Metadata in Action: Notes from the Field

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<arrangement>

• Metadata jobs
  – Defining “metadata job”
  – Education
  – Work experience
  – How to land a metadata job

• Metadata work
  – Research data metadata
Metadata Jobs
What do we mean by “metadata job”?

- A job whose responsibilities include adopting creative approaches to addressing metadata challenges
- Not necessarily in libraries/archives
- Not necessarily with “metadata” in the job title
Education: Elise

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<ead>

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS AUTHORITIES
Education: Ayla
Jobs: Elise

**Metadata Production Specialist**
**2013-2015**

- Coordinated metadata production workflow
- Developed policies and documented procedures
- Administered Data Seal of Approval application process
- Advised on website content management

**Data Curation Specialist**
**2015-present**

- Developing an institutional data repository
- Advise researchers on best practices for managing research data
- Coordinate development of policy framework
Jobs: Ayla

Web Services Fellow
2012 – 2014
• Coordinated and managed web development projects
• Created and managed content for library website and Intranet
• Systems admin for web applications

Metadata Librarian
Assistant Professor
2014 – Now
• Responsible for metadata issues in schol. comm., data curation, preservation
• Scholarly & preservation repository metadata
• Workshops, consultations on description for research data
How to land a metadata job

• Take LIS 445—hey, great job!
• Be proactive about learning new technologies
  – programming
  – RDF/linked data
• Seek out metadata projects
• Get experience in public speaking & explaining metadata
• Remember that MLS=expertise
How to land a metadata job

• Get involved in metadata communities
  – Have a favorite standard?
    • Join their listserv
    • Volunteer to work with them
  – Track these Twitter hashtags:
    • #mashcat
    • #code4lib
    • #critcat/#critlib/#radlibs
How to land a metadata job

• The job hunt struggle is real
• Do what you need to do to stay balanced
• Get new eyes on your resumes and cover letters
• Trust that everyone thinks phone interviews are awkward
• Every interview is practice
• Remember that you have expertise
Research Data Metadata
Where is metadata work in a Research Data Service?

- Repository development
- Research data management & sharing consultations
- Research data management & sharing instruction
Repository Development

• Interoperability with existing Library repositories
• Mapping to DataCite
• Fitting in with linked data efforts at the Library
• User interface design and metadata guidance
Research data management & sharing consultations

• What can researchers do to organize their research data for themselves, their teams, and others?
  – Establish a file naming convention
  – Create a readme.txt file
  – Use a standard schema to keep track of pertinent information about your data

(it’s all metadata, even if we don’t call it that)
Research data management & sharing instruction

• Standing workshop: “Documentation and Organization for Data and Processes”
  – File naming, readmes, metadata schemas...

• Perhaps a workshop on keywords? Depositing data into a discipline repository?
Metadata librarians have expertise that researchers don’t know they want

• When we explain what we know and do in ways that are accessible, researchers, so far, have been grateful:
  – “I’m so glad you all are the ones thinking about this stuff.” – Illinois researcher
  – “We look forward to continuing our dialogue regarding data, data systems, protocols, etc. I have even researched different file naming conventions, and oh my, so many options that I was clueless about. We will soon be adopting a format that will best for our unit.” – Illinois researcher
Questions?