
*Merging Metadata from Multiple
Traditions: IN Harmony Sheet
Music from Libraries and Museums*

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What is “sheet music”?

- Not synonymous with “popular music”
- Defined bibliographically*
 - Musical notation
 - Unattached and unbound at the time of sale
 - No fasteners
- Intended for mass consumption
- For small ensemble, performing informally

*MLA “Guidelines for Sheet Music Cataloging”

IN Harmony Project

- Digitize, catalog, and deliver online 10,000 pieces of sheet music
- 3-year project funded by IMLS
- Collaborative project among 4 Indiana cultural heritage institutions

Indiana University Lilly Library

- 2 primary sheet music collections
 - Sam DeVincent Collection of American Sheet Music; ca. 24,000 pieces
 - Starr Sheet Music Collection; ca. 100,000 pieces
- Library with an archival streak
- Strong library cataloging tradition, including authority control
- Some legacy metadata in a custom database and MARC records
- Will catalog new items and not update legacy records

Indiana State Library

- Approximately 1,600 pieces of sheet music, all with an Indiana connection
- Strong library cataloging tradition, but sheet music has not been a priority
- Skeletal MARC records exist, converted from cards

Indiana Historical Society

- Sheet music of two types
 - ca. 950 Indiana-related items
 - Jane B. Anderson Sheet Music Collection; ca. 12,000 pieces
- Archival mission with a library perspective
- Sheet music not currently described
- Metadata created will end up in CONTENTdm digital asset management system

Indiana State Museum

- 1,800 pieces of sheet music, largely from the DeVincent Collection
- Description for the purpose of collection management
- No library cataloging tradition
- Sheet music records currently in Multi MIMSY museum management system

Diverse partners

	Primary purpose of records	Culture of authority control?	Existing data?	Native format
IU Lilly	Description & access	Yes	Yes, and no	Custom database and MARC
ISL	Description & access	Yes	Yes	MARC
IHS	Access & collection management	Yes	No	CONTENTdm
ISM	Collection management	No	Yes	Multi MIMSY museum management system

Metadata model

- **Goals**
 - Address user needs for sheet music, but interoperable
 - Meet the individual needs of all project partners
 - Make it easy to create high-quality data
- **Developed collaboratively by representatives from all partner institutions**
- **Heavily informed by a series of user tests**
- **MODS chosen as the base format**

Selecting a schema only the first step

- Determine required vs. optional elements
- Determine when elements repeatable
- Specify authority control for selected fields
- Determine syntax rules for selected fields
- Develop usage guidelines

Interesting metadata decisions

- Titles
- Names
- Dates
- Subjects
- Cover art

Titles

- Need to support both description and access
- Users know songs by labels other than title proper
- Several types of titles specified
 - Title proper
 - First line, first line of chorus
 - Title of larger work
 - ...etc.
- All titles must belong to one of these categories
- Can use as many as are deemed appropriate
- Provide list of previously-used titles within interface
- Allow indication of non-sorting characters

Names

- Need to support both description and access
- Several types of names specified
 - Composer
 - Lyricist
 - Arranger
 - ...etc.
- All names must belong to one of these categories
- Can use as many as are deemed appropriate
- Assist all users in providing authoritative form of name when possible; construct according to project rules otherwise

Dates

- Primarily for user access
- Record in YYYY format
 - Use as many digits as are known
- Separate indication of copyright vs. publication date
- Separate indication that the date is approximate, inferred, or questionable

Subjects

- For collection management and user access
- Major focus of user research
- “Subject” categories used
 - Topical
 - Form/genre
 - Instrumentation
 - Geographic
 - Language
 - Local – essential for individual institutions
- Can use as many as are deemed appropriate
- Use LCSH when appropriate
- Policy on LCSH subdivisions still under review

Cover art

- Not commonly a focus in the library environment
- Of primary importance in museum environment
- Can record
 - People
 - Subjects
- Not required
- Useful for planning exhibitions, history & social science research

Mapping metadata

- From native format to project format
 - Legacy Lilly data
 - ISM
 - IHS
- From project format to format for individual institution
 - ISM
 - ISL?

Next steps

- Finalize metadata model and cataloging guidelines
- Cataloging tool development complete in October 2005
- Map metadata into central system when needed
- Plan for mappings out of central system into local systems
- Start creating metadata!

More information

- Project Web site:

 - <<http://www.dlib.indiana.edu/projects/inharmony/>>

 - Cataloging guidelines
 - Metadata model field summary
 - Project MODS template

- These presentation slides:

 - <<http://www.dlib.indiana.edu/~jenlrile/bbfall05/inharmony/>>

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