METADATA

What Is It, & Why Is It Important?

MADISON CHARTIER

Metadata Librarian, Oklahoma State University

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Outline

I. What is metadata?

    A. What has always been there

    B. Humans and machines

II. Why is metadata important?

    A. Resource discoverability

    B. Systems interoperability

III. What tools do we use?

    A. Schemas

    B. Controlled vocabularies

    C. Metadata Application Profiles (MAPs)

IV. Project

WHAT IS METADATA?

What Has Always Been There
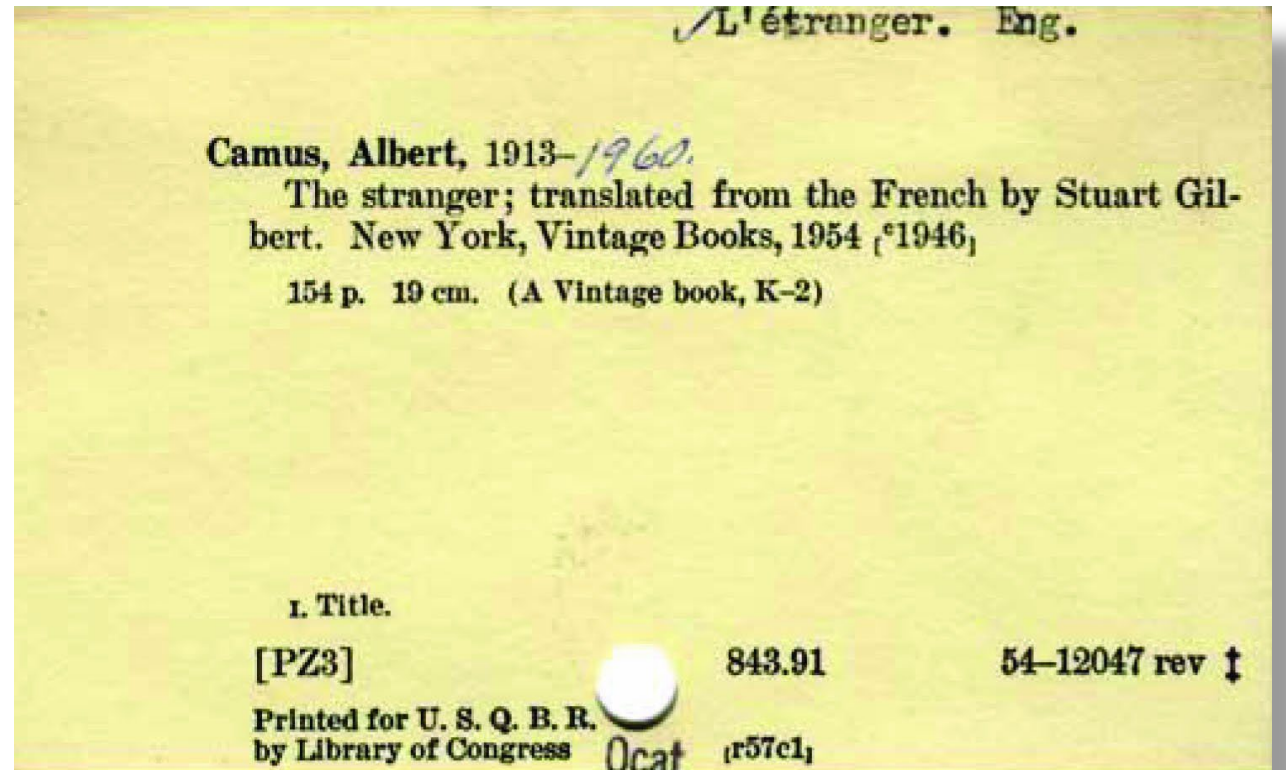Humans and Machines

What Has Always Been There

Bibliographic resource description

- We know:
  - *what these values are*
  - *how they're formatted*
  - *how they're organized*
- But computers don't!

Metadata = *"Data about data"*

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Metadata is bibliographic description for the digital age!

