



Metadata
Standards
Directory
WORKING GROUP

Summary of the activities of the Metadata Standards Directory Working Group

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DC-2015: Current Developments in Metadata for Research Data

3 September 2015

research data sharing without barriers
rd-alliance.org



Motivation

Standards are a Good Thing

BUT

only if everyone uses the same standards:

Not enough standards → everyone does their own thing

Too many standards → things get stuck in silos



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Is there a standard that suits my purpose?

Yes → Use it!

Sort of... → Adapt it!

No → New standard needed...

MSDWG Goals

1. Develop an **RDA Metadata Standards Directory** listing standards relevant for research data
 - ▶ Comprehensive
 - ▶ Easy for anyone to contribute or update
2. Define and develop **use cases** for research metadata
3. Develop a plan for long-term growth and maintenance of the directory



Stakeholder engagement

Stakeholders

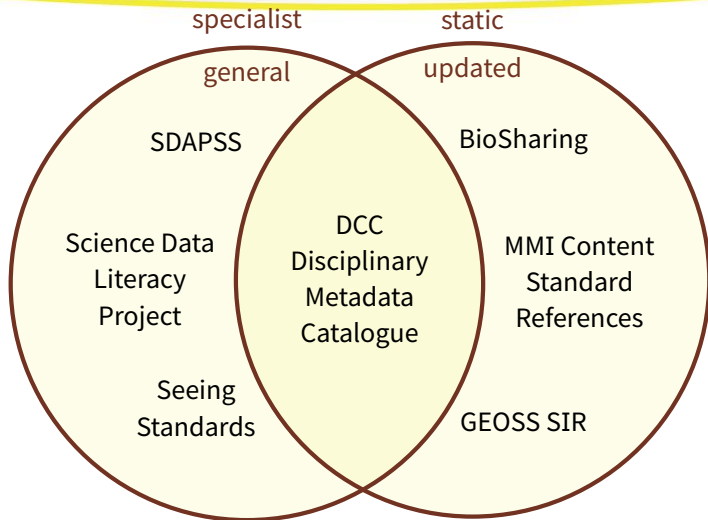
- ▶ researchers
- ▶ data managers
- ▶ data scientists
- ▶ research support staff
- ▶ tool developers
- ▶ repositories
- ▶ agencies
- ▶ societies

Outreach

- ▶ CAMP-4-DATA at DC-2013, Lisbon:
26 participants from 15 countries
- ▶ International Digital Curation Conference
2014, San Francisco (A. Ball)
- ▶ RDA-EU Working Group Core Meeting,
2014, Garching, Munich (J. Greenberg)
- ▶ Working Group mailing list



Existing work



Step One: Expand the DCC directory

Why? DCC directory was

- ▶ tightly focused on metadata-for-reuse;
- ▶ aimed at UK HE;
- ▶ mostly the work of two people, so incomplete in some disciplines.

How?

- ▶ Survey to enhance the directory: <http://bit.ly/1fToaqd>
 - ▶ See also C. I. Perez, *The RDA's Metadata Standards Directory: Information gathering* (Master's dissertation, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 2013).
- ▶ By late 2013, added:
 - ▶ 14 new standards
 - ▶ 4 new profiles/extensions
 - ▶ 13 new tools for working with metadata

Step Two: Develop use cases

Plenary 3 (Dublin):

- ▶ Tool developers
- ▶ Data custodians
- ▶ Journal editors, funders
- ▶ Librarians
- ▶ PURLs for standards

Plenary 4 (Amsterdam):

- ▶ Geospatial engineering
- ▶ Materials science synchrotron data
- ▶ Humanities and Social Sciences
- ▶ Cultural heritage



Step Three: Build a community-powered directory

<http://rd-alliance.github.io/metadata-directory/>

Metadata	MIDAS-Heritage
RDA Metadata Directory	A British cultural heritage standard for recording information on buildings, archaeological sites, shipwrecks, parks and gardens, battlefields, areas of interest and artefacts.
Edit this page	Sponsored by the Forum on Information Standards in Heritage, MIDAS Version 1.1 was released in October 2012.
Getting Started	Summary ✎ Edit
View the standards	Standard Website http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/midas-heritage/
View the extensions	Specification http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/content/publications/publicationsNew/guidelines-standards/midas-heritage/midas-heritage-2012-v1_1.pdf
View the tools	Related Vocabularies
View the use cases	INSCRIPTION
Browse by subject areas	Subjects
	Arts and Humanities
	Social and Behavioral Sciences
	Disciplines
	Archaeology
	Architecture
	Building Conservation
	Heritage Studies
	Historical and Philosophical Studies
	History by Area
	Extensions ✎ Add
	CARARE metadata schema ✎ Edit
	An application profile of the MIDAS Heritage standard intended for delivering metadata to the CARARE service environment about an organisation's online collections, monument inventory database and digital objects.

- ▶ Pages are generated from simple easy-to-edit text files.
- ▶ Maintainers can edit the pages directly.
- ▶ Anyone can fork the whole directory, make changes on their copy, and submit a pull request.

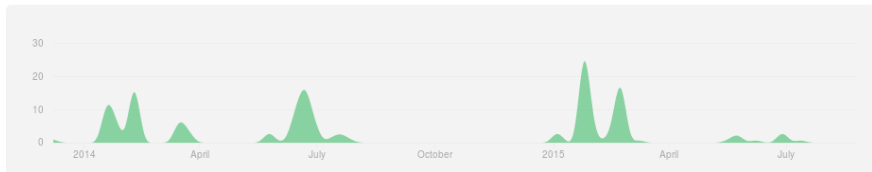
Usage

GitHub

Dec 8, 2013 – Aug 25, 2015

Contributions to gh-pages, excluding merge commits

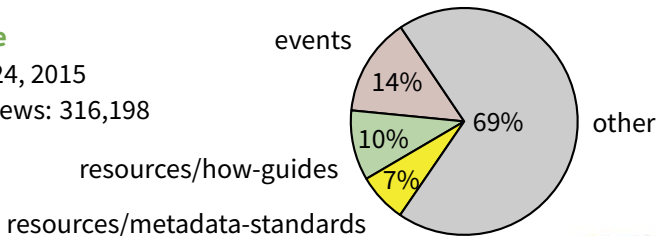
Contributions: **Commits** ▾



DCC Website

Jan 1 – Aug 24, 2015

Total page views: 316,198



What's next?

(Proposed) **Metadata Standards Catalog Working Group** (MSCWG)

- ▶ Develop the Metadata Standards Directory into a Metadata Standards Catalog...
- ▶ Allow records to be added, searched and retrieved by API.
- ▶ Provide representations of records in machine-understandable form.
- ▶ Develop, with community, recommendations of which standard(s) should be used for which purpose.
- ▶ Provide information on elements defined by each standard, and the purpose they serve.

<https://rd-alliance.org/groups/metadata-standards-catalog-working-group.html>

Acknowledgements

Fellow MSDWG co-chairs

- ▶ Jane Greenberg, (MRC)
- ▶ Keith Jeffery
- ▶ Rebecca Koskela, DataONE

DCC Disciplinary Metadata Catalogue

- ▶ Liz Bedford, DCC

Survey and GitHub work

- ▶ Sean Chen, (MRC)
- ▶ Cristina Perez, (MRC)
- ▶ Kate Anne Alderete, DataONE
- ▶ Adrian Ogletree, (MRC)

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Thank you for your attention

Alex Ball: <http://alexball.me.uk/>

Metadata Standards Directory Working Group: <https://rd-alliance.org/working-groups/metadata-standards-directory-working-group.html>

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