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Metadata Mapping

Metadata sets and standards are necessary in order to maintain a certain level of ease when navigating catalogs and moving between data sets. Sets with similar vocabulary also make it easier to incorporate different catalog records. However no two standards are completely alike, and therefore by comparing metadata elements an understanding of how to navigate the various standards can be achieved. The three metadata standards I chose to create a crosswalk between are: CEN, SMPTE, and Dublin Core.

CEN has two different metadata sets. EN 15774 is a set that can be utilized for basic cataloging because it contains minimal elements. EN 15907 is a more extensive metadata set, covering a much larger area of elements and information. EN 15907 is a set of metadata that is essential for cataloging cinematographic works because of its detailed elements. This metadata set lends itself well to researchers and others using these catalogs that are looking for detailed and specific data information. Unfortunately as a European based standard it may not map well or mix with other standards here. There are many elements that are up to the interpretation of the cataloger as the granularity of the element increases. I found however that many of the terms are similar, and are simple enough to understand the element equivalent in another standard.

Compared to CEN and Dublin Core, SMPTE offers a much more specific and unique range of metadata elements. The SMPTE Metadata Dictionary is the first step in working towards a universal preservation standard for videos. In a world that is becoming more technologically based each moment, SMPTE has taken the step towards preserving these videos by creating this extensive dictionary of elements and terms that can be utilized to define both video and audio. However, as it does cover such a vast number of elements and is highly granular for certain items it can become difficult to utilize and interpret. Simply trying to decide the element term for "format" was difficult because this metadata set offers different words in many cases depending on whether the item is in digital or analog form. SMPTE's strength in its granularity and specificity is also its weakness in comparing it to other standards. The multiple terms for different kinds and areas of moving image collection items makes it complicated to map with other standards. Anyone using this system that is not familiar with it will most likely wind up very confused and extremely frustrated. SMPTE works well on its own as a moving image standard, but is often difficult to utilize with other sets.

Dublin Core is comprised of 15 established elements. While primarily meant for use with documents, it fares well with media items as well. The 15 elements provide the core information searched for by most users. Having such few elements makes Dublin Core one of the easiest metadata standards to utilize. The elements are easily understood and the vocabulary utilized is fairly standard for the fields it is describing. This main positive in the standard is also a weakness. Due to the lack of

elements, information on identification can get clouded when there is a less than specific term to identify information required in a metadata entry. Dublin Core is not geared towards moving image collections, however it could be useful in one as a basic catalog and research aid that is easy to follow and understand by anyone who utilizes it.

There are few fields that carry a standard vocabulary through all three of these metadata standards. However each metadata set tries to use specific terminology that makes is precise in order to make the use of the set as easy as possible. Comparing these three standards has been an interesting process. Of the three I chose, Dublin Core would certainly be the easiest to create and understand, however SMPTE and CEN are more helpful when cataloging moving image works. Creating the crosswalk helped me to understand the different elements of each standard and as well as how they mix together.