

When to Use Metadata Standards and When Not To

Case Studies

The problem

“Standards are like toothbrushes, everyone agrees that they’re a good idea but nobody wants to use anyone else’s.” *



* I heard this from Murtha Baca at the Getty, but she got it from someone else...



Seriously, though...

- ❑ We have to make decisions about how to represent metadata internally in our systems
- ❑ We all have our own unique needs
- ❑ Every collection/project is different
- ❑ One solution does not fit all

HOWEVER, we cannot afford to make a new solution from scratch for every new pool of content.



What are metadata standards for?

- ❑ Interoperability
- ❑ Providing clear representations of conceptual models
- ❑ Promoting consistency
- ❑ Reminding you of the sorts of things you ought to record



How do metadata standards differ?

- Underlying conceptual model
- Focus of description
 - Analog vs. digital
 - Intellectual content vs. carrier
- Granularity of description
- Use of data
 - Discovery
 - Description
 - Interpretation
 - etc...



Panel speakers

- Arwen Hutt
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- Sarah Shreeves
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- Jenn Riley
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