

Digital Curation and Exhibits. OMEKA

Coffee & Code
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Stephen Sturgeon
Anna Kijas

Materials: <https://github.com/BCDigSchol/coffee-code/>

Today's Session

1. Introductory remarks on metadata
2. Examples of metadata for digital surrogate collections
3. Exercise: a first pass at metadata creation
4. Making item records in Omeka

Metadata and Its Nature

[Analytical Bibliography](#): A listing of works that indicates in precise details the name of the author, the exact title of the work, and publication details, and that emphasizes the material nature of the work, including the format, the pagination, typographical particulars, illustrations, and other characteristics, such as the kind of paper and binding.

Society of American Archivists

How do we do this with items that are not physical, or are not accessed physically -- with digital objects?

Metadata and Its Uses

1. Short and sweet (mostly: what about 'Description'?)
2. Uniform (mostly: what about author name ambiguities? 'Condition'?)
3. Linkable (mostly: not all metadata is usefully linked)
4. Useful (mostly: different metadata fields have different audiences)

The most useful organizing properties for information resources are those based on their content and meaning, and these are not directly apparent when you look at a book or document. Significant intellectual effort or computation is necessary to reveal these properties when assigning subject terms or creating an index. The most effective organizing systems for information resources often are based on properties that emerge from analyzing the collection as a whole.

The Discipline of Organizing, ed. Robert J. Glushko, p. 15

Look through the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative's [Metadata Terms](#).

Metadata samples

Look through the item records in some of these collections. Are there potential metadata models here for your digital exhibits? Anything you would do differently in any of these metadata approaches?

[Beyond Words: Illuminated Manuscripts in Boston Collections](#)

[Digital Medieval Manuscripts in English at Houghton Library](#) (focus on those with a 'Digital Facsimile')

[Boston College Japanese Prints Collection](#)

[The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Shaker Furniture Collection](#)

[Hamilton College Library's Shaker Photographs Collection](#)

Exercise: a first pass at metadata creation

Using the [Dublin Core metadata elements](#), enter terms on the provided [worksheets](#) that best describe the following items. Remember that not all items call for metadata terms in every element:

1. [Nancy Cunard \(sculpture\)](#) by Constantin Brâncuși, and [text](#)
2. [Nancy Cunard \(photograph\)](#) by Constantin Brâncuși, and [text](#)
3. [Bird in Space \(sculpture\)](#) by Constantin Brâncuși, and [text](#)
4. [Bird in Space \(photograph\)](#) by Constantin Brâncuși, and [text](#)

[images taken from *Constantin Brancusi, 1876-1957* by Friedrich Teja Bach, et al. (Philadelphia Museum of Art, 1995); and *Brancusi: The White Work*, ed. Paola Mola (Skira, 2005)]

Omeka Information Architecture

Items: individual descriptive metadata records or building blocks

Collections: group items according to topic, subject, or category

Exhibits: curate and contextualize items, create essays, or teaching materials

Simple pages: blank HTML pages for additional text or external multimedia objects