

Metadata, using the Dublin Core: a proposal for the library.

I propose that we use the Dublin Core as our metadata standard as we enhance the LMS web site, especially as we begin to plan for digital collections.

In short, the Dublin Core is a standard, easy, structured metadata framework that is gaining acceptance globally. It provides a short set of 15 elements that one can use to specify metadata. It's in effect a "baby" cataloging scheme for web pages.

The Dublin Core provides 15 elements like: date, creator, subject, description, etc.much like the elements of the MARC bibliographic records in KentLINK. Structuring the metadata with such a schema provides the possibility for much better indexing and hence search-and-retrieval of the web page content by web search engines. Possibilities also open up for local indexing, organization and retrieval.

Further, possibilities also open up for more cross-fertilization between our web site(s) and KentLINK, as there are translators (cross-walks) that can convert MARC (used in KentLINK) to Dublin Core (DC) and vice-versa. Records from one system could be translated and loaded into the other. For example, KentLINK could contain a record for an important web page.

An example: <http://sunsite.Berkeley.EDU/>
<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 3.2//EN">
<HTML>
<HEAD>
<TITLE>Berkeley Digital Library SunSITE</TITLE>
<!-- METADATA using the Dublin Core -->
<LINK REL = SCHEMA.dc HREF="http://purl.org/metadata/dublin_core">
<META NAME="DC.title" CONTENT="Berkeley Digital Library SunSITE">
<META NAME="DC.creator" CONTENT="Roy Tennant">
<META NAME="DC.publisher" CONTENT="The Library, University of California, Berkeley">
<META NAME="DC.description" CONTENT="Digital collections and services of the University of California, Berkeley Library and tools, information, and resources for digital library developers.">
<META NAME="DC.identifier" CONTENT="http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/index.cgi">
<META NAME="DC.subject" CONTENT="digital libraries">
<META NAME="DC.subject" CONTENT="digital library">
</HEAD>

I'd like our web pages including the home page, major dept or area or service pages, and certainly those pages that will deliver digital collections, to include metadata like this.

Further reading:

Intro and summary of DC: <http://www.dlib.org/dlib/december00/weibel/12weibel.html>

Intro and usage guide to DC: <http://purl.org/dc/documents/wd/usageguide-20000716.htm>

A paper illustrating the coming fusion (my prediction) of library catalogs and web engines/databases:
<http://www.govst.edu/users/gddcasey/sac/MetadataReport.html>

Getting started with the RDF and metadata at the W3C: <http://www.w3.org/RDF/FAQ>

The mother of all metadata info pages: <http://www.ifla.org/II/metadata.htm>