



How Can We Achieve

GLAM?

Understanding the Challenges to Integrating Metadata Across Museums, Archives, and Libraries

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With help from Megan Phillips, United States National Archives and Records Service

A common international standard for rare materials?

Why? And how?

26 February 2016, Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal

Sponsored by the IFLA Rare Books and Special Collections Section
and the Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal



What is GLAM?

G Galleries

L Libraries

A Archives

M Museums

LAM vs. GLAM

Annual Conference of CIDOC

Comité International pour la Documentation
International Committee for Documentation

5 - 10 September 2015

Documenting Diversity – Collections, Catalogues & Context

Inauguration by

Shri Narendra Kumar Sinha

Secretary, Ministry of Culture

Monday, 7 September 2015 at 10:15 am

National Museum Institute
of History of Art, Conservation & Museology

National Museum
New Delhi

CIDOC
COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL
POUR LA DOCUMENTATION

ICOM
INTERNATIONAL
COMMISSION ON
MUSEUMS



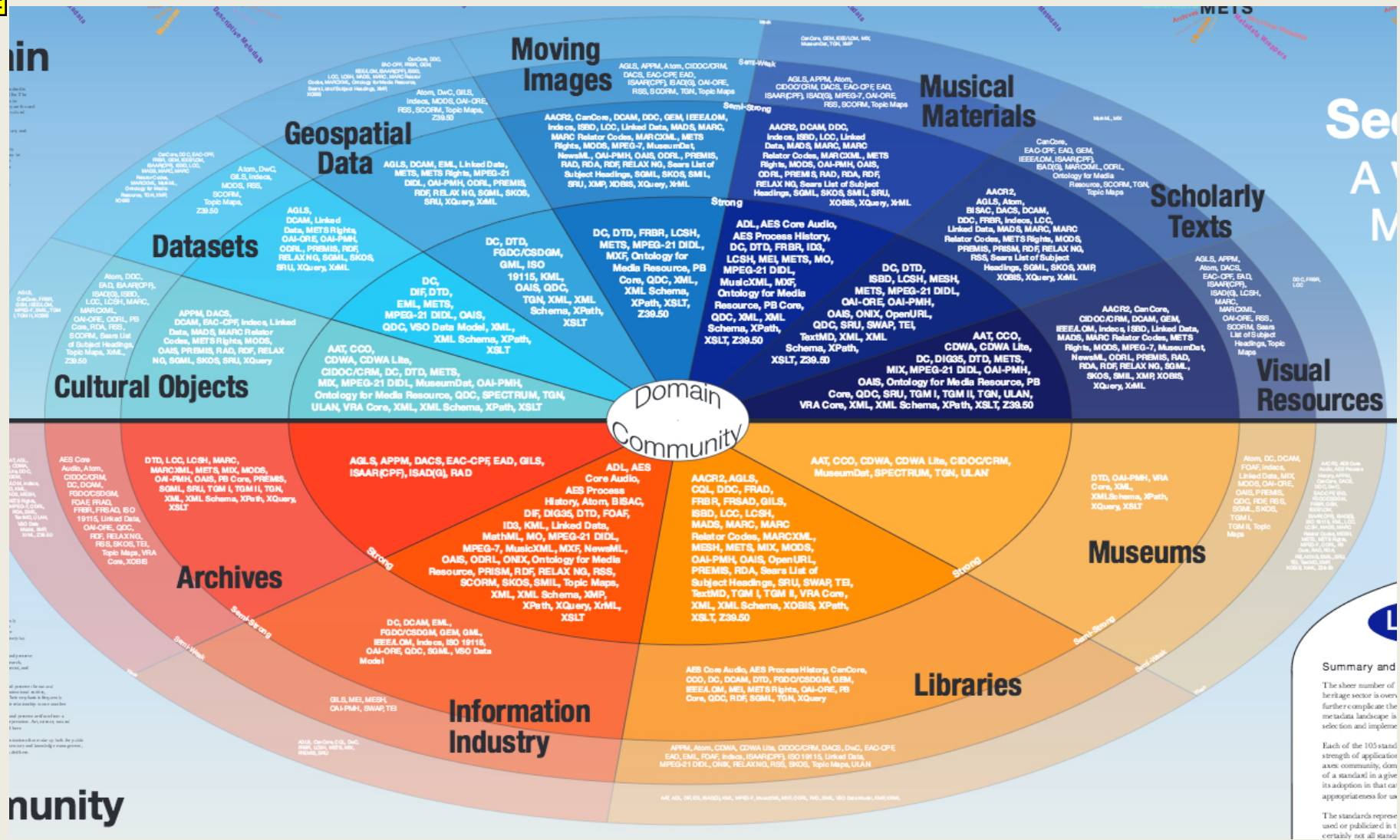


Three sectors



An edited transcript of the panel discussion is available:

http://network.icom.museum/fileadmin/user_upload/minisites/cidoc/AGM_2015/CIDOC_GLAM_Panel_Report_6_4.pdf



See
A
M

Summary and

The sheer number of heritage sector is covers further complicate the metadata landscape is selection and implement