Humans and Machines

MARC

```
100 1_ |a Niemyer, Elizabeth Schnebly, |d 1925–
245 14 |a The reign of the horse : |b the horse in print, 1500–1715 : an exhibition /
260 __ |a Washington, D.C. : |b Folger Library Publications, |c c1991.
300 __ |a 64 p. : |b ill. ; |c 22 x 28 cm.
500 __ |a Catalog of an exhibition on display Oct. 3, 1991–Jan. 25, 1992.
504 __ |a Includes bibliographical references (p. 62-64).
650 _0 |a Horses |v Bibliography |v Exhibitions.
610 20 |a Folger Shakespeare Library |v Exhibitions.
655 _7 |a Exhibition catalogs. |2 rbgenr
700 1_ |a Scola, Susan.
700 1_ |a Dent, Anthony Austen.
710 2_ |a Folger Shakespeare Library.
```

2

Non-MARC

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<rdf:RDF xmlns:rdf="http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#"
xmlns:dc="http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/">
  <rdf:Description>
    <dc:title>Homage to Catalonia,</dc:title>
    <dc:creator>Orwell, George,1903-1950.</dc:creator>
    <dc:type>text</dc:type>
    <dc:publisher>London, Secker and Warburg</dc:publisher>
    <dc:date>[1938]</dc:date>
    <dc:language>eng</dc:language>
  </rdf:Description>
</rdf:RDF>
```

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Balance machine functionality & human compatibility.

WHY IS METADATA IMPORTANT?

Resource Discoverability
Systems Interoperability

Resource Discoverability

What <u>details</u> enable user access?

Resource Specifics

What is the **title** of the resource?

Who created the resource?

