

ALA Midwinter Meeting 2012
Report from the ALCTS Metadata Interest Group
and other metadata-related meetings
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ALCTS Metadata Interest Group Meeting, January 22, 2012, 8:00-10:00 AM

The MIG meeting at ALA Annual 2011 featured three presentations, each of which was a case study. Two were related to a/v materials, and a third on Institutional Repository Metadata.

Jason Kovari from Cornell University opened the session with a presentation on “Video Metadata in Kaltura.” The Cornell University library provided support for the campus’ implementation of the Kaltura open source media management system. They advised on a Cornell-wide field set, and developed a “library enhanced” field set for specific content that the library will manage. In addition to descriptive metadata, much attention was required to structural and technical metadata, with technical metadata taking up some of the fields in the locally-provided field set. Future work includes mapping into and out of PBCore, integration with the campus digital archival repository, and harvesting of metadata from this system for other purposes. Jason’s presentation slides may be found at <http://connect.ala.org/node/167132>.

Amy Rushing from UT Austin presented “Preservation and Access Metadata for Born-Digital Video.” As part of UT Austin’s partnership with the Human Rights Documentation Initiative, they are archiving born digital video shot in many locations throughout the world, including documentation of human rights abuses. They have found that working with video involves some specific challenges, including a lack of existing guidelines, the need for some technical experience with video files to effectively manage technical metadata, and the fluid nature of video metadata standards like the Library of Congress’ videoMD schema. This project implements METS for pulling together descriptive, structural, and technical metadata, including metadata about the original source files. A human rights thesaurus developed by the project will be released soon, and project video metadata guidelines have been released at http://www.lib.utexas.edu/schema/Video_Metadata_Guidelines_v1.pdf. Amy’s presentation slides may be found at <http://connect.ala.org/node/167149>.

Maureen Walsh from Ohio State University closed the presentation portion of the session with “Repurposing Metadata for an Institutional repository at the Ohio State University.” 74% of content in the OSU institutional repository is batch loaded. Bibliographic data is pushed into the repository from their III catalog via XSLT, or through MARCEdit. In addition, they use exiftool to pull out metadata from image file headers and text-mine scanned printed bibliographies. Maureen’s presentation slides may be found at <http://connect.ala.org/node/167277>.

The session then moved to into a business meeting. At ALA annual 2012, the interest group plans to have presentation on the changing role of the cataloger during its business meeting time, and propose a session on metadata for data sets to be held Monday morning at 8 AM. The CC:DA liaison to the interest

group reported that id.loc.gov is continuing to expand the controlled vocabularies it makes available in RDF/Linked Data and other structured forms. The MLA liaison, Jenn Riley, reported on metadata meetings and presentations to be held at the upcoming MLA conference, and gave an update on work to develop the music metadata clearinghouse.

Other ALA Midwinter 2012 Sessions of Interest to MLA Members in the Area of Metadata

The panel session “Identifiers, Citation, and Linked Open Data as Part of the Scholarly Communications System: New Developments and New Development from Old Work” included three papers on data management and citation by Suzanne Pilsk from the Smithsonian Institute, Chris Freeland from the Biodiversity Heritage Library, and Joan Starr from the California Digital Library. Topics of interest from the presentations were the need for persistent identifiers for data sets, defining what “publishing” data means, and generating computer-readable data from legacy analog sources.

The Digital Conversion Interest Group meeting featured presentations on A/V preservation. Jake Nadal of UCLA discussed cooperation on campus and beyond to create instructional a/v labs, and cautioned that audio and video expertise are distinct skills. Linda Tadic of the AudioVisual Archive Network discussed current best practice and tools, such as the DAITSS repository software, FITS for file format validation, and DROID for file format identification. George Blood of Safe Sound Archive described in-depth technical tests to determine interoperability potential of different JPEG2000 moving image encoders. Karen Gracy of Kent state described a research survey that analyzed to what extent institutions are digitizing archival analog motion picture and video collections, what methods they are using to distribute them, and to what extent archival institutions are analyzing online use of digital moving images.

The Linked Data Interest Group held what was primarily a brainstorming session. Members have been doing some work collecting links to Linked Data library activities. Schema.org seems to be an initiative with some traction that libraries must pay attention to. Members commented that libraries need to move beyond publishing linked data to consuming it as well. The group is planning a preconference for ALA annual 2012 that will be on more advanced Linked Data topics, hopefully including some hands-on activities.

An additional list of sessions from ALA Midwinter 2012 of interest to metadata specialists may be found at <<http://www.alcts.ala.org/metadatablog/2012/01/ala-midwinter-2012-best-bets-for-metadata-librarians-and-call-for-bloggers/>>.