CCO@RBMS2008

Cataloging Cultural Objects (CCO) for Rare Books and Manuscripts

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Metadata for the 3rd Millennium: Emerging Trends, Shared Perspectives

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self-describing?

Non-book library collections

- Almost every library owns some works of art or cultural objects that fall outside the parameters of traditional library collections, and that cannot be adequately described using the standard library cataloging rules and vocabularies.
- Unlike traditional library items, these works are generally not "self-describing."

Museum collections

- Museums and other collecting institutions have rare and unique items (not "self-describing") for which traditional bibliographic or archival description may not be optimal.
- Many museum collections also include some published printed works, for which guidelines developed for describing unique objects may be inappropriate. Standards for bibliographic description might work better for these types of works.

One size does *not* fit all!

- Creating documentation for unique cultural items may require the use of standards and vocabularies developed by and for other metadata communities.
- There isn't a single descriptive standard or controlled vocabulary that fits all needs.

a Typology of Data Standards
(from *Introduction to Metadata, revised edition, 2008*)

- Data <u>structure</u> standards (metadata element sets):
  MARC, EAD, Dublin Core, CDWA, VRA Core, TEI
- Data <u>value</u> standards (vocabularies):
  LCSH, LCNAF, TGM, AAT, ULAN
- Data <u>content</u> standards (cataloging rules):
  AACR (➔RDA), ISBD, CCO, DACS
- Data <u>format</u>/technical interchange standards (metadata standards expressed in machine-readable form):
  MARC, MARCXML, MODS, EAD, CDWA Lite XML, Dublin Core Simple XML schema, VRA Core 4.0 XML schema, TEI XML DTD

The much-maligned metadata

- "Metadata"—which in many ways can be seen as a late 20th-early 21st-century synonym for "cataloging"—is seen as an increasingly important (albeit frequently sloppy, and often confounding) aspect of the explosion of information available in electronic form, and of individuals' and institutions' attempts to provide online access to their collections.

Metadata for enhanced access

- Librarians, archivists, and museum documentation specialists can and should make metadata creation into a viable, effective tool for enhancing access to the myriad resources that are now available in electronic form. The judicious, carefully considered combination of various standards can facilitate this.

Mixing and matching

- A recent trend in metadata creation is "schema-agnostic" metadata.
- Although because of its origins in the library world RDA presupposes MARC as a vehicle for cataloging records, this emergent cataloging code could also be used with MODS, Dublin Core, or other metadata schemas.
- CCO, though linked to schemas that have been developed by the art museum and visual resources communities such as CDWA Lite and VRA Core, can also be effectively used with more library-oriented standards such as MODS or MARC, as in the example of the Morgan Library & Museum.
- A variety of data value standards, from LCSH to the *Art & Architecture Thesaurus* (AAT) and others can be used together within a single record to enhance description and access.

Description as a collaborative process

- Description (a.k.a. cataloging) should be seen as a collaborative, incremental process, rather than an activity that takes place exclusively in a single department within an institution (in libraries, this has traditionally been the technical services department).
- Metadata creation in the age of digital resources can and indeed should in many cases be a collaborative effort in which a variety of metadata—technical, descriptive, administrative, rights-related, and so on) is added incrementally by trained staff in a variety of departments, including but not limited to the registrar's office, digital imaging and digital asset management units, processing and cataloging units, and conservation and curatorial departments.*
- What about "expert social tagging"?

*See "Practical Principles for Metadata Creation," in *Introduction to Metadata*

What will it take?

- Technical infrastructure and tools
- "Behavioral/cultural" and organizational changes
- Hard work, and a more production-oriented approach (more efficient workflows, decision trees, use of quotas, etc.)

