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| Metadata building block | DPLA | BIBFRAME | Europeana |
| Data model | RDF | RDF, FRBR-inspired | RDF |
| Content rules | Largely undefined except for faceted elements, embraces 'big-tent' approach to metadata aggregation | RDA and other bibliographic standard foundation but claims to be extensible. | Europeana Data Model defines relationships between resources but is not overly prescriptive for content, embraces 'big-tent' approach to metadata aggregation |
| Metadata schema / vocabularies | Simplified EDM model with DPLA-specific elements geared towards faceted browsing | Relies heavily on the BIBFRAME vocabularies and Library of Congress endpoints | Europeana Data Model is highly prescriptive with structure, extensive use of external endpoints where possible |
| Data serialization | JSON-LD | RDF/XML, JSON | RDF/XML |
| Data exchange | Primarily API-based right now, | Data transformation tools, no data aggregation or dissemination tools | SPARQL, APIs |