Literals and “non-literals”

- The world of resources is further divided into
  - Literals (“Strings”)
    - “self-contained”
    - appear directly in DC metadata
    - “terminals” in DC metadata
    - can not be further “described”
  - Other “non-literal” resources (“Things”)
    - referred to in DC metadata
    - can be further described
      - in your metadata or in someone else’s metadata elsewhere
- “Things” can be described, “strings” can’t

Literals and "non-literals"

- So, the designer of a DC application has to
  - Construct (or adopt) a model of the part of the world of interest
  - Types of resource, types of relationship between resources
- And they have to decide
  - Do I model this as a "Thing" - because
    - I need to describe it?
    - Or allow others to describe it?
    - Or take advantage of fact that others have described it?
  - Do I model this as a "String" (literal) – because
    - it is "self describing"?
    - I don't need to describe it?
    - Or allow others to describe it?
    - Or make use of others' descriptions of it?
- **Choice depends on requirements of application**

DCAM Description Set Model

- a *literal value surrogate* is made up of
  - exactly one *value string*
    - **encodes** *value*
- a *non-literal value surrogate* is made up of
  - zero or one *value URIs*
    - **identifies** *value*
  - zero or one *vocabulary encoding scheme URI*
    - **identifies** a set of which the *value* is a member
  - zero or more *value strings*
    - **represents** *value*
- a *value string* is either a *plain value string* or a *typed value string*
  - a *plain value string* may have an associated *value string language*
  - a *typed value string* is associated with a *syntax encoding scheme URI*
- Vocabulary Encoding Scheme
  - A named set to which a "Thing" belongs
- Syntax Encoding Scheme
  - A named set of rules for the "interpretation" of a set of "Strings"

e.g. "DCMI Abstract Model"

e.g. http://www.w3.org/TR/2004/REC-rdf-concepts-20040210/

e.g. http://purl.org/dc/terms/LCSH

e.g. "metadata"

e.g. "métadonnées"