Interpreting Dublin Core Fields in Omeka

Excerpted and adapted from https://omeka.org/codex/Working_with_Dublin_Core

The following Dublin Core fields are available in Omeka, together with some suggestions on interpreting the fields. The fields are vague by design.

Title A name given to the resource. Examples: title of a painting, photo, document; the name of a person when using the "person" item type; the name of a lesson plan.

Subject The topic of the resource. Typically, the topic will be represented using keywords, key phrases, or classification codes. Recommended best practice is to use a controlled vocabulary. To describe the spatial or temporal topic of the resource, use the Coverage element. Examples: Library of Congress subject headings; subject-specific nomenclature.

Description An account of the resource. Examples: a photo caption; descriptive information of an artifact/museum object.

Creator An entity primarily responsible for making the resource. Examples: Author/authors; artists; photographers; institutional authors or producers, such as university or federal agency.

Source The resource from which the described resource is derived. The described resource may be derived from the related resource in whole or in part. Examples: a digital collection or division of an archive, museum, or library.

Publisher An entity responsible for making the resource available. Examples: actual publisher, if there is one; entity or consortium publishing digital materials.

Date A point or period of time associated with an event in the lifecycle of the resource. Date may be used to express temporal information at any level of granularity. *Date is one of the trickiest fields to fill. You will want to decide how best to use it for your project for consistency. There is an open text field for date so that you can reflect the type of date information you have whether it is a very specific date MM/DD/YYYY or if it is "circa 1940".*

Contributor An entity responsible for making contributions to the resource. Examples: person who contributed a story or file for an Omeka collecting project; owner or donor of collected objects.

Rights Information about rights held in and over the resource. Typically, rights information includes a statement about various property rights associated with the resource, including intellectual property rights. Examples: spell out conditions of use for specific items here; Creative Commons type; Public Domain.

Format The file format, physical medium, or dimensions of a resource. Examples include size and duration. Recommended best practice is to use a controlled vocabulary such as the Internet Media Types (MIME).

Language A language of the resource. Examples: English; Russian; Spanish, et al.

Type The nature or genre of the resource. To describe the file format, physical medium, or dimensions of the resource, use the Format element. Examples: For consistency, use item type controlled vocabulary provided by Omeka: Document, Moving Image, Oral History, Sound, Still Image, Website, Event, Email, Lesson Plan, Hyperlink, Person, or Interactive Resource.

Coverage : The spatial or temporal topic of the resource, the spatial applicability of the resource, or the jurisdiction under which the resource is relevant. Spatial topic and spatial applicability may be a named place or a location specified by its geographic coordinates. Temporal topic may be a named period, date, or date range. A jurisdiction may be a named administrative entity or a geographic place to which the resource applies. Recommended best practice is to use a controlled vocabulary such as the Thesaurus of Geographic Names [TGN]. Where appropriate, named places or time periods can be used in preference to numeric identifiers such as sets of coordinates or date ranges.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Based on the results of your Primary Source Analysis, what six metadata fields do you think would be most relevant to prioritize in the class Omeka exhibit? Explain.

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Based on what matters in this class, which six metadata fields do you think are the most important to prioritize in the class Omeka exhibit? Explain.

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Based on your own research interests and ideas for your exhibit contribution, which six metadata fields do you think are the most important to complete in the class Omeka exhibit? Explain.

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