MWG Activity Report
2011 - 2012

Data Working Group
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This report summarizes the activities of the Metadata Working Group (MWG) from the summer of 2011 to summer 2012.

The MWG welcomed the Electronic Resources Librarian, Christine Turner, who replaced Gary Hough, Head of Information Resources Management. Christine is currently on sabbatical. MWG was chaired by Steve Folsom, Metadata Librarian, through July 2012, and is currently chaired by Jessica Adamick, InterNano Project Manager.

**Completed Tasks**

**Communication**

The MWG engaged in several on campus and external communications activities on the topic of data management.

- Participation in Digital Working Group Confabs (2011-2012)
- Met with Jennifer Eustis, Catalog/Metadata Librarian, University of Connecticut for an information sharing meeting (June 2011)
- Five College All Staff Lightning Talk with Digital Strategies (May 2012)
- UMass Amherst Libraries All Staff Presentation with Digital Strategies (June 2012)

**Consultations**

MWG consulted on metadata best practices and workflows for two faculty research projects.

- The MWG worked with Eric Poehler, Classics, on a large-scale Pompeii bibliographic with geographic visualization (July 2011-June 2012).
- The MWG worked with Joe Donohue, English, on an Adelphi Theatre Calendar, to assure metadata best practices. The Adelphi project is now hosted by the Libraries and linked from the Digital Collections page (Sept 2011).

**Metadata Guidelines**

The MWG met with digital collections managers to share information about the guidelines and to encourage implementation. We also continued to refine the guidelines (June-September 2011).

**Review of Documents and Activities**

The MWG reviewed and provided feedback on a number of projects and documents.

- Digital Strategies skills and project form (June 2011)
- University Photos Project proposal (October-November 2011)
- Digital Libraries Discussion Group (February 2012)
- Discussion with Data Working Group on EZID, DataCite metadata schema, and EZID pilot proposal (March 2012)
- Digital Strategies Strategic Plan (March-April 2012)
- Digital Scholarship & Consulting Services web copy and workflow (August 2012)
Self-Education/Study
The MWG has participated in the following webinars:
- ALCTS webinar: Aiming for a Robust Metadata Infrastructure for the Future (August 2011)
- NISO Webinar - Return on Investment (ROI) in Linking the Semantic Web Together (September 2011)
- NISO/DCMI Webinar: Taking Library Data From Here to There (February 2012)
- NISO/DCMI Webinar: Schema.org and Linked Data: Complementary Approaches to Publishing Data (April 2012)
- NISO/DCMI Webinar: Metadata for Managing Scientific Research Data (August 2012)

We participated in two Lyrasis trainings on Digital Preservation Metadata:
- Introduction to Preservation Metadata (May 2012)
- Advanced Preservation Metadata: How to Make it Happen (May 2012)

Throughout the year, the MWG also read and discussed articles as a group on metadata basics, shareable metadata, metadata for data, and preservation metadata.

Vision Statement
The MWG prepared a Vision for Metadata Activities for the Digital Strategies Group that described the current library metadata environment. It proposed a three-year vision that outlined concrete activities (October 2011). That Vision Statement was incorporated in the Digital Strategies Group Strategic Plan for 2012-2015.

Web Audit
To gain a better understanding of current metadata practices at model and peer institutions, the MWG completed a web audit of eleven institutions and evaluated each by infrastructure, services, organization, and marketing metadata practices. The MWG then authored a report on our findings with recommendations for improvements at UMass (September 2011).

Current Efforts

Introduction to Metadata Web Pages
MWG produced Web pages to introduce the concept of metadata, standards across disciplinary communities, and offer metadata services. We plan to launch these pages with the Digital Scholarship & Consulting Services page.

Preservation Metadata
MWG is working in concert with DCPWG to learn more about preservation metadata and how it could be applied in our libraries. We are currently learning about preservation metadata standards and plan to discuss the possibilities and challenges of preservation metadata implementation with digital collections managers. This work will be informed by the Five College Digital Preservation Task Force.
Future Projects

Consult On Digital Projects
Once the Libraries begin to advertise Digital Scholarship & Consulting Services, we hope to continue to consult with the UMass community on metadata practices.

Increase Discoverability of More Digital Collections
Work with collection managers to make their collections more discoverable. This will build on our past work on the guidelines development.

Support Implementation of Five College Digital Preservation Task Force Recommendations
The MWG would help to localize the outcome of the Five College Digital Preservation Task Force’s recommendations by working with collection managers to help implement preservation metadata as appropriate.

Acknowledgement
Thank you to all past and present members of the Metadata Working Group: Abby Baines, Meghan Banach, Danielle Kovacs, Rebecca Reznik-Zellen, Christine Turner, and Steve Folsom.