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Assignment #2: Metadata Mapping

For this assignment, I mapped fields from MARC 21, MODS 3.6, and PBCore. The three schemas have different strengths and weakness for describing moving image collections. One of the strengths of MARC 21 is its granularity. Many fields have subfields that are specific to a narrow range of information, reducing ambiguity over where to find that information. On the other hand, this makes it difficult to add data that is not specifically provided for in the schema, for example, moving image instantiations. MARC is optimized for library collections that typically have non-unique, commercial items.

MODS is an XML schema that includes some of the fields from MARC 21. The reduction in fields means that elements often have to be used for more than one type of information. For example, <accessConditions> could be used for access restrictions, copyright status, and copyright owner. MODS also lacks elements or sub-elements for some moving image metadata, like file size. However, MODS is expandable with extensible elements that can incorporate other XML schemas. For example, MODS can modify <accessConditions> by incorporating the CDL Copyright Schema.¹ An advantage of MODS is that users can create a web display with it by applying an XSLT stylesheet.

PBCore is optimized for the metadata needs of public television. Compared to MARC and MODS, it has additional fields relevant to moving images. For example,

¹ "Metadata Object Description Schema: MODS (Library of Congress)"
<http://www.loc.gov/standards/mods/> (accessed 4/10/2016, 2016).

PBCore allows the user to clearly separate an audiovisual asset from its instantiations. However, PBCore is less granular than MARC 21. Data is often captured through the repetition of an element or sub-element rather than through the addition of another field. For example, pbcoreTitle can be reused in order to list a segment title, episode title, and series title. While this is helpful for capturing the complexity of moving image metadata, it increases ambiguity when parsing PBCore records.

Bibliography

"Elements List | PBCore " <http://pbcore.org/elements/> (accessed 4/10/2016, 2016).

"MARC Mapping to MODS Version 3.5: Metadata Object Description Schema: MODS (Library of Congress) " <http://www.loc.gov/standards/mods/mods-mapping-3-6.html> (accessed 4/10/2016, 2016).

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Network Development and MARC Standards Office. "MARC 21 Format for Bibliographic Data." Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/marc/bibliographic/> (accessed April 10, 2016).