

Metadata for All: Sharing across Cultural Heritage Communities

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First: One for all Cabinets of Curiosity



Joseph Arnold, Kunstkammer der Regensburger Familie Dimpfel, 1668, Ulmer Museum

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First: One for all Cabinets of Curiosity

- Undifferentiated collecting activity in the 17th / 18th century
- World of information gets united under one roof
 - Access: Gentleman scholar has the world at his fingertips
 - Economics: unimportant (leisure class activity)

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Then: One for each Libraries, Archives and Museums

- Cabinets of curiosity
 - Foundational collections of modern library, archive & museum (for example: British Museums)
- World of information gets divided into separate domains
 - Access: Citizens have access to the cultural and political information of the modern nationstate
 - Economics: Achieve efficiency by managing one particular type of information
- More info
 - Hedstrom, Margaret and King, John Leslie. "On the LAM: Library, Archive and Museum Collections in the Creation and Maintenance of Knowledge Communities"
<http://www.si.umich.edu/~jking/OECD-LAM-published.pdf>





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**Now: One for all (online)
Libraries + Archives + Museums = LAM?**

- World of information united online
 - Access: online denizens want meaningful access to cultural and political information of our global economy
 - Economics: shared tools and technologies for describing, managing, integrating information
- Where is the LAM?
 - With us!
 - Crafting the “collective collection” of our cultural heritage across professional communities
 - With them?
 - Disclosing our collective collection to search engines (Google, Yahoo, MSN, etc.)

**From “One for each” to Crafting
the Collective Collection**

Parallel technologies in cultural domains

| | <u>Visual Res.</u> | <u>Museum</u> | <u>Library</u> | <u>Archive</u> |
|--|--------------------|---------------|--------------------------|----------------|
|  Data Structure | VRA Core | CDWA | MARC | EAD |
|  Data Content | CCO | CCO | AACR2 (RDA) | DACS |
|  Data Format | XML | XML | XML/ISO2709 | XML |
|  Data Exchange | OAI | OAI | OAI Z39.50 SRU/SRW | OAI |

| | <u>Visual Res. Libraries Archives Museums</u> | <u>Material Culture Libraries Archives Museums</u> | <u>Bibliographic Libraries Archives Museums</u> | <u>Archival Libraries Archives Museums</u> |
|---|---|--|---|--|
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Library, archive, museum integration

- Agreement across LAM on cataloging by material type
- Primary concern: Where do “like” materials from LAM intersect
 - Where cultural materials intersect
 - Where bibliographic materials intersect
 - Where archival materials intersect
 - Etc.
- Secondary concern: Where all materials intersect
 - Where cultural materials, bibliographic materials, archival materials, etc. from LAM intersect

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Disclosing the Collective Collection to Search Engines

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Meeting the user: Interfacing with Search Engines

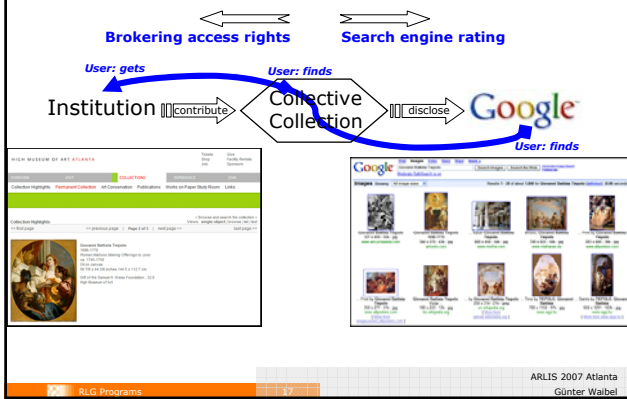
- Disclosing to search engines
 - Most effective at aggregate level of the “collective collection”
- Example
 - Bibliographic: Worldcat.org

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The screenshot shows a Google search results page for the query "Cataloging Cultural Objects". The search bar at the top contains the text "Cataloging Cultural Objects" and "Search Books". Below the search bar, there are several search results. The first result is "Cataloging Cultural Objects: A Guide to Describing Cultural Works and Their Images" by Merrilee Grice, published in 2006. The second result is "Art and Cultural Heritage: Law, Policy and Practice" by Barbara F. Hoffman, published in 2009. The third result is "The Authority of Everyday Objects: A Cultural History of West German Industrial Design" by Fred Busch, published in 2004. The fourth result is "Caring for American Indian Objects: A Practical and Cultural Guide" by the National Archives and Records Administration, published in 2003. The page also includes a "Books" section with "Books 1 - 10 of 966 on Cataloging Cultural Objects (0.59 seconds)" and a "Sponsored Links" section with various links like "Social Network Software" and "Catalog Items at Target".

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Information Flow: Cultural Materials



Thank you!

More:

Metadata for All: Descriptive Standards and Metadata Sharing
across Libraries, Archives and Museums
by Mary W. Elings and Günter Waibel
First Monday, volume 12, number 3 (March 2007),
http://firstmonday.org/issues/issue12_3/elings/index.html

Questions & follow-up:
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