IF YOU BUILD IT, WILL THEY COME?
METADATA FOR DIGITAL LEARNING OBJECTS

Shona R. Dippie, M.L.I.S
Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library, University of Utah, Salt Lake City

Introduction:

Many health sciences educators invest considerable time and effort in developing their own multimedia curricular resources. As these collections grow, the need to organize and enable access to these resources becomes increasingly apparent. Using a metadata standard and controlled vocabularies are integral to meeting these needs. Doing so facilitates resource discovery and sharing to the benefit of individual educators, institutions, and the entire community. The reusability and repurposing of multimedia learning objects are dependent upon meeting requisite interoperability standards.

Abstract:

This half-day tutorial will address issues related to cataloging digital learning objects or multimedia resources (images, videos, animations, tutorials, etc). Topics covered include: choosing a metadata standard (Qualified Dublin Core, IMS, etc.); using keywords and/or controlled vocabularies (MeSH, UMLS, etc.); and learning how to exchange metadata. Examples from traditional library catalogs (MARC) and the Health Education Assets Library (HEAL) system will be featured.

Cataloging Multimedia Activities:

1. Dublin Core & HEAL Metadata Schemas – Using information associated with a specific multimedia object, enter values for the appropriate Dublin Core and HEAL metadata elements. Discussion.
2. Keywords, MeSH, & UMLS Thesaurus – Discuss the factors involved in selecting appropriate descriptors to describe the subject content of digital learning objects.

Objectives:

This pre-workshop will promote:

- learning about different metadata standards including Dublin Core and HEAL;
- awareness of important factors in choosing an appropriate metadata standard and controlled vocabularies;
- understanding of the strengths and weaknesses associated with keyword vs. controlled vocabulary subject access;
- familiarity with SCORM, metadata crosswalks, and OAI; and
- sharing of different perspectives on and experience with metadata development and management.

Benefits:

Participants will learn about different metadata standards including MARC, Dublin Core, and IMS; learn how to choose appropriate metadata standards and controlled vocabularies for their application; gain understanding of controlled vocabulary vs. keyword access, as well as specific controlled vocabularies such as MeSH and the UMLS Thesaurus; acquire familiarity with XML, OAI, and metadata crosswalks; and have opportunities to ask questions, tackle hands-on exercises, and share their experiences with metadata issues for digital asset management.

A selected bibliography, fact sheets, metadata crosswalks, and other hand outs will be made available to participants for their reference.

Intended Audience:
This tutorial is designed for health science educators, content developers, and librarians.

Prerequisite Skills Required: None.

Limited to 20 attendees.

Presenter: Shona Dippie is Metadata Librarian for the Health Education Assets Library (HEAL) at the Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library, University of Utah. Her responsibilities include: producing and editing catalog records (assigning Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) and Unified Medical Language System (UMLS) Metathesaurus concept identifiers); creating metadata crosswalks; participating in the quality assurance process by applying established criteria; developing work flows, procedures, and policies; and researching new developments in metadata standards.