

Profile: Generic High School Library

Our group designed our element set under the premise we were designing a schema for a small high school library. We tried to take into account the budget of the institution, the technical expertise of the staff and potential size of the collection. With this in mind, we went about choosing elements that would not only be useful for the students and teachers that patronize the library, but also for the staff.

We chose Dublin Core based elements to keep things as inclusive but simple as possible. Please see Figure 1 below for a full list of the elements chosen. The elements chosen would maximize searchability for students and teachers, allow teachers to have items tied to specific departments and course reserves and would allow librarians to manage the collection with non-searchable tags that could be added by staff and other internal management tools such as dimensions. The items that I chose to describe for the collection were included based on their availability to me and were imagined to be among a large donation of 1960's and 1970's Science-Fiction/Fantasy paperbacks gifted by a donor and alumni. They are vintage paperbacks from my personal collection that I hope one day will fire up someone else's imagination for planar shifts and recursive historical themes.

When encoding the .xml files for each object in the collection, simplicity was the main objective. I first decided to divide my records into two descriptive rdf sections for housekeeping purposes. I imagined the first section to be relevant to our library's student/teacher facing catalog. The second section points to our internal catalog management system. The split of the two made it easier to visualize what elements were Hidden or Searchable and were linked using

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rdfs:subClassOf. Please see the mapping of the rdf triples for a better visual on the linked rdf sections for each record in Figure 2. As many elements as possible use a fixed URI resource as the control Authority and were obtained from the LOC Linked Data service, minus those that use natural language or internally controlled vocabulary. These resources are then nested within each element and a label is used for display purposes. The rdf.xml files are as well-formed and succinct as possible while still striving to have complete information.

The development of the schema was stymied by confusion about the final product and a uniform lack of experience with the process. Continued hammering against the problem and referencing previous work was of benefit, but throughout the endeavor there was a feeling of spinning our wheels. After the group established our schema, there was a great deal of dialog on how best to get our schema from a table to coded in xml. This process was largely left to each of us to do on our own and see where we felt we had undergone a breakthrough or were stuck, and then circle back and try to huddle over where we were failing to meet our goals. During the encoding process, there was little to no return to the schema development, and we instead focused on making our schema decision work. If there were the opportunity to do this project over again, a more holistic perspective would have been of benefit to the final product.

One of the largest technical challenges of the project was nesting the staff-only, catalog management part of the records under the public-facing, searchable records. We envisioned two linked or nested rdf sections that point to two separate tables in our imagined database. This was eventually solved through appealing to an authority on the matter, aping an example and then reworking our records.

Figure 1

| No. | Element | Schema Mapping | Attribute Searchable (S) Required (R) Hidden (H) | Vocabulary | URI |
|-----|-----------------------------|-----------------|---|----------------------------|---|
| | Subject | DC: subject | S | LCSH | http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/subject |
| | creator | DC: creator | S | LCNA | http://purl.org/dc/terms/creator |
| | title | DC: title | RS | natural language | http://purl.org/dc/terms/title |
| | genre | DC: subject | S | LCSH | http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/subject |
| | date | DC: date | S | ISO 8601 | http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/date |
| | course reserve | DC: isPartof | S | internally controlled | http://purl.org/dc/terms/isPartOf |
| | Department | DC: isPartof | S | internally controlled | http://purl.org/dc/terms/isPartOf |
| | Copyright | DC: rights | S | Creative Commons | http://purl.org/dc/terms/rights |
| | Format | DC:format | S | IANA MIME | http://purl.org/dc/terms/format |
| | Physical description | DC: Extent | S | natural language | http://purl.org/dc/terms/extent |
| | Language | DC: Language | | ISO 639-2 | http://purl.org/dc/terms/language |
| | Edition | DC: hasVersion | S | Transcribed from object | http://purl.org/dc/terms/hasVersion |
| | Intended Audience | DC: Audience | S | Natural language | http://purl.org/dc/terms/audience |
| | Description | DC:Description | S | natural language | http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/description |
| | Notes | DC:Description | H | natural language | http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/description |
| | ISBN | DC:Identifier | S/R | Transcribed | http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/identifier |
| | Last Date of Circulation | DC:DateModified | H | ISO 8601 | http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/date |
| | Keywords | DC:Subject | S | LCSH | http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/subject |

Figure 2