When was the resource **created**?

What is the genre/material of the resource?

User Interests

What is the resource **about**?

Why was the resource **created**?

Why is the resource **important**?

What other materials are related?

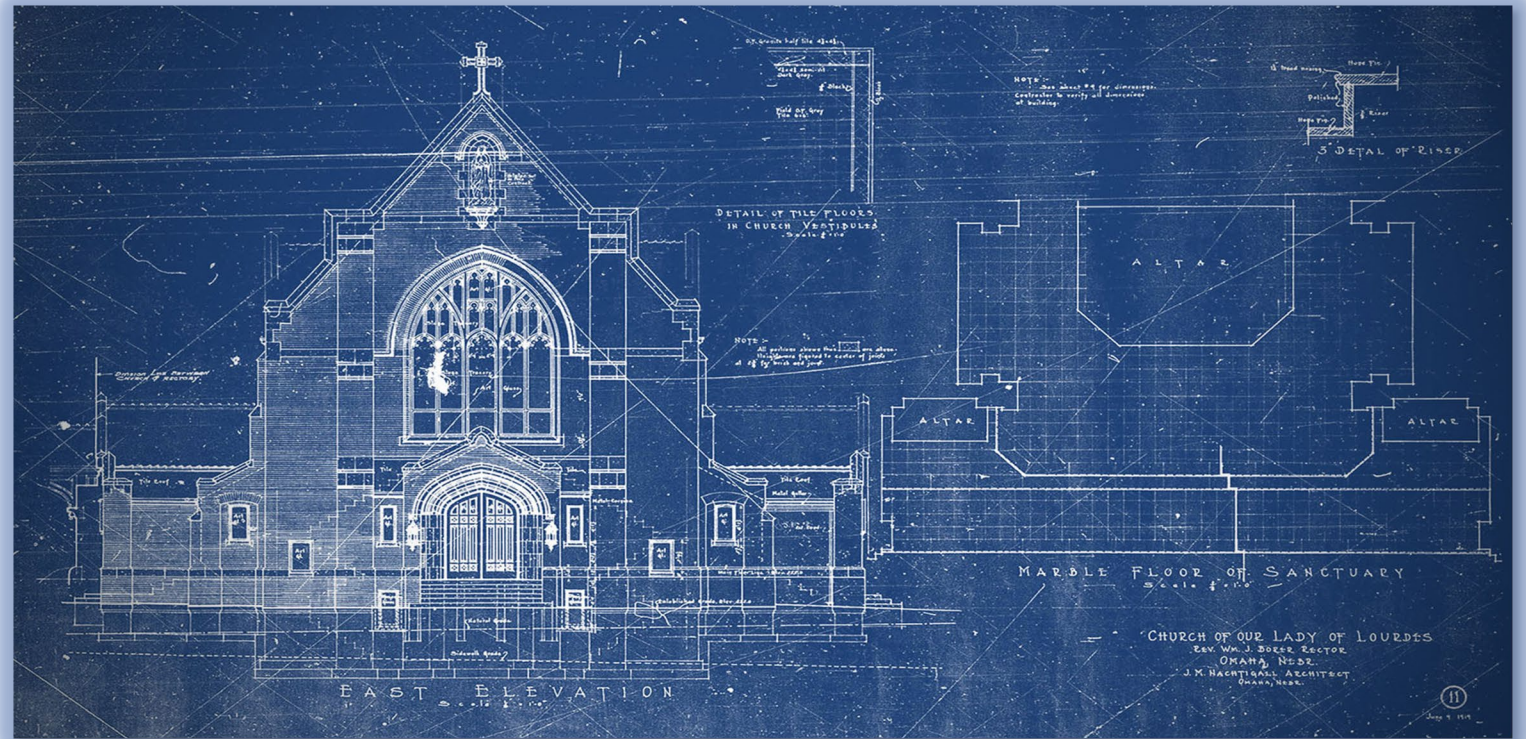## More <u>description</u> = more <u>access</u> = greater <u>discoverability</u>

Systems Interoperability

Goals:

- **Comprehensible, exchangeable metadata**
- **Universal language**

Method & Means:

- **Content description standards**
- **Open metadata standards**
- **Controlled vocab. & authority files**

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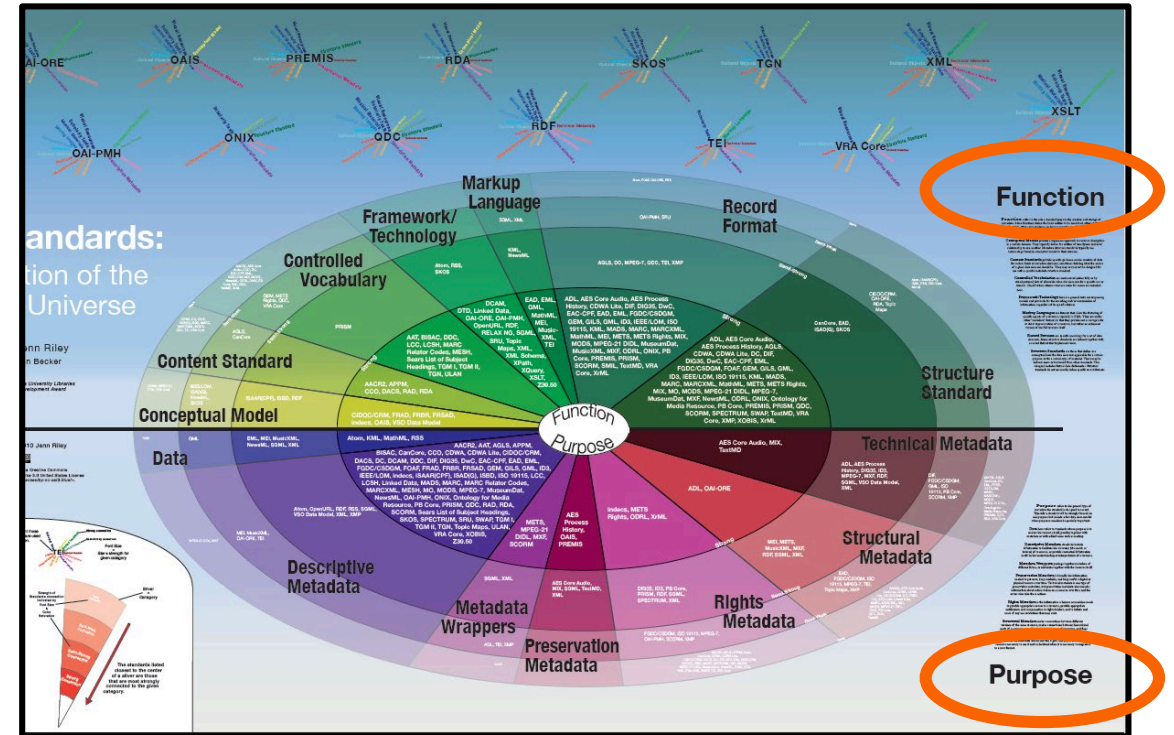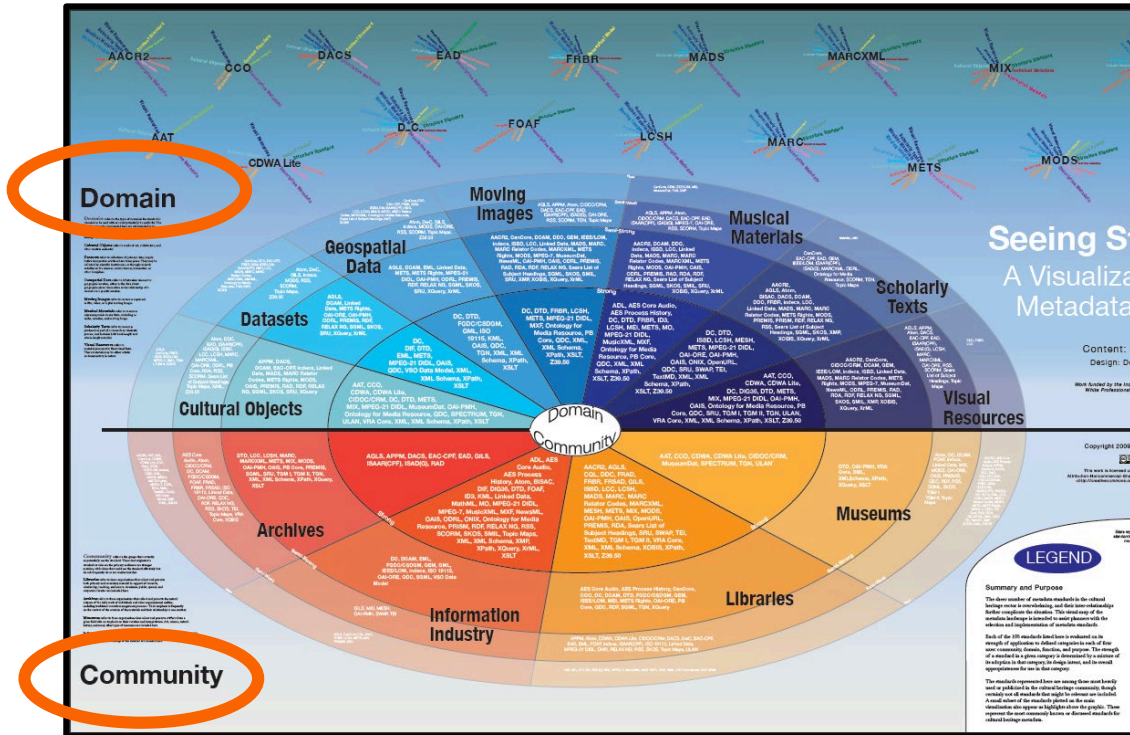**Clear, consistent language = successful navigation & discovery**

