

# 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

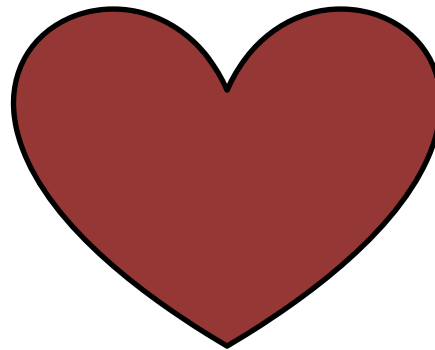


# Education: Elise

SIMMONS

BOSTON · MASSACHUSETTS

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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS AUTHORITIES

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# 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

UNIVERSITY of **HOUSTON** | LIBRARIES

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## 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?