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People Profile: Mark Anderson

Editor

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- scanning of the TOC images in order to create a text file for keyword searching
- minimal item-level metadata cataloging
- combining these elements (image files, text files and metadata records) into digital objects and uploading them to a digital asset management system

Unfortunately, things didn't go quite as easily as planned.

A Useful Standard

Even before the formal establishment of Digital Library Services, its staff members had acquired significant experience building digital collections as part of the Libraries' consortial participation in Iowa's statewide digital cultural heritage initiative. The UI's contributions chiefly consist of digitized image collections (e.g., historic photographs) and simple textual materials (e.g., newspaper clippings); these are cataloged using the **Dublin Core** metadata element set, and uploaded to the asset management system **CONTENTdm**, developed by **DiMeMa** and recently acquired by **OCLC**.

For the fanzines, DLS decided to adopt a different workflow due to two factors. First, both faculty and library staff hope eventually to encourage other libraries with science fiction fanzine collections to participate in a consortia, filling gaps in the **Horvat** digital collection with digitized holdings of their own, resulting in a much more comprehensive and useful tool for scholars. To enable this goal, following metadata standards as much as possible in order to create shareable records is of primary importance. Second, the more complex hierarchical physical structure of a text such as a book or a fanzine — with a series of pages meant to be displayed in a particular order — requires a correspondingly more complex digital object, with structural metadata reflecting the item's organization. (Although the current plan for the fanzines requires less complexity, since only the cover and the table of contents page are being digitized, DLS wished to create a digital collection that would leave open the possibility of full-text digitization in the future.)

While **CONTENTdm** can accommodate compound objects such as fanzines, its method of organizing and displaying the digitized pages is a proprietary function of the software, resulting in nonstandard structural metadata records that can't easily be migrated from one system to another. However, the **UI Libraries** had recently acquired an additional digital asset management system, the **ExLibris** product **DigiTool**, and had been seeking an opportunity to try it out. Although the software was less familiar to staff than **CONTENTdm**, **DigiTool** was selected for the project, since it accommodates a wider variety of standards — including **METS**, the **Metadata Encoding Transmission Standard**.

Developed by the **Library of Congress** as a standard for enhancing the capability for data migration and the long-term durability of

against the grain
people profile

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Mark F. Anderson

BORN & LIVED: Born in Ames, Iowa. Grew up there and attended college close by at **Iowa State University**.

EARLY LIFE: Immersed in music from an early age. I've had the opportunity to sing in a concert with the **Chieftains** and play trumpet with **Marvin Hamlisch**. Also, many family trips developed in me a love of history and geography.

FAMILY: Married to **Kristin**, a middle school music teacher. We have 2 cats.

EDUCATION: B.A. (Music), **Iowa State University**, 2002. M.A. (Library and Information Science), **University of Iowa**, 2004.

FIRST JOB: First paying job, daily cleaning of law office during high school. First library job, work study copy cataloging for music scores and CDs. First professional job, Digital Images Cataloger for the **Father Catich Digital Collection**, **St. Ambrose University**. Assisted with the **Iowa Heritage Digital Collections** statewide cultural heritage consortium. Now, Digital Initiatives Librarian at **University of Iowa Libraries**.

IN MY SPARE TIME I LIKE TO: Go on long bicycle rides