An Introduction to Dublin Core

Tutorial for DCMI Conference

The Hague

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UKOLN is supported by:

JISC

UNIVERSITY OF BATH

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.

Source: NISO (2004) **Understanding Metadata.** Bethesda, NISO Press.

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?

Core?

Maybe not…

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

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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

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Some Example Tags

Field label	DC tag	Content
'Title'	dc:title	This is the title.
'Author'	dc: author	Taylor, S.
'Date'	dc.date	2010
'Abstract'	dc:description.abstract	Example of abstract.

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..

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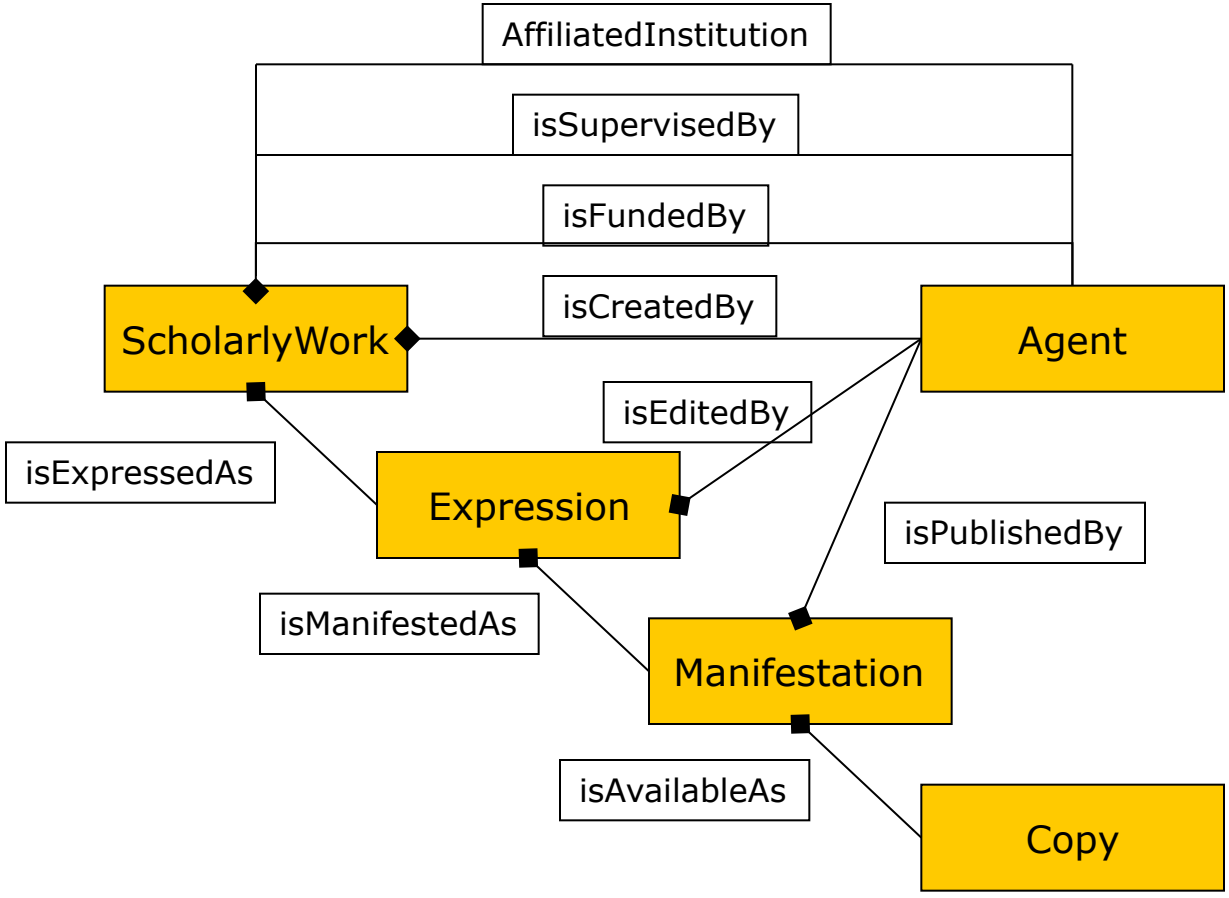
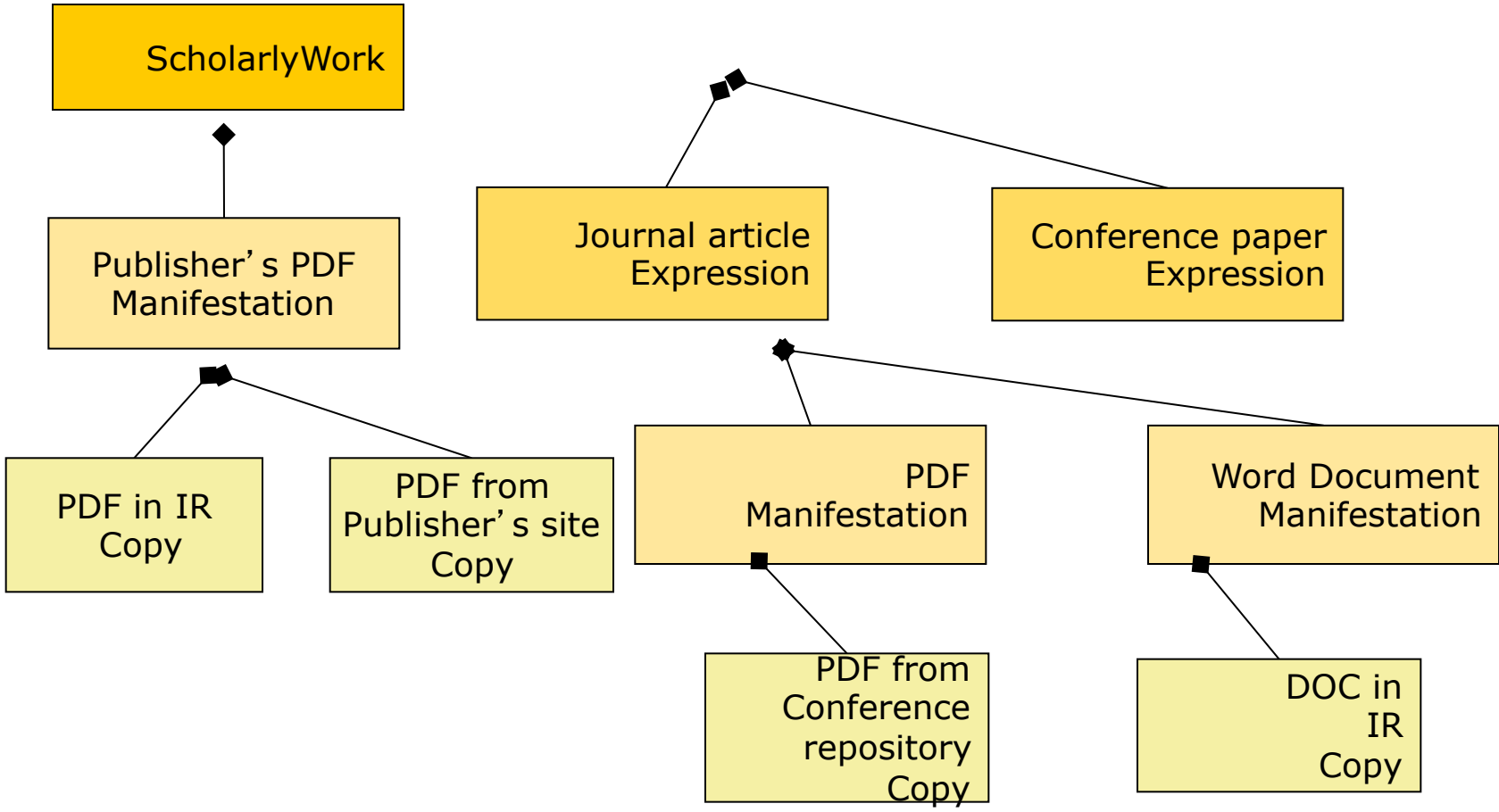
Scholarly Works Application Profile - SWAP

- 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


AffiliatedInstitution
isSupervisedBy
isFundedBy
isCreatedBy
ScholarlyWork
Agent
isEditedBy
isExpressedAs
Expression
isPublishedBy
isManifestedAs
Manifestation
isAvailableAs
Copy

A SWAP Example



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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