

ALA Midwinter Meeting 2013
Report from the ALCTS Metadata Interest Group
and other metadata-related meetings
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ALCTS Metadata Interest Group Meeting, January 27, 2013, 8:30-10:00 AM

The MIG meeting at ALA Annual 2013 featured two presentations on preservation metadata. Slides from both presentations may be found at <http://connect.ala.org/node/199172>.

The first presentation was by Sandy Card from Binghamton University Libraries, on “Creating a Metadata Portal and Workflows for a Digital Preservation Repository.” Sandy described the use of Ex Libris’ Rosetta system for digital preservation at Binghamton, along with Primo for discovery of the preserved materials. Their system uses Qualified Dublin Core for descriptive metadata, which is then placed into a METS wrapper for ingest into the preservation repository. A primary finding of their experience was that their metadata librarians (including MLA Metadata Subcommittee member Molly O’Brien!) ended up serving as project managers rather than catalogers, and the descriptive metadata creation was actually done by student employees. They provided training in project management for their metadata librarians through a mentorship program, and are investigating more formal training programs as well. Their project managers determined that the Dublin Core documentation wasn’t friendly enough to students doing descriptive work, so they created a “metadata portal” listing local best practices for each of 50 QDC elements and refinements.

The second presentation was by Aaron Collie and Lucas Mak from Michigan State University Libraries, on “Incompatible or Interoperable? A METS Bridge for a Small Gap between Two Digital Preservation Software Packages.” Michigan State uses Archivematica for archival collections, and wished to push content from this system into their Fedora Commons repository for long-term preservation. Their solution is to use the Dissemination Information Package (DIP) of METS-wrapped metadata from Archivematica, then use XSLT to transform this into a METS Submission Information Package (SIP) for Fedora Commons. The two systems have slightly different requirements and use different versions of METS, so some changes to <structMap>, <fileSec>, <amdSec>, and <dmdSec> are encoded in this XSLT.

The session then moved to into a business meeting. At ALA Annual 2013, the interest group is planning on recruiting speakers for presentations on tools for creating and managing embedded metadata, and on authority control in in repositories and digital collections. Maureen Walsh (Ohio State University) becomes Chair of the IG after ALA Annual, replacing current chair Teresa Keenan; nominations are being accepted for a new Vice-Chair.

Other topics discussed at the business meeting included:

- DSpace is seeking feedback on updating its implementation of Qualified Dublin Core. More information can be found at

<https://wiki.duraspace.org/display/DSPACE/Proposal+to+Update+QDC+Registry+and+Add+DCT+ERMS+Registry>.

- The Metadata Interest Group blog can be found at <http://www.alcts.ala.org/metadatablog/>, and features occasional posts of interest.

Other ALA Midwinter 2013 Sessions of Interest to MLA Members in the Area of Metadata

ALCTS and LITA have charged a new Metadata Standards Committee to “play a leadership role in the creation and development of metadata standards for bibliographic information.” This committee will begin work in Spring 2013. More information and further announcements as the committee gets started may be found at <http://connect.ala.org/node/192685>.

The RDA in Many Metadata Formats (RIMMF; <http://www.marcofquality.com/rimmf/doku.php?id=rimmf>) tool by MARC of Quality was demonstrated in several venues at the conference, including the Copy Cataloging Interest Group. This tool renders library in FRBRized form as implemented in RDA and is intended to assist with visualizing cataloging records in RDA, and to show RDA in action.

Dianne Hillman, consultant with the firm Metadata Management Associates, presented in the MARC Formats Transition Interest Group on marc21rdf.info. This initiative has created RDF classes, properties, and vocabularies for the MARC21 data elements and vocabularies, which should allow for easier representation of legacy MARC data in RDF and exposure as Linked Data.

Sally McCallum presented on the LC Bibliographic Framework Transition Initiative in multiple venues at the conference, including in the MARC Formats Transition Interest Group. There she provided a high level overview of the officially-named BFI, in which MARC title and name/title data go into an RDF bf:Work class (which encompasses both FRBR Work and Expression data), subjects and names into an RDF bf:Authority class, and bibliographic record information about a single representation of a work into an RDF bf:Instance class. LC has processed more than 1.2 million legacy MARC records into this format, and BFI pilot testers have experimented with additional records. More information, including software for transforming records, can be found at <http://bibframe.org/>.