

ANNUAL REPORT 2010-2011

BCC Metadata Subcommittee

Members: Jenn Riley, chair (2008-2013), Keith Chapman (2009-2013), Eric Harbeson (2009-2013), Peter Hirsch (2011-2015), Caitlin Hunter (2009-2013), Deb Kulczak (2011-2015), Karen Lund (LC Representative), Molly O'Brien (2011-2015), Ann Shaffer (2011-2015), Terry Simpkins (2009-2013), Kimmy Szeto (2010-2014)

Report on Activities:

The Metadata Subcommittee, with its parent Bibliographic Control Committee, sponsored a program at the MLA 2011 Annual Meeting on "Technical Metadata for Music," featuring two presentations: "Technical Metadata for Audio Preservation: a Brief Introduction" by Kimmy Szeto of SUNY Maritime College and "Embedded Metadata" by Chris Lacinak of AudioVisual Preservation Solutions. The session was well attended and received many positive comments on its timeliness.

Our Subcommittee's focus this year has been laying the groundwork for an online Music Metadata Clearinghouse. To this end, we designed a survey for potential users of this resource from the library community, intended to inform our work on this project. The survey was issued shortly following the MLA 2011 Annual Meeting. We received 42 responses, with both quantitative and qualitative data. We are beginning analysis of the responses, and plan to have the first parts of the Clearinghouse online by Spring 2012.

At the MLA 2011 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, our Subcommittee said goodbye with profound thanks to retiring members James Mason, Renée McBride, Felicia Piscatelli, and Becky Thompson. Following the meeting we welcomed new members Peter Hirsch, Deb Kulczak, Molly O'Brien, and Ann Shaffer.

List of previous goals and progress made toward each goal:

1. Construct and distribute a survey to the MLA membership designed to better understand what individuals and institutions need from an online music metadata clearinghouse. Ask questions about how systems work on the back end that aren't available looking at end-use interfaces from the outside, the availability of metadata creation documentation and sample records, and the specific tools used to create and manage non-MARC metadata. Issue the survey and begin compiling results before the MLA 2011 Annual Meeting.

The survey was issued in Spring 2011, and received 42 responses. It was designed to help us understand who would make use of the Clearinghouse, and what content would be useful to them in the resource. For example, participants were asked to rank their need for the following materials: list and analysis of available software for creating non-MARC metadata; list of metadata creation and management tools; analysis of metadata standards and their best practice application to music; case studies, sample implementations, and project-specific documentation; helpful readings (including publications, conference presentations, white papers, etc.); information on choosing metadata standards for specific purposes; information on support for various metadata standards within commonly-used software packages; introductory primer on non-MARC metadata issues; and a discussion forum for

music metadata issues. We are now beginning data analysis, which will inform design of the Clearinghouse and our priorities for which areas of it to focus on first.

2. Begin developing a general structure for the online music metadata clearinghouse, including articulating a vision for what it will look like in one year, two years, and five years.

As we have not yet completed data analysis, we have been unable to fully undertake this task. We expect to complete it by Fall 2011.

3. Continue to explore partnership with groups outside of MLA, to bring knowledge of music metadata issues to relevant groups, and to inform MLA of initiatives relevant to our work going on in other areas.

We have worked towards this goal largely through conference programming, with the session on Technical Metadata at MLA 2011, and the approved session on Linked Data at MLA 2012.

List of goals for the next year:

1. Complete analysis of the data from the Music Metadata Clearinghouse survey, and use the findings to create a more formal plan for the initial version of the Clearinghouse and its growth over time.

2. Prepare initial content for the Clearinghouse to be approved by the MLA Board, and go live with this content by Spring 2012.

3. Continue to explore partnership with groups outside of MLA, to bring knowledge of music metadata issues to relevant groups, and to inform MLA of initiatives relevant to our work going on in other areas.