

Metadictionary: Advocating for a Community-driven Metadata Vocabulary Application

DataONE Preservation and Metadata Working Group (PAMWG)

Jane Greenberg, *Angela Murillo, SILS/UNC-CH, Metadata Research Center

**John Kunze, California Digital Library

**Christopher Patton UC Davis

Sarah Callaghan, British Atmospheric Data Centre

Rob Guralnick, Univ. of Colorado at Boulder

Greg Janee, UC Santa Barbara

Nassib Nassar, HW Odum Institute UNC-CH

Karthik Ram, UC Berkeley



Outline

1. Assumptions
2. Motivation
3. Introduce Sealce
4. Conclusions
5. Questions



Assumptions

1. Prevailing methods for metadata development/generation has advantages and limitations
 - + Rich ...capture domain structure, scope,...
 - Costly, complex (process to implementation)
2. More than one way to skin a cat
 - Complementary, alternative approaches
 - Social technology
3. Ownership appeal
 - Empowerment and sustainability

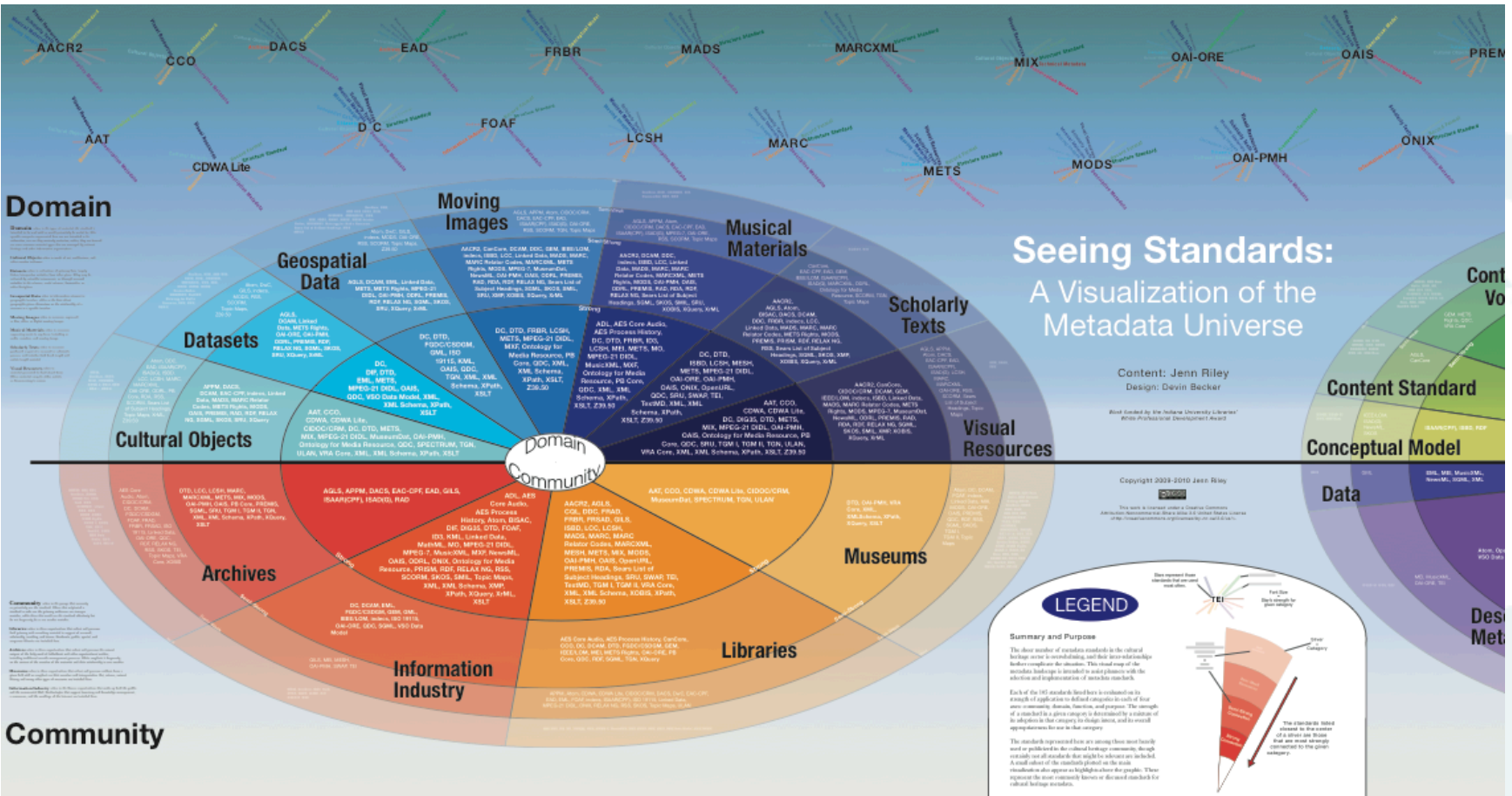
Motivation

Toothbrush →

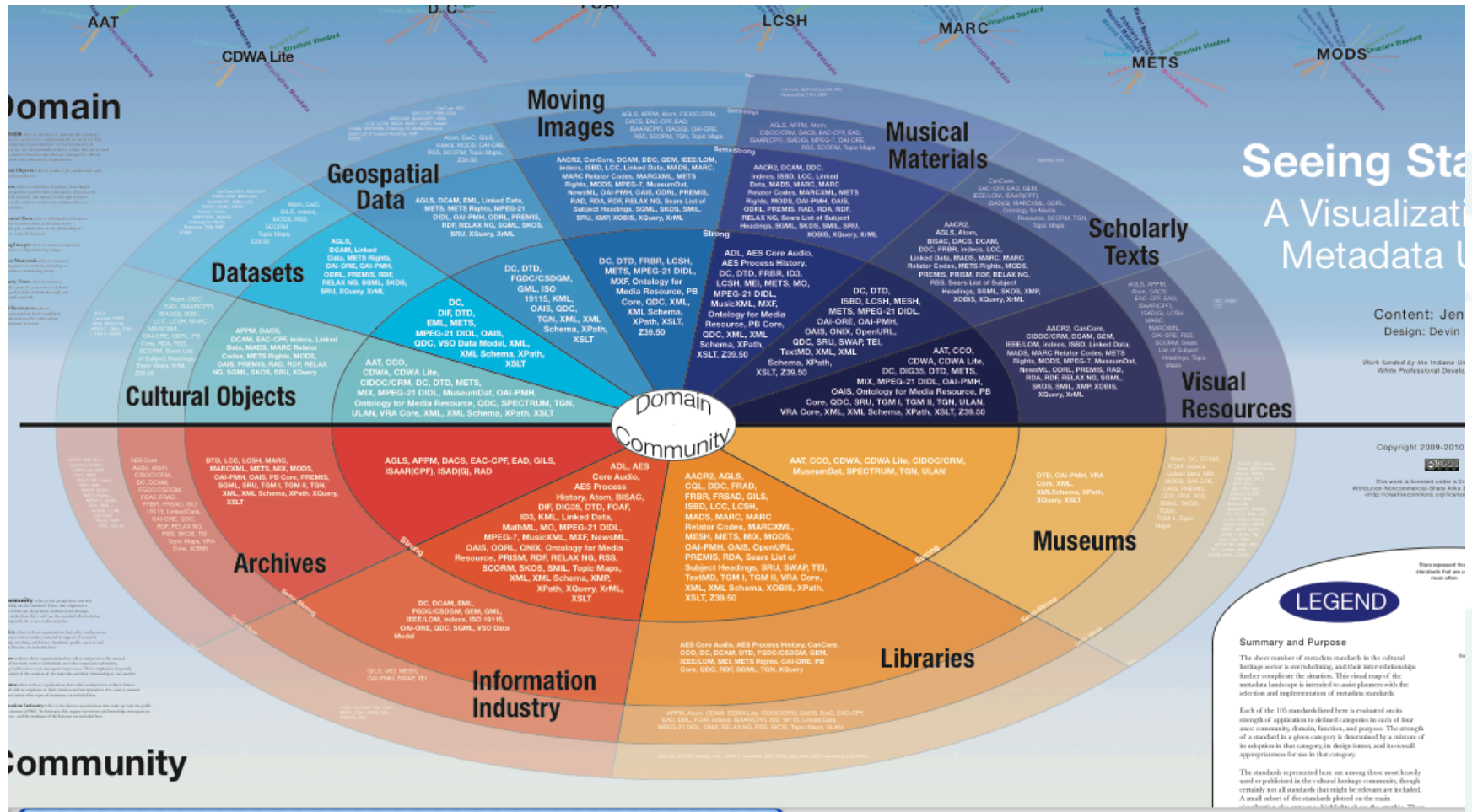


Long tail



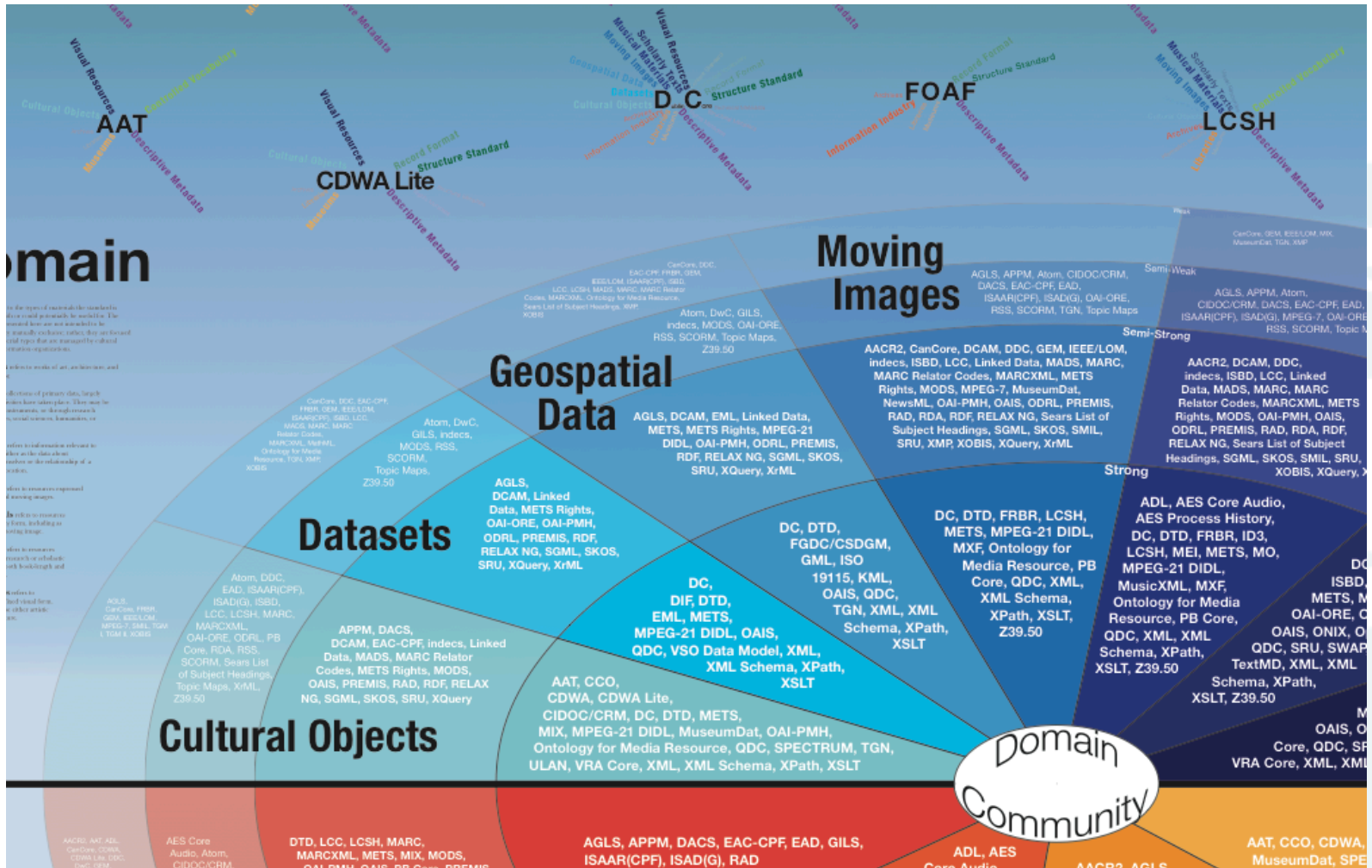


The Metadata Universe



Jenn Riley, IU

The Metadata Universe

