

Computer History Museum Software Collection Meta Data Update

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- Where we are now:
 - The “As-Is”
 - Dublin Core
 - Descriptive Meta Data
 - » Identification and Retrieval
 - Format Meta data element
 - Relation Meta data element
 - Subject Meta data element
 - What we need to do
 - Identify a reasonable representation of test case software
 - » Mac Paint?
 - » 1401?
 - Establish the As-Is Model with this test case software

Live Demo of Current System

Status

- Where we need to go : The “To-Be”
 - **Determine what Preservation Meta Data really is:**
 - **It is:**
 - **the information required to manage and preserve digital resources over the long term**
 - Today a PDF file will be recognized and rendered on an average PC; 50 years from now a computer may not be able to do anything with it without the metadata to explain what it is and how to view it
 - Does a string of bits (1011010001...) represent a paragraph of text, a sound file, an image?
 - What does a series of numbers (04 27 56; 01 16 44...) in an ASCII file represent? Could be a series of dates (month day year) or elapsed times (hours minutes seconds) of a lab experiment—multiple interpretations are possible
- **What we need to do**
 - **Take the As-Is test case and apply it to the To-Be test case**
 - **Review the recommendations of the PREMIS Working Group**
 - **Look at Data Dictionary, glossary and XML schema due in June**
 - **Figure out if this schema works with our test case software**

Useful Preservation Terminology

– the “Ilities”

- **Viability**
 - The quality or state of being viable. Specifically: (a) (Law) The capacity of living after birth. --Bouvier. (b) The capacity of living, or being distributed, over wide geographical limits; as, the viability of a species.
 - **Why this is important to us:**
 - **We need take into account the requirement that the archived digital object's bit stream is intact and readable from the digital media upon which it is stored over time.**
- **Renderability** (not a real word in the dictionary right now – but real in our sense!)
 - Render -To give or make available; provide: *render assistance*
 - Ability - Ability, inclination, or suitability for a specified action or condition: *teachability*.
 - **Why this is important to us:**
 - **We need to have the ability to translate the bit stream into a form that can be viewed by human users, or processed by computers**
- **Understandability**
 - To grasp or comprehend the meaning intended or expressed by (another): *They have trouble with English, but I can understand them.*
 - To comprehend the language, sounds, form, or symbols of.
 - **Why this is important to us**
 - **We need to provide enough information such that the rendered content can be interpreted and understood by its intended users**

Next Steps and Parallel Activities

- Continue Building Dublin Core CHM Collections Catalog
- Start Building out Preservation Metadata
- (With SCC Members) Continue to Refine Overall Requirements and Candidate Software List
- Dive In –we really need to get started!