Some Emerging Trends in Metadata Creation

- "Schema-agnostic" metadata
- Metadata that is both shareable and re-purposable
- Harvestable metadata (OAI/PMH)
- "Non-exclusive"/"cross-cultural" metadata—i.e., it's okay to combine standards from different metadata communities—e.g. MARC and CCO, DACS and AACR, DACS and CCO, EAD and CDWA Lite, etc.
- Importance of authorities—and difficulties in "bringing along" the power of authorities with shared metadata records
- The need for practical, economically feasible approaches to metadata creation

Examples of "Cross-cultural" Use of Standards

EAD (data structure) & DACS (data content) used at the collection level for an archival collection with a common provenance, used in combination with…

Class: Contemporary Art
Work Type: multimedia
Creator: Claes Oldenburg (American sculptor, draftsman, and printmaker, born 1929 in Sweden)
Title: **False Food Selection**
Creation Date: ca. 1965
Materials: plastic box containing artificial food made of plastic
Measurements: 13.5 x 18 x 5 cm (5 3/8 x 7 x 2 inches)
Style: Fluxus
Subject: box; food; biscuits; petit fours; kaiser roll; eggs; bacon
Current Location: Special Collections, Research Library, Getty Research Institute (Los Angeles, California) (890164 bx.205)
Description: The box of repository's copy is blue and contains 3 different biscuits, 3 different petit fours in paper baking cups, a pear, a kaiser roll, and 2 sunny-side up eggs and a strip of bacon glued to the inside of the lid.
Related Work:
     Relationship Type: part of
[link to Related Work:]
Brown, Jean (American, 1911-1994). *Jean Brown Papers, 1916-1995.*

…CDWA Lite or VRA Core (data structure/data format) & CCO (data content) at the item level for an individual work within the same collection

Author: Mata, Juan de la, 18th cent.
Title: Arte de *reposteria* : en que se contiene todo genero de hacer dulces secos, y en liquido, vizcochos, turrones, y natas: bebidas heladas de todos generos, rosolis, mistelas, &c. : con una breve instruccion para conocer las frutas, y servirlas crudas : y diez mesas, con su explicacion / su author Juan de la Mata, repostero en esta Corte ...
Publication Information: En Madrid : Por Antonio Marin : se hallara `en casa de Simon Moreno, mercader de libros ..., año M.DCCXLVII [1747]
Description: [26], 196 p., [10] leaves of folded plates : ill. (engravings) ; 21 cm. (4to)
References: Palau y Dulcet (2nd ed.) 157655
Notes: Signatures: para⁸ 2para⁴, A–M⁸ N².
Illustrations: comprise arms of the dedicatee (para1 verso) and bound in at the end ten ill. on folded leaves depicting table settings for 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90 and 100 pieces of covers. Each table setting is also described (p. 188–196).
Subjects: Table setting and decoration --Early works to 1800.
Dinners and dining --Early works to 1800.
Confectionery --Early works to 1800.
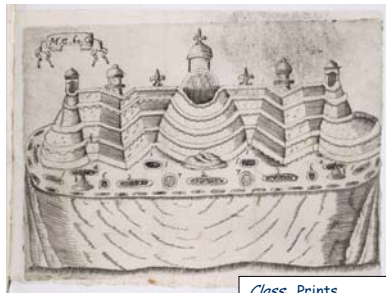Food --Early works to 1800.
ID number: 1405–324

Location: SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - CONTACT REFERENCE
Call Number: TX783 .M38 1747
Copy: Copy 1
Status: ID: 1405–324 ID: 1405–324 c.1 Checked Out

MARC (data structure/data format) and AACR (data content) used for a "parent" item (18th-century book with engravings) in OPAC, used in combination with…

