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Access to Moving Image Collections
CINE GT - 1803
December 12, 2011

Data Mapping: PBCore, MARC, DublinCore

PBCore, as it fitting for a standard developed for broadcasting, worked well enough with categories of information exclusive to moving images. I did resort to the instantiationAnnotation element more often than I might have preferred (it does feel a bit like a 'Get Out of Jail Free' card), and was particularly surprised to have to do so for the preservation fields; knowledge of the condition of material in the archive would seem to be something that working broadcasters might want to keep tabs on, although, in principle, there's nothing preventing such information from being entered into this field. The most obvious artifact of its origin in the television world was the "essence track" field, which would have no application whatsoever to the world of film or analogue video, although the various sub-elements which branch off (such as "aspect ratio," which for some reason is not accessible from "instantiation") certainly might. As digital media becomes more and more standard, this will likely be correspondingly less of a drawback.

MARC, with its obsessive detail and granularity, seemed to have an answer for everything. I often found myself having to choose between two (or more) of what appeared superficially to me to be functionally identical fields for one term. Despite this, I felt I was able to discern a broad structure in the grand edifice of MARC - note that each division of general field names tends to encompass similar entries on the numeric scale (the Physical/Technical information is all from the 300s, Preservation and Legal are both 500s, etc.), suggesting that there is a well-designed infrastructure within the standard for dealing with moving image items.

DublinCore's attempts at simplicity are admirable, but that same quality gives it a rather sclerotic feel when it comes to dealing with a wider variety of material. Many of the moving-image-specific terms fell into fields which were imprecise (a film or video archive using DublinCore would

probably develop and over-reliance on the blunt instrument of the "Format" element), when they had anywhere to go at all - fully one-fifth of the twenty fields could not find a suitable Dublin equivalent. It seems to me that DublinCore would be useful for very particular institutions and collections, and seems ill-suited to any overly-complex description.