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**digital object**

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A *digital object* in a digital library is the textual or multimedia data and the metadata.

Formally, a digital object  $DO$  is a quadruple  $(h, SM, ST, SS)$  where

1.  $h \in H$ , where  $H$  is a set of universally unique handles (labels);
2.  $SM = \{sm_1, sm_2, \dots, sm_n\}$  is a set of streams;
3.  $ST = \{st_1, st_2, \dots, st_m\}$  is a set of structural metadata specifications;  
and
4.  $SS = \{stsm_1, stsm_2, \dots, stsm_p\}$  is a set of Structured Streams functions defined from the streams in  $SM$  and from the structures in  $ST$ .