

WORKSHOP 6

Collection level metadata: needs and solutions

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In the world of integration of heterogeneous resources it is pretty easy to integrate under the umbrella of information gateways records representing particular documents [thanks to the MARC format and DC metadata elements] with full texts and other documents [thanks to standard numbering and identifiers].

The situation is much more difficult when we want to navigate our users to collections strong in particular subjects. Collection level description in many libraries is often poor or non-existent for both "classical" and electronic documents. Provided that some collection level description is available, it is hardly comparable with other libraries.

There are several questions to be discussed:

Is internationally understandable and comparable collection level description needed?

Is it feasible to reach some level of standardisation at the collection level description based on standards already used internationally? [Renardus Collection Level Description for subject gateways - based on the RSLP Collection Description Schema, with some additional elements, Conspectus method].

Is it feasible to combine the "modern" collection level description metadata [such as Renardus] with the "classical" ones [such as Conspectus] when both of them are connected to the same DDC classification?

7 March 2003, Bohdana Stoklasova