WHAT TOOLS DO WE USE?

Schemas
Controlled Vocabularies
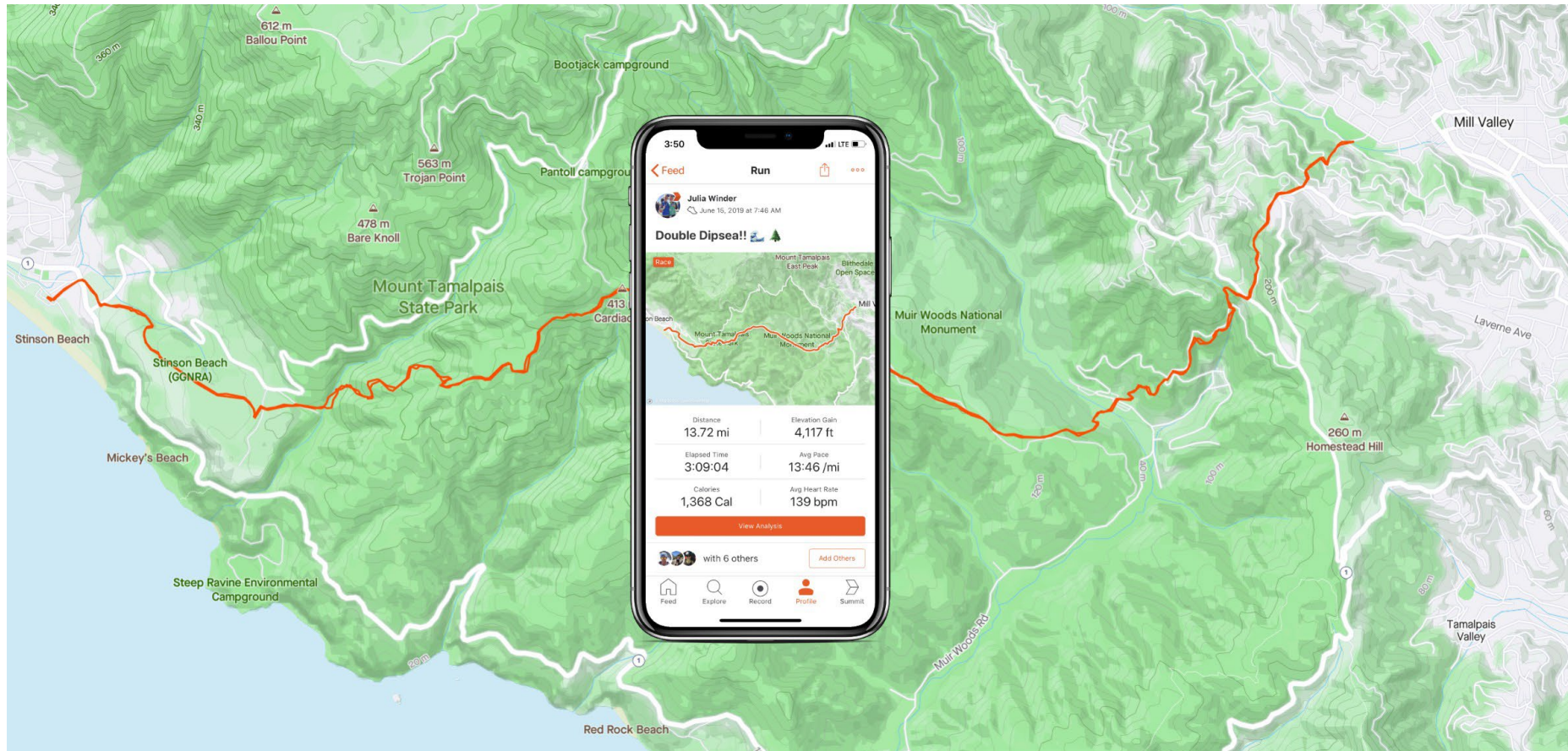Metadata Application Profiles

Schemas

Riley, J. (2010.) Seeing Standards: A Visualization of the Metadata Universe. Indiana University Libraries. http://jennriley.com/metadatamap/.

Controlled Vocabularies

5

Common reference depends on common shared language.

Metadata Application Profiles (MAPs)

6

Every collection needs a MAP to guide its metadata creation.

PROJECT

Underground Newspapers: The Drummer

Madison Chartier

Digital Resources & Discovery Services, Edmon Low Library

E | madison.chartier@okstate.edu
215A Edmon Low Library

https://info.library.okstate.edu/c.php?g=916329

THANK YOU!

Images

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