… CDWA (data structure), CCO (data content), and CDWA Lite (data format) used at the item level for an individual engraving from the "parent" work represented in the preceding MARC record.
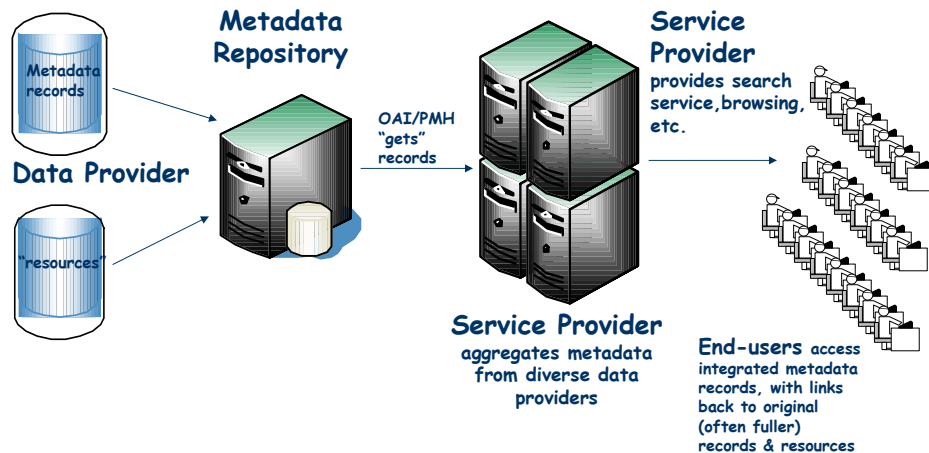
Class: Prints
Work Type: engraving
Creator: Unknown Spanish
Title: **Table Setting for Sixty Covers**
Creation Date: ca. 1747
Materials/Techniques: engraving on laid paper
Measurements: plate mark 14.6 x 20 cm (5 34/ x 7 3/4 inches), on sheet 16 x 21.1 cm (6 3/8 x 8 3/8 inches)
Subject: table setting; food; decoration; centerpieces; confectionery; garnishes; cookery; desserts; tablecloths; tabletop fountains; food presentation; courts; courtiers
Description: Table setting for sixty covers described under the entry "Mesa de sesenta cubiertos, larga, y sus esquinas redondas." The sculptural decoration represents a rampart and its fortified towers (no. 1). The table with rounded corners is adorned with platters of glass (no. 2), and vessels for holding sweets, sugar, and caramel figures, compotes, cakes, cheese, and fruit.
Current Location: Special Collections, Research Library, Getty Research Institute (Los Angeles, California) (1405.324_pl6)
Related Work:
   Relationship Type: part of
[link to Related Work:]
Juan de la Mata, (Spanish, 18th century); Arte de reposteria. Madrid: 1747.

Metadata Harvesting

- Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI/PMH) http://www.openarchives.org/pmh/

- OAI Best Practices for Shareable Metadata http://oai-best.comm.nsdl.org/cgi-bin/wiki.pl?PublicTOC

The OAI Harvesting Model

Data Provider

Metadata records

"resources"

Metadata Repository

OAI/PMH "gets" records

Service Provider provides search service, browsing, etc.

Service Provider aggregates metadata from diverse data providers

End-users access integrated metadata records, with links back to original (often fuller) records & resources

Emerging Metadata Standards for Art & Material Culture

- Cataloging Cultural Objects (CCO)
  http://www.vraweb.org/ccoweb/

- CDWA Lite XML Schema
  http://www.getty.edu/research/conducting_research/standards/cdwa/cdwalite.html

- VRA Core 4.0 XML schema
  http://www.vraweb.org/datastandards/VRA_Core4_Welcome.html

CCO & RDA: commonalities

- Independent of information communication format ("schema-agnostic")
- Compatible/combinable with other standards ("cross-community metadata")
- Designed to build cataloger's judgment rather than slavish adherence to rules
- Derived from English-language conventions, but adaptable world-wide

CCO & RDA: commonalities
continued

- Both explicitly deal with issues of display vs. indexing
- Stress on "relationships" between entities
- Importance of authorities

CCO & RDA: Differences

- Definitions of "work" (per FRBR) differ.

- CCO provides guidelines for descriptive metadata for unique items, not for bibliographic items nor for Web resources (however, some items, e.g. some decorative arts and other works such as reproductive prints may appear as multiples).

- Titles and names may be handled differently.

Indexing

In the context of CCO, "indexing" is the process of evaluating information and creating indexing terms with controlled vocabulary that will aid end-users in finding and accessing the Work or Image Record. Refers to indexing done by human labor, not to the automatic parsing of data into a *data index*, which is used by a system to speed up search and retrieval.

Display

In the context of CCO, "display" is the process of showing data in natural language that is easily read and understood by users and can convey nuance and ambiguity. Display information may in some cases be concatenated from controlled fields; in other cases, this information is best recorded manually in free-text display fields.

Standards!

Standards are like
toothbrushes…
Everyone *agrees* **they** are a
good idea...
But **nobody** wants to use
anyone else's.

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http://www.getty.edu/research/conducting_research/vocabularies/

http://www.getty.edu/research/conducting_research/standards/