About Me

• Professor and Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Affairs

• Teach
  – Digital archives, data curation, and digital preservation

• Research area:
  – Archival use and users
  – Research data preservation and data reuse
Card catalogs
Metadata, Metadata

• Data Structure Standards
  – MARC
  – EAD

• Data content standards
  – RDA
  – DACS
What is metadata?

• Data about data

• Data for people
  • “Data associated with objects which relieves their potential users of having to have full advance knowledge of their existence and characteristics.”
    – Desire project: http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/metadata/desire/overview/rev_ti.htm
Metadata can:

- Refer to data in any form
- Refer to data at any or all levels of aggregation

Example eJournals:
- Journal
- Issue
- Article
  - Submission
  - Preprint
  - Postprint
  - Images, graphs
Metadata can ...

- Be created, captured or added at any stage of an information management and use
Description or Representation

- Description
  - Surrogate

- Representation
  - Metadata about the real thing as well as the representation of the thing
  - Descriptive information about the digital versions of actual collection content as well as metadata for that content
David Weinberger:

“Metadata isn’t what it used to be”
Metadata as Data

• Digital Images
  – Data or metadata for the real photograph?

• GPS
  – Data itself
  – Metadata for objects and specimens
Linked Data

Ovis orientalis (http://eol.org/pages/311906/)

Sheep

Sheep, wild

Wild sheep

O. Orientalis

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Metadata as Context

- LC classification
- Age / Date
- Provenance
Context as Metadata

- Finding aids
- Codebooks
- Field notebooks
- Links
- Understanding meaning through context
• Get to items through metadata
• Understand items through context
• Context is about relationships
Card Catalog to Digital Library

• Different modes of establishing relationships
  – Card catalogs: subject, authors, titles
  – OPAC/ILS: expand search similarity parameters, simulate proximity on the shelf
  – Digital Library: comparison, juxtaposition
  – Web: links
Zoological Data Example

- Ecosystems change
- Specimens degrade
- Even if a zoologist can find the exact stream and the exact place…
You can’t step in the same stream twice.
Context and Relationships

- Field notes
- Photographs
- Specimens
- GPS data
- Genetic information
- MRI images
  - AND METADATA (Darwin Core) describing and linking different contextual information
Metadata Transformation

• From card catalogs to digital libraries:
  – Description to representation
  – Finding versus understanding
  – Expanding relationships beyond subject, author, and publisher, etc.
  – Different types of relationships
    • Surrogates, explanatory, representations
  – Metadata to data
Thank you!

Questions