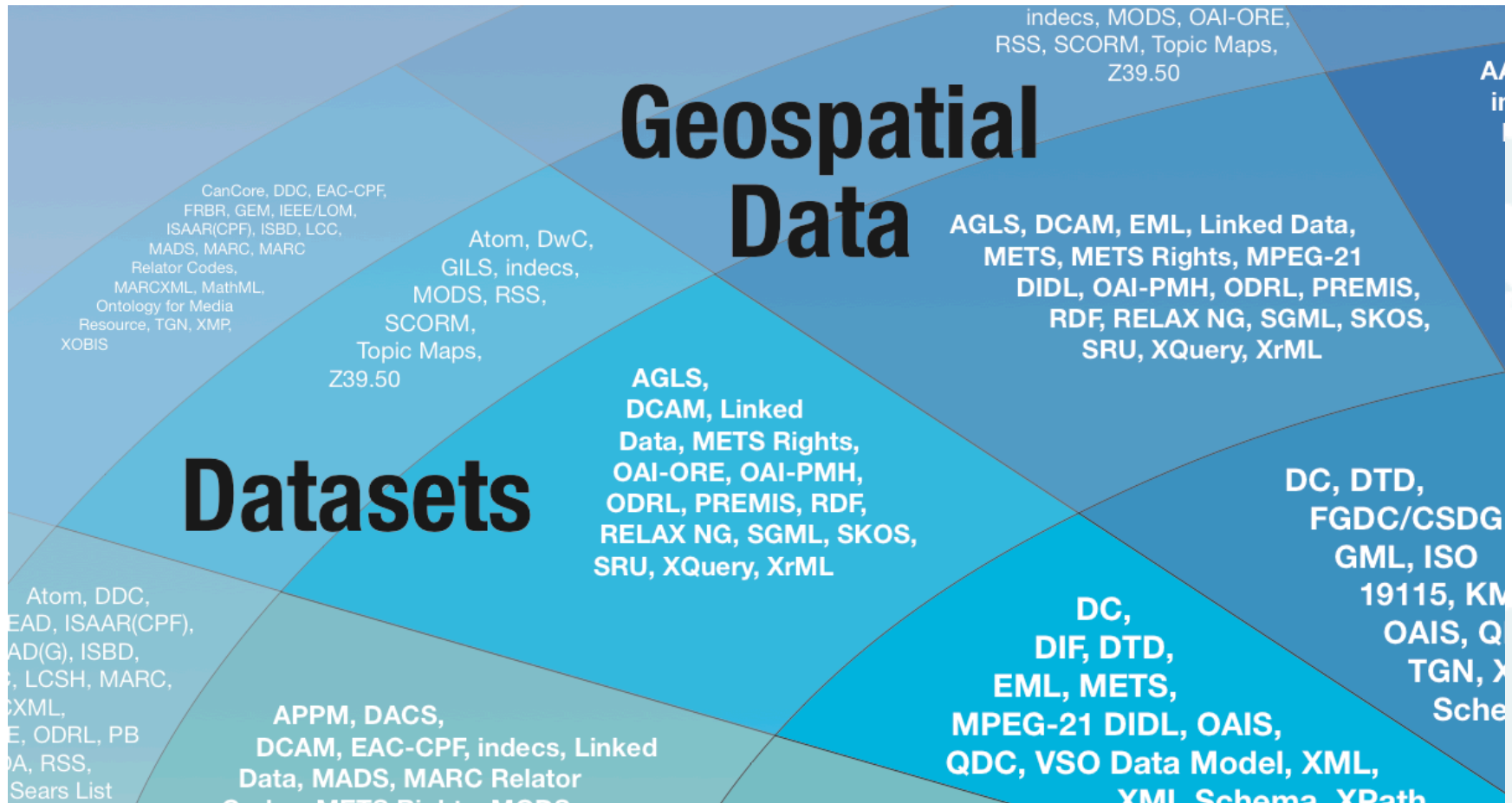


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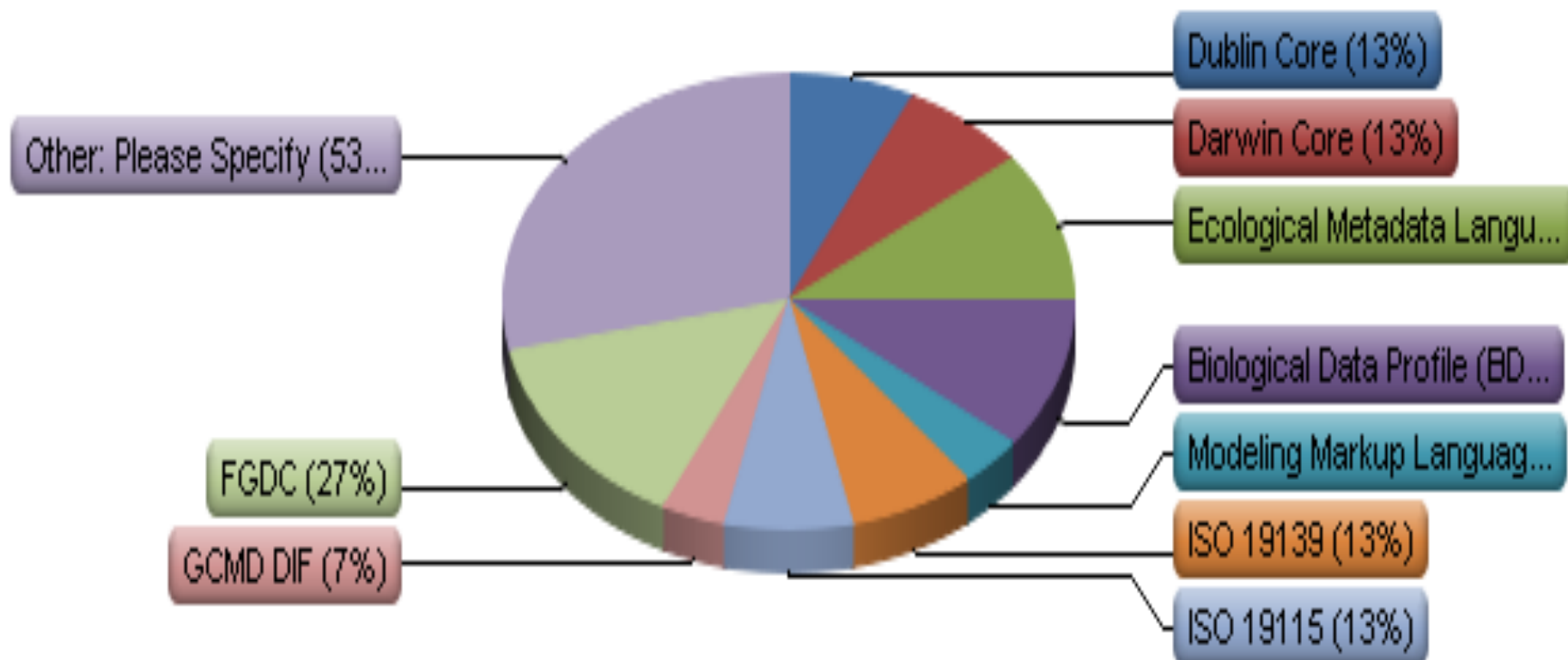
The Metadata Universe



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Components of Successful Metadata Registry Frameworks (A. Murillo, 2012)

14 standardized schemes used, lots of in-house
n = 74 (biology, earth science, computer science, etc.)



Metadata Vision

One dictionary, one namespace

- Crowd sourced plus lightly supervised canon
- Anyone can look up terms
- Any domain, any part of “metadata speech”
 - Names, values, units, relationships, ...
- Anyone can propose and refine their terms
- Strong terms rise, weak terms decline

What can we glean from Wikipedia, internet RFCs, and American Heritage Dictionary?

