

Metadata Crosswalk: CONTENTdm Fields - Dublin Core - MARC

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A metadata crosswalk is a tool designed to correlate or "map" the categories used in one particular database or cataloging format to parallel categories used in another database or cataloging format. These categories are usually referred to as fields or elements. The content of these fields is the metadata. Metadata has been commonly defined as "data about data," but it can really refer to any machine- or human-readable data describing an information resource. A metadata crosswalk "maps" data across different metadata formats. Data found in a particular catalog's field--for example, the data found in a field called "title" in Catalog (or database) A--can be directly used as the data for a field called "name" in Catalog B. Or perhaps the "producer" field in Catalog A contains information that corresponds to both the "author" and "publisher" fields in Catalog B. A chart mapping out these relationships between two or more of these formats is our metadata crosswalk.

For our purposes, the metadata we've generated falls into three categories: descriptive (or intellectual) metadata; administrative (or technical) metadata; and structural metadata.

Descriptive metadata is information about the intellectual content of an item. It generally provides access points for resource discovery. Examples include the values contained in the 'title', 'author', or 'subject' fields.

Administrative, or technical, metadata exists to provide data for the proper management of a digital object so that the information resource can be successfully managed, processed or exchanged across different computer platforms, software packages or systems. Examples would include the values found in fields that provide file format information, file size, how many bits per channel, how access is allowed, and who has access to the resource.

Structural metadata is metadata that provides information about the relationships between information resources (for example between different instantiations of the same resource, such as a print or electronic version of a text). Structural metadata may also describe the internal navigation of an information resource and may be required for its display. It can also be an identifier that provides direct access to a resource, as is the case with a URL or URI.

In cataloging the images of items in the WPA Museum Extension Project collection, we used a digital collection management software package called CONTENTdm. CONTENTdm allows each collection administrator to establish field names, to set the order and number of fields, to give these fields properties (will only text be allowed for the field? Is the field searchable? Is it visible to the public?), and to make other decisions on structure and appearance.

The metadata crosswalk below maps fields (or "elements") from the metadata format used in our WPA MEP image collection (CONTENTdm), to the Dublin Core Metadata Element Set, an Internet-based resource discovery tool, to the MARC Bibliographic: Machine-Readable Cataloging, a standard used in the library world.

To use this crosswalk, select a field/element name within a column for each metadata format and read across the row to view the equivalent field/element names as used in the two other metadata formats. Click on a field/element name to view its definition and learn about its usage. For the Dublin Core elements and their refinements (the term following the period), it may be necessary to scroll down the page to find definitions and usage guidelines.

CONTENTdm Field

Dublin Core Element

MARC Field

Title

Title

245 (use Subfields \$a, \$b)

Alternative Title

Title.Alternative

246 (use Subfields \$a, \$b)

Series Title

Relation.IsPartOf

830 (use Subfield \$a)

Sub-Series 1 Title

Relation.IsPartOf

830 (use Subfield \$p)

Sub-Series 2 Title
Relation.IsPartOf
830 (use Subfield \$p)

Producer
Publisher
260 (use Subfields \$b, \$f)

Production Site
Publisher
260 (use Subfields \$a, \$e)

State
Publisher
260 (use Subfields \$a, \$e)

Date
Date.Created
260 (use Subfield \$c)

Format

Format
300 (use Subfields \$a, \$b)

Composition
Format.Medium
300 (use Subfields \$b, \$3)

Dimensions
Format.Extent
300 (use Subfield \$c)

Inscription
500 (use Subfield \$a)

Accompanying Text
Description
300 (use Subfield \$e)510

Part of
Relation.IsPartOf
773

Arrangement/Identification Note

351 (use Subfield \$a)

MEP Catalog Number
Identifier
541 (use Subfield \$e)

Shelf Number
Identifier
852 (use Subfield \$j)

Notes

300 (use Subfield \$b)500510515 520530580

Digitization Notes

Format

583 (use Subfields \$a, \$i)

Housed at

Relation.IsPartOf

852 (use Subfields \$a, \$b, \$e)

Rights

Rights.accessRights

540

Select resources on metadata:

Dublin Core Metadata Initiative

Introduction to Metadata: Pathways to Digital Information (from the Getty Research Institute)

Mapping Between Metadata Formats (by Michael Day of UKOLN)

Metadata Resources (from the Colorado Digitization Program)

Understanding MARC Bibliographic (from the Library of Congress)