b>BLAP Comments</b>	
<b>Type of term</b>	Element refinement
<b>Refines</b>	Format
<b>Refined By</b>	
<b>Has Encoding Scheme</b>	Standard encoding schemes for expressing time and size
<b>Obligation</b>	O
<b>Datatype</b>	string, possibly structured according to an encoding scheme
<b>Occurrence</b>	Repeatable (for size/duration)

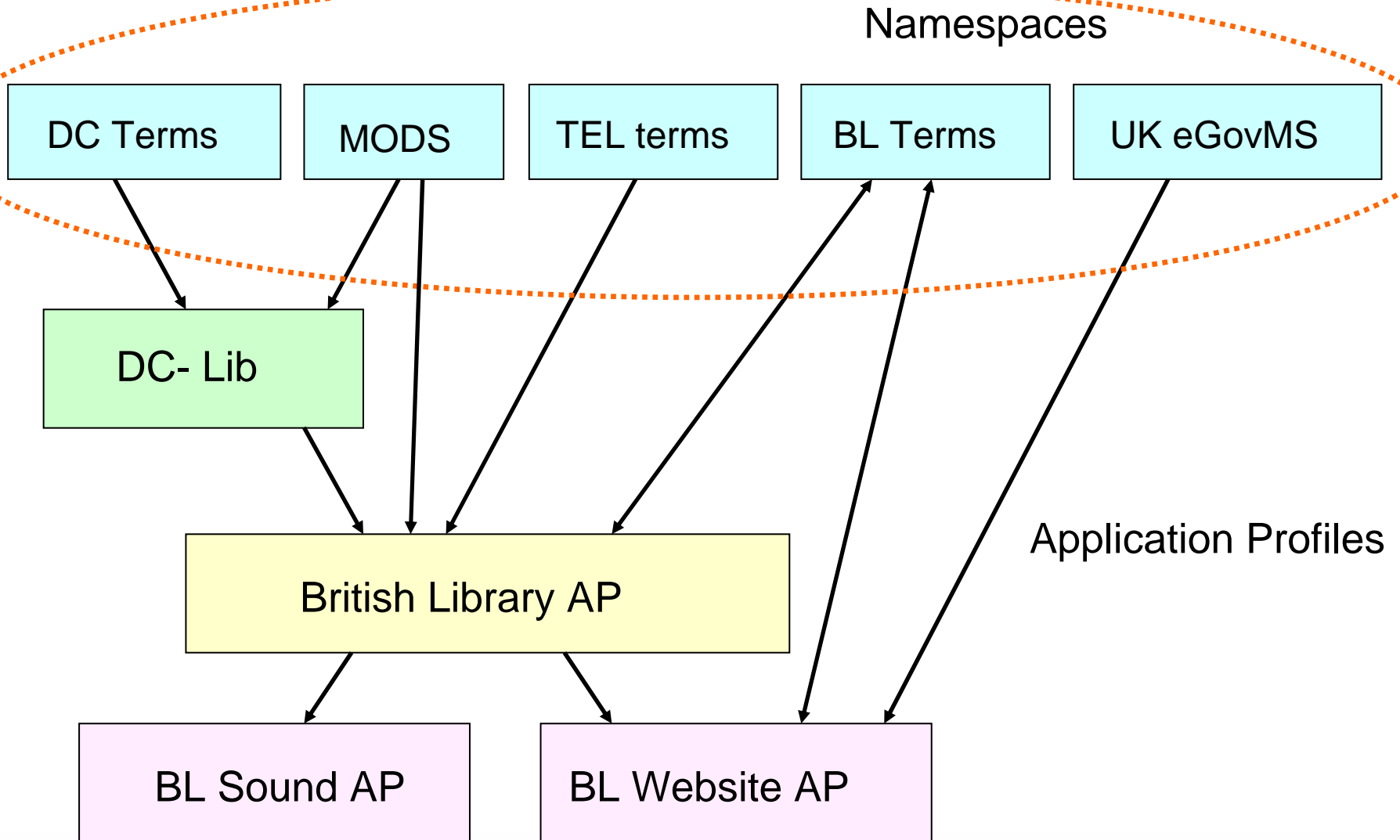
# Projects using B-LAP

- So far five initiatives have made use of it and declared individual APs based on the B-LAP
  - **Newspaper articles**
  - **Journal and conference articles**
  - **Sound**
  - **Web pages**
  - **Administrative**
- Each has produced an individual AP based on and using a sub-set of the terms in B-LAP
- All are individually documented using CEN DCAP Guidelines

# Features of the project profiles

- Selection of a subset of terms from B-LAP
  - **depending on functions the metadata was needed to support**
- Additionally, each may have:
  - **added a few required terms from other metadata vocabulary e.g. eGMS (UK Government) “Category”**
  - **coined a new term to be entered in the BL namespace e.g. Species**
- Where a new term is found to have wider applicability it can be added to B-LAP e.g. DateReceipt
- The result is that each has an interoperable core of terms

# Application Profiles and Namespaces



# Themed Collections

- Major legacy systems outside the new ILS are increasingly difficult to maintain
  - **Migrate to MARC21 in ILS where possible**
- Customised datasets for specialist material
  - **Unlikely to fit with MARC21 due to e.g. contextual information**
- A system that can handle multiple different metadata formats and provide a common but customisable tool for data entry
- Will use B-LAP to underpin a search based on core terms and link back to richer datasets

# Issues

- Observing the one—to-one rule (!)
  - **mediumOriginal**
- Confusion with Format, Medium and Type
  - **Controlling Type lists**
- Role terms and using MARC Relators
- Use of MODS terms and mismatch of models
- Constantly needing terms that don't quite fit the model
  - **Species, Mechanism, Environment as Contributor**
- Non—bibliographic resources
  - **India office records of birth, death and marriage.**

## For further information

<http://dublincore.org/documents/2004/09/10/library-application-profile/>

<http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/DC-LIBRARIES.html>

<http://www.cenorm.be/cenorm/businessdomains/businessdomains/iss/cwa/cwa14855.asp>

<http://www.collectbritain.co.uk/>