Translating a vision to principles

Low barrier for contributions.

Transparency in the review process.

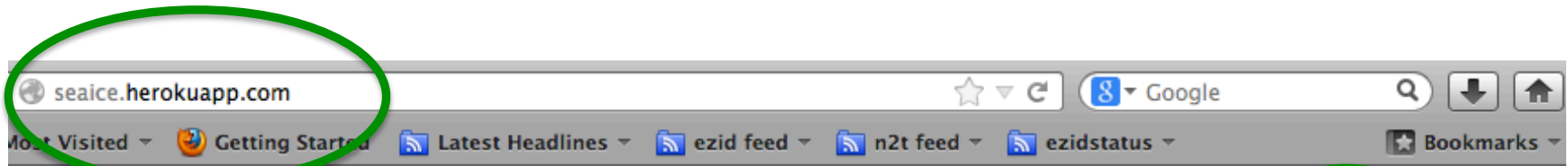
Collective review, with rotating responsibilities among community members (scientists, developers, organizations, curators, etc.)

Consideration of elders (experts) to guide the review process and maintain thoughtful, balanced discussion.

Voting capacity of all users on the candidacy of terms submitted and their use.

Collective ownership of any user or organization.

Stakeholder engagement in the design and review process.



Sealce

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Metadictionary

A crowd sourced metadata dictionary. Search for terms, upvote useful ones.

Tech stuff: Python + off-the shelf tools; freely hosted on heroku with the evolving code on github; Project code name is Sealce.

Notifications

TODO

My terms

- [metadatum](#)
- [structured data](#)
- [metadata](#)
- [data](#)
- [structured datum](#)

Starred

Add a dictionary term

Here you can propose a new term. You can help us maintain a high-quality metadictionary and minimize redundancies by [searching](#) for your term. Take a look at our community [guidelines](#) for best practice tips.

Term string:

Definition:

Example(s):

Browse dictionary

[high score](#) | [recent](#) | [volatile](#) | [stable](#) | [alphabetical](#)

Term	Score	Consensus	Class	Contributed by	Last modified
data	2	100%	canonical	John Kunze	1 day ago
publisher	2	100%	canonical	John Kunze	5 days ago
creator	1	100%	canonical	John Kunze	6 days ago
datum	1	100%	canonical	John Kunze	1 day ago
description	1	100%	canonical	John Kunze	6 days ago
identifier	1	100%	canonical	John Kunze	1 day ago
metadata	1	100%	canonical	John Kunze	6 days ago
resource	1	100%	canonical	Chris Patton	2 days ago
identifier	1	66%	vernacular	John Kunze	5 days ago
datum	0	50%	vernacular	Chris Patton	1 day ago
hydraulic gradient	0	0%	vernacular	Angela Murillo	14 August 2013
structured data	0	0%	deprecated	John Kunze	9 August 2013
structured datum	0	0%	deprecated	John Kunze	5 days ago
talus slope	0	0%	deprecated	Angela Murillo	12 August 2013
great	-1	12%	deprecated	Nassib Nassar	6 days ago
CHL	-1	0%	vernacular	Greg Janée	6 days ago
metadatum	-1	0%	deprecated	John Kunze	12 August 2013
token	-1	0%	deprecated	John Kunze	1 day ago
talus	-2	0%	deprecated	Angela Murillo	6 days ago

Term Classes and Voting Impact

Vernacular → canonical -- term is stable after two days and consensus is above 75%.

Vernacular → deprecated -- term is stable after two days and consensus is below 25%.

Canonical → vernacular -- term has been updated, restabilized, and consensus has dropped below 75%.

Deprecated → vernacular -- term has been updated, restabilized, and consensus has risen above 25%.

*** Nothing firmed about percentages, *just an illustrative consideration***

Conclusions, Feedback welcome!

Conclusions

- Complementary and alternative approaches
 - *More than one way to skin a cat...*
- Next steps...populate, test, engage
 - *User profiles*

Try out the prototype (Sealce) at

<http://seaice.herokuapp.com>

<https://github.com/cjpatton/seaice>