METS Application Profile (AP)

A COLLECTION OF BOTANICAL GARDENS

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# Introduction

I chose images with quilts in them as my collection for this assignment. While I designed it for images housed by the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, my hope would be that this AP could be used for images anywhere. I am not an expert on quilts, but I like the idea of them. To me they represent resourcefulness in the face of scarcity, and it is for this reason I find them to be a worthy subject for photographing, and hence this assignment, as I think these images should be able to be easily pulled into the public light. I also think there is a connection with METS in that both are pieced together from different parts in order to make a greater whole.

# Scope and Objectives

Application profiles using METS are able to account for the different manifestations of images, from the negatives all the way to digital surrogates like thumbnails. This allows for greater accountability of all of these images, as they can be easily associated with one another. METS also provides useful information and other mechanisms that allow for presenting them in digital environments. Less an objective than a motivation, I also was driven by the thought that pulling together a creation like this could provide inspiration to artists and craftspeople who appreciate viewing the works of others, particularly from those in the past.

# Users

I had a few audiences in mind from the general public to experts. I think that preservationist and curators appreciate being able to access the information they need via familiar methods and that the general public should also have easy access to these resources through finessed searching. Other Borrowed Terms

I wished to simplify the record for image from how VRA Core treats it, which is the same as for work. While I appreciate the VRA Core recommendation to give this level of detail, I thought for my purposes it would be excessive, so I borrowed a few Dublin Core elements to describe the image instead.

# Standards Used

In addition to METS I used a few other standards to fill out my application profile. For descriptive information, I used CDWA Lite, a core version of the larger CDWA element set, PREMIS to record rights information, and finally I used MIX to account for the technical metadata of the digital images in my collection.

# Suggestions For Future Designers

I was unable to wrap my head around the behavioral section of this standard in order to use it, because I had to spend so much time on other aspects of this assignment, although I think that making use of this section would be essential to deploying it. I regret also not making use of the structural linking section, for the same reasons. One thing I think would be really interesting to do is to incorporate records for the actual quilts, or quilts like the ones in the image, into the METS record for the image. I had considered that the quilt in the image could be identified using the <extent> elements, but did not have time to pursue this possibility to see if it would work. I think it would be great if someone could access the techniques, materials, size, style, maybe even a reference to a pattern for the quilt, through the METS record. Something else I noticed about photographs with quilts is that many of them, especially when the images are of them being made, beg questions about what else is going on in the frame. Historical and locational information from when and where the photograph was taken would provide really helpful context for viewing these images.