An Introduction to Dublin Core
Tutorial for DCMI Conference
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About Me

Stephanie Taylor:

- Work with UKOLN as a research officer
- Worked on the first phase of the Repository Support Project (RSP) in UK
- Currently run The Metadata Forum

UKOLN:

- National centre of expertise in digital information management
- Located at the University of Bath
- Funded by JISC (Joint Information Systems Committee)
What is metadata?

Metadata is structured information that describes, explains, locates, or otherwise makes it easier to retrieve, use, or manage an information resource.

What Is Metadata? (1)

Structured data about “something”

- Text
- Images
- Sound
- Movement
- Objects
- Events
- Services
What Is Metadata? (2)

Encountered every day

- Timetables
- Directories
- Internet shopping sites, etc
Metadata is…

Stored in -

- Databases, repositories
- Web pages

Carriers

- Formats (e.g. MARC)
- Markup languages (e.g. HTML, SGML, XML)
Types of metadata

Descriptive

Structural

Administrative

• Rights management metadata
• Preservation metadata
Why do you need it?

• To enable discovery of your digitised material

• To enable harvesting of your digitised material by external systems

• To help you organise your digitised material

• To support archiving and preservation
Current Standards

“Standards are like toothbrushes, everyone agrees that they’re a good idea but nobody wants to use anyone else’s.” From a Murtha Baca presentation

- Dublin Core
  (Simple, Qualified, Application Profiles)
- MARC, ONIX
- EAD
- MODS, METS, DIDL, PREMIS, MIX, RSLP-CD etc.
Dublin Core

How It All Began…
Dublin?

A centre of expertise in digital information management
Core?

A centre of expertise in digital information management
Maybe not…

A centre of expertise in digital information management
Dublin Core

- Dublin Ohio, 1995
- OCLC/NCSA Metadata Workshop
- First discussions of DC
- Core - concept of a ‘core’ metadata elements set
- The core set can be expended
- This is at the heart of DC Objects
Simple Dublin Core

- Title
- Creator
- Subject
- Description
- Publisher
- Contributor
- Date
- Type
- Format
- Identifier
- Source
- Language
- Relation
- Coverage
- Rights
Qualified Dublin Core

- Builds on the 15 Dublin Core elements and adds some further levels of detail.

- Two types of qualifiers used:
  - Element refinement
  - Encoding scheme
Qualified Dublin Core

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• Two types of qualifiers used:
  – Element refinement
  – Encoding scheme
## Some Example Tags

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field label</th>
<th>DC tag</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>‘Title’</td>
<td>dc:title</td>
<td>This is the title.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Author’</td>
<td>dc: author</td>
<td>Taylor, S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Date’</td>
<td>dc:date</td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Application Profiles

• application profiles are a type of metadata schema

• can be thought of as ‘packages’ of metadata

• declaration specifying which metadata terms an organization, information provider, or user community uses in its metadata.

• application profiles consist of data elements drawn from one or more metadata schema or element set, combined together by implementers, and optimised for a particular local application.
Scholarly Works Application Profile - SWAP

- Extend DC to make it richer and more functional
- Provide an unambiguous method of identifying the full text
- Help with version control and identification
- Introduce vocabularies
- Implement OpenURL and citation analysis
SWAP

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A SWAP Example

ScholarlyWork

Publisher’s PDF Manifestation

PDF in IR Copy

PDF from Publisher’s site Copy

Journal article Expression

PDF Manifestation

PDF from Conference repository Copy

Conference paper Expression

Word Document Manifestation

DOC in IR Copy
DC - Practical Survival 1

- Make sure your input forms and submission processes are clear and collecting relevant information.

- Be realistic about how much metadata you can collect and about how you collect it!

- Check for Incorrect metadata - check and beware!

- Don’t worry - it’s normal to get confused!!
DC - Practical Survival 2

- Don’t panic! Keep calm, think it through.
- Learn from practical exercises and from this conference.
- Learn from others … ask lots of questions & find out what others are doing, what’s working and what isn’t.
- Seek support and advice DCMI!
Thankyou!

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