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ASSIGNMENT #3: Metadata Creation

Part 1: The Collection

In 2011 Dennis Crow passed away leaving his entire collection of home movies to his wife Jane, and his daughters Barbara and Deborah. The collection consists of approximately 25 reels of film shot between the early 1950s – mid 1970s. The collection contains 8mm, Super 8, and 16 mm films, with 8mm films as the main format. The large portion of the collection of films are home movies shot and edited by Dennis prominently feature Jane, Barbara, and Deborah. Content of the films mainly focuses on family events featuring birthday parties, holiday events, opening presents on Christmas, family vacations, and individual trips that Dennis went on. Family friends and personal friends of Deborah and Barbara are also featured in some films. One film is a short feature showcasing an evening of sailing on the Toms River in New Jersey. Another film is a scripted short by Deborah featuring her and her friends. Over the years a few films have been transferred to DVD for preservation and access purposes. Dennis was my grandfather.

This collection has endearing value to me personally and the public. Dennis passed away in 2011 from complications that occurred following surgery. His sudden and unexpected death left a hole in our family that can never completely heal. These films captured family moments and memories through his eyes, forever reminding his family of the creator. The “acting” directions he gave and the hours it

took to film these events because of all the equipment (lights, tripods, camera, etc.) that needed to be set up will never be forgotten. More than remembrance is achieved here however, Dennis' skills honed over a lifetime, are captured as well. Through a career as a professional photographer, Dennis developed a keen eye and great skill. This skill is captured and preserved in these films for his family and friends to watch and enjoy. To me it is a part of my family history, part of my mom's life. Now that my grandfather passed away it is another way in which I can remember him and learn about his life. More than that though, these films are a record of things that came to pass in a way that is important personally to my family and generally to the public as an anthropological look at past American life and living styles.

These films have enduring value because there are images captured in these reels that mark a generation. Shown are family visits to Central Park when trees that are now big were small, and where women wore big fur coats and no one had a cell phone or iPod. One film features sailing in NJ, a landscape that has vastly changed over the many years since it was filmed due to human and environmental changes. All of these are records of human life valuable outside of the emotional take because they share a set of human interactions that exist differently now. Home movies are important to understanding the evolution of human life and social interactions. There is also increasing value attached to home movies because of events and organizations like Home Movie Day and the Center for Home Movies who celebrate these amateur films. By preserving home movies and making them available to the public the pathway toward shared experiences is opened. Bridges

begin to form between strangers as obscure connections are made. Through these images the present melds with the estranged past and history comes alive. Amateur films are the structures of documentaries and the homes for the moments from which studios create award-winning features, making collections such as this are priceless. They are links to history through which self-discovery occurs, truths are realized, and lives are remembered.

Part 2: The Qualities

The qualities that I will record about my collection are: title, genre, date, creator, description, physical format, subject, color, duration, and alternative format. The first quality I want to record is “title.” The title of a work is the name given to the item that is used when referring to or searching for this item in particular. The “format” element identifies the specific file format, physical medium, or dimensions of a given work. Revealing whether or not the media item is a physical object, or just a digital file. “Creator” reveals the person(s) behind the camera responsible for bringing life to the media item. This is typically the person or persons without whom the item would not exist. “Duration” refers to the size, extent, or length of a work. Informing viewers of the playback time. The “description,” aka “summary” or “abstract,” element of a media item is what provides a basic summary of the content of the item. This can vary in length from a few paragraphs to a short note. A general description of what the viewer will observe while viewing the material. The “date” element typically identifies the year and date in which an item was created or released. This element can also be used to point to a more general period of time actively associated with the work. It can also be labeled as “created” or “year of

reference.” “Genre is used to describe the structure and nature of the content through the use of a specific topic or topics. This is a generalized element that connects media items through the topic(s). Like “genre,” “subject” is a descriptive element that assigns an item keywords associated with the content of the item. These terms usually come from a controlled vocabulary list, so as to better connect items through subjects. The final two elements I have chosen are “color” and “alternative format.” “Color” indicates whether the images of the media item is color, greyscale, or black & white. This is particularly informative for works that include a combination of color formats. Finally, “alternative format” is an element that allows for the identification of alternative ways in which this media item’s content may be seen, heard, or read. These elements together provide a basic collection of information on an item that helps to create an identity for this item. An identity used for both research and access.

