

Catalogers Group Meeting Minutes of September 27, 2007

Present: Melissa Beck, Valerie Bross, Peter Fletcher, Behzad Allahyar, Nora Avetyan, Claudia Horning, Chamyra Kincy, Nancy Norris, Laura Horwitz, Paul Priebe, Hermine Vermeij, Raphael Villena, Shohreh Zandieh, Louise Ratliff, Rhonda Lawrence, John Riemer, Gabriel Cardenas, Silvia Mariscal, Angela Riggio, Elaine Sakamoto, Nour Soufi, and Gia Aivazian (Recorder).

Guests: Stephen Davison and Lisa McAulay.

The second of the two presentations on the Digital Library Program on Thursday, September 27 in Room 194 in Kinross South was as entertaining and interesting as the first which took place on Monday, September 24. The presentation was conducted by Stephen Davison and it concerned itself with the topic of forthcoming changes in the creation of metadata in the digital world.

Before introducing the new system, Mr. Davison described what had gone before, such as the creation of metadata for the Hoover collection of images of the UCLA Campus. A descriptive metadata table was used as a finding tool and the structure was Dublin Core. The system had 15 elements at its disposal but some elements did not allow for multiple values to be added. With the AIDS Posters project, based on a recommendation by Angela Riggio, the Digital Library Program opted to use VRA Core, a schema developed to describe digital art objects. Records in the AIDS Posters show three levels of description: collection level, description of the original work of art level, and the image reproduction level.

Now the Digital Library Program has developed a new Digital Library Collection System (DLCS). The DLCS replaces the individual databases previously created project-by-project. The new system, based on Dublin Core records, will provide a single database for all projects. This will have many benefits. For example, an authority file created for one project can be used for another. Three other benefits of the system are that all fields are repeatable except title proper; all fields are controllable; and all fields can be qualified. (Note: Even though the title is non-repeatable, alternate titles may be entered.) However, the DLCS has also required some compromises. In migrating the data from the AIDS Posters project, some aspects could not be retained. For example, we are no longer able to qualify titles by language.

For details of Mr. Davison's presentation, please visit the audio file under "Presentation on the Digital Library Collection System" at:

http://unitdev.library.ucla.edu/cataloging/erc_erig/index.cfm which was prepared by Valerie Bross.

With the new approach, the three-tier structure will change to two. Detailed description of images of the work is not very important to the Digital Library needs as it might be to a museum or a slide library. They are able to produce qualifiers on subjects, but are not able to qualify titles by language, however. All data will be dealt with directly through the web. In the new system all the fields can be duplicated except for title, but we can have alternate titles. They don't intend to capture everything that is on VRA. VRA is to be used for specific purposes. Metadata will be transformed to Dublin Core and MODS. In this new digital world, everything will be repeatable, controlled, and qualifiable.

Gia Aivazian