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Metadata

Assignment Two

Dublin Core

Dublin Core probably has the least granularity of the three metadata systems I reviewed. Dublin Core uses a very limited number of controlled vocabulary, sometimes leaving terms ambiguous and mapping entries to multiple places. It would be nice if I could sometimes make labels more specific, adding more detail into the entry. The advantage is that because the terms are so broad, they are very accessible, eschewing more technical jargon for plain language. For more limited metadata entries, Dublin Core is very useful, but perhaps not for more detailed ones.

An inherent difficulty in using Dublin Core for film archiving is that many bigger budget films have huge lists of locations, contributors, creators and more. Differentiating between them in a useful manner is not too easy with Dublin Core.

EBU Core

A more granular version of Dublin Core, EBU Core maintains the limited and straightforward architecture of Dublin Core and adds to it an exhaustive list of more specific elements. EBU Core can be much more useful in describing larger metadata entries, particularly larger productions with intricate details available to be catalogued. However, the huge list of

elements can be confusing and useless when talking about smaller films with less details. Home movies would not be ideally catalogued in EBU Core. Luckily, EBU Core is a derivative of Dublin Core and thus maps perfectly with it. Using a metadata system that combined them would allow the best of both worlds.

CEN

CEN is much more granular than Dublin Core, but not more so than EBU Core. A major difference between the Core metadata models and CEN is that CEN uses more abstract and inaccessible language. Terms like Logical Extent are not immediately understood by the user lacking exposure to metadata terminology. This is less suited, though, to cataloguing film. Calling a director or the screenplay writer an agent of the work is a bit misleading. Perhaps this is good for cataloguing a much broader collection, one that consists of many different formats, like sculpture or books.