Part 3: The Standards

Of the many standards in the world, the standards appropriate for this collection are: PbcCore, the Library of Congress Subject Headings, and the Library of Congress Genre Form Headings.

PbcCore is a metadata standard developed from Dublin Core for small archives holding audiovisual material, for media cataloging and management. The standard is easy to read and understand, and pbcCore also provides an increasingly detailed set of descriptors and elements helpful in describing media items. One of the best features of the standard is its basic list of elements that are useful when

dealing with media that may not have much known about it. This type of standard goes well with the collection I have chosen for a few reasons. First of all, little metadata was ever collected about these films so using a data set based on the simple Dublin Core model works to highlight what is known about these materials. Second, because this collection is simply a family collection of home movies, it emulates a small archive that would have no need of a complex cataloging system such as MARC or MODs. Finally this standard allows for the use of basic and widely used terminology that easy to understand as both an archivist and a researcher. Pbc core continues to add optional elements for use, making it both a basic standard and a very specific standard able to conform to many different archives and collections.

Library of Congress (LC) Subject Headings are used in cataloging as internationally recognized and used subject language that describes what a cataloged item is about and makes it possible to string items and collections together. When determining the enduring nature of something it is helpful to know and understand how that item relates to other items available. This LC standard is an ongoing program that is continually developing as the industry continues to develop. By providing such a wide-ranging list of subjects, the LC opens media items to all sorts of connections that allow for the further build up of enduring value. Through these terms I can connect this collection to collections and works all around the world, and that is why I chose this standard and why it is appropriate for my collection. As home movies grow in importance and value they need to be added

to current collections and catalogs on the same “strings” as the already exist for other items.

The Library of Congress Genre Form Headings, like the LC Subject Headings, provides a list of standardized genre values to utilize for the metadata standard element corresponding with the genre quality. This list of terms is a thesaurus that instead of describes what a work is about, like the LC Subject Headings, describes what the work is. Revealing to researchers and the general public the widely recognized and understood topic under which a given item falls. Giving the basic knowledge of what a media item is about, where it takes place, characters that are involved, and situations that the contents may include. Originally I chose the Pbc Core Genre Picklist to use for my genre reference, however the list proved to be very limited in its choices and it was unable to provide me with a genre I could use. The Library of Congress’s Genre Form Headings provides a widely extensive and varied compilation of genres that can be used to identify the main topic(s) of a film. This ultimately makes it appropriate for my collection because of the type of media making up my collection. Pbc Core’s list had no genre to cover amateur films or home movies which are exactly the genres my collection falls under. The LC Genre Form Headings provided the genre terms I needed, as well as introduced the possibility of being able to connect my collection with a collection across the continent. These headings and the Pbc Core standard are easy, accessible standards that provide a collection with the means and opportunity to build connections with other collections while helping the enduring value of the collection to grow.

Part IV: MAPPING

PBcore Elements	ITEM #1	ITEM #2	ITEM #3
pbcoreTitle	Just Us Girls	Deb & Barbie: March 1959 - Jun 59'	Helmet Diving in Nassau
pbcoreGenre (as defined by LC Genre Form Headings)	Amateur Film	Home Movie	Home Movie
pbcoreDateCreated	July 1970	March 1959 – June 1959	1969
pbcoreCreator	Deborah Crow	Dennis Crow	Dennis Crow
pbcoreDescription: Abstract	This film is an amateur feature created by a Deborah Crow with her father's video camera. The film stars a group of Deborah's friends as they act out a variety of original sequences. Among the scenes are a neighborhood softball game, mock robbery, and a "Clown Car" bathtub skit.	A home movie from 1959 depicting scenes of Barbie's birthday party where guests play "Pin-the-Tail-on-the-Donkey," eat cake, participate in a bean bag toss, and play "London Bridge." The following scenes show Deb and Barbie dying Easter eggs, and the final sequence shows Deb, Barbie, and Jane Crow enjoying a visit to Central Park.	A sort helmet diving excursion in Nassau. The film includes a sailing segment.
FormatPhysical	Super 8 mm	8 mm	16 mm
pbcoreSubject (as defined by LC Subject Headings)	Amateur Films; Summer	Amateur Films; Birthday Parties, Easter; Central Park West NY, NY	Amateur Films; Diving; Sailing
FormatColors	Color	Color	Color
FormatDuration	10 minutes	11 minutes	13 minutes
Alternative Modes	DVD	DVD	DVD