Each of the 105 standard strength of application axes community, dom of a standard in a give its adoption in that appropriate for us

The standards represent used or published in t certainly not all stand

Jennifer Riley, Seeing Standards: A Visualisation of the Metadata Universe
<http://www.dlib.indiana.edu/~jenlrile/metadatamap/>

nunity



Current Activities: Museums

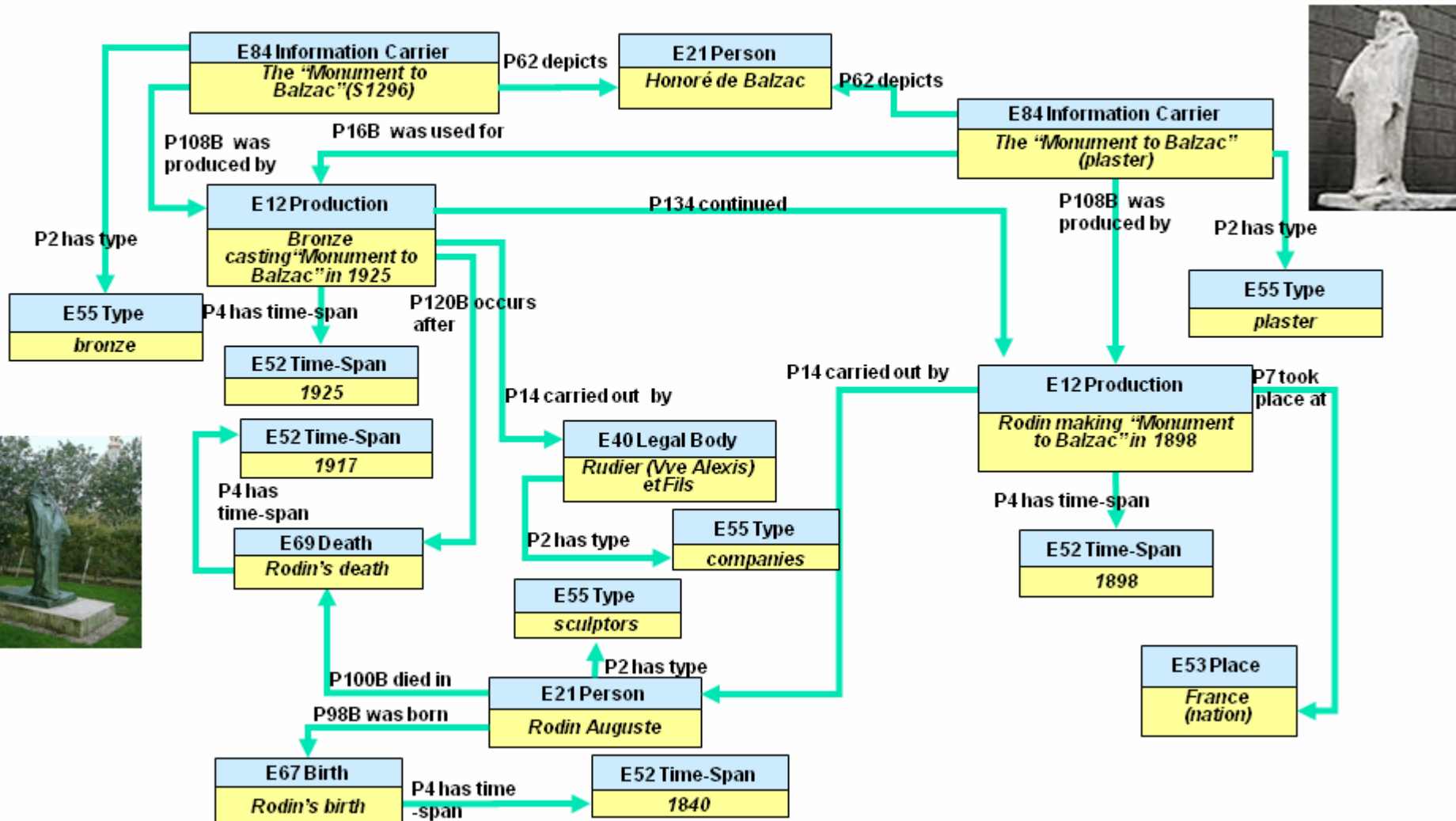
CIDOC-CRM: A Conceptual Reference Model

- Object description
- Subject analysis
- Provenance
- Exhibition history
- Publication history
- Rights analysis
- And more...

<http://www.cidoc-crm.org/>

“provides definitions and a formal structure for describing the implicit and explicit concepts and relationships used in cultural heritage documentation.”

Applications: Integration with CRM Core (1)





Current Activities: Libraries

FRBRoo – Object Oriented Approach to IFLA’s Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records

- Active development since 2003
- Version 1 issued and approved in January 2010
- Version 2.4 now in review: 230 pages

<http://www.ifla.org/node/1017>
1

“ ...an interpretation of the FR family of models using object-oriented methodology. . . [T]he ontology described in FRBRoo is based on the three entity-relationship models, FRBR, FRAD and FRSAD.”



Current Activities: Archives

ICA: EGAD – Expert Group on Archival Description

- Established in 2012
- Creating a conceptual model, Records in Contexts-Conceptual Model (RiC-CM)
- Creating an ontology, RiC-O, which will need to align with CIDOC-CRM and FRBRoo.

<http://www.ica.org/13799/the-experts-group-on-archival-description/about-the-egad.html>

“... a formal conceptual model ... to enable national, regional, and international collaboration in the archival community as well as with allied cultural heritage communities.”



Related Initiatives

- In the U.S: a joint committee of ALA/SAA/AAM – CALM (Committee on Archives, Libraries and Museums).

... designed to foster closer collaboration and encourage the development of common standards



Related Initiatives

Europeana and other large aggregators of digital content



Related Initiatives

In the US: Institution for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) instituted the Coalition to Advance Learning in Archives, Libraries, and Museums.

The vision of the Coalition is: to work in deliberate coordination across organizational boundaries to devise and strengthen sustainable continuing education and professional development programs that will transform the library, museum and archives workforce in ways that lead to measureable impact on our nation's communities.

<http://www.coalitiontoadvancelearning.org/about-us/history/>

This slide was added to the presentation on 2 March 2016.



Inherited Challenges

LIBRARIES: Long established tradition and culture of highly structured metadata; standardized data transmission standards; long tradition of public access to most metadata; resistance to change “what works for us”

ARCHIVES: Collection-level metadata based on context; Very little content analysis; Lack of uniformity and structure; Less adoption of international standards

MUSEUMS: work is internally focused; lack of descriptive standards; no standard transmission standards; no tradition of sharing metadata



The CIDOC Panel: August 2015

Moderators:

- David Farneth, Assistant Director, Getty Research Institute, USA
- Lorraine A. Stuart, Chief of Archives, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, USA

Invited Panelists:

- Gabriel Moore Forell Bevilacqua, Professor, Archival Science, Universidade Federal Fluminense, Brazil
- Emanuelle Delmas-Glass, Collections Data Manager, Yale Center for British Art, USA
- Monika Hagedorn-Saupe, Deputy Director, Institut für Museumsforschung SMB - PK, Germany
- Jennifer Riley, Associate Dean, Digital Initiatives, McGill University, Canada
- Regine Stein, Head of Information Technology of the German Documentation Center for Art History, Bildarchiv Foto Marburg, Germany
- Reem Weda, Information Specialist, RKD - Netherlands Institute for Art History, The Netherlands



- The panel was born of frustration with the long process.
- Focused on economic, technological, educational, and cultural challenges.
- Greater awareness could lead to faster implementation.





Group Discussion

The Question:

“How can we better understand and overcome the challenges to integrating metadata across museums, archives, and libraries, especially the first step of aligning our three conceptual models and then implementing the result?”



Recommendations of the Panel

Do you agree? Or disagree?

Do you see this issue differently?

What other issues does this raise for you?



#1 - Flexibility

“We are each very protective of our standards. If we enter into a collaboration with the attitude that everything has to be modeled to our standards, we will fail. We have to become comfortable with our metadata being used in a new environment and in a different way. We need to start welcoming metadata from other sources that may not be trusted or conforming to traditional models.”



#2 - Simple vs. rich metadata

“We should focus on user needs and outcomes. Debunk the myth that general users are not interested in expert data. Everyone wants rich and expert data. There is too much focus on the object and not enough on context.”

“Sector-specific standards need to be revised to facilitate use in semantic-based technologies. The goal should be enriched metadata, not "dumbed-down" metadata.”



#3 - Map to Conceptual Models

“We need to rethink descriptive standards and practices and harmonize them to conceptual models. A good example of this is mapping to CIDOC-CRM.”



#4 - Authorities and Controlled Vocabularies

“We need to leverage technology to improve context-based retrieval, especially through the adoption of authority control, multi-lingual controlled vocabularies, and linked data. (The vocabulary becomes part of the system rather than part of the cataloging process.) The power of Linked Open Data is that it brings together the different vocabularies of different communities.”



#5 - New and Different Training

- We need better education in crossed-sector practices
- Devise curricula and train staff
- Develop staff who have both technology knowledge and content knowledge
- Develop staff who are "data champions" focusing on longterm management, meaning, context, function, and use, no matter what system it used.



#6 - New Tools

We need to develop better tools that will:

- Support semantic representation of data
- Employ computer vision and other new technologies as they are developed
- Disambiguate, filter, and organize search results in the ways that users need them



#7 - Institutional Commitment

“Large institutions and professional organizations need to make this effort central to their mission and make it a higher priority.”

“We need to have sustained funding for technological development. These efforts cannot be accomplished through limited term projects that come and go. They have to be strategic initiatives funded with permanent money.”

“Do our communities really care about this?”

#8

“We need to be patient.”



Two last questions ...

- In the end, do our communities really care about integrating access to cultural heritage collections?
- Does IFLA Rare Books and Special Collections see this as an important priority for the profession?

Thank you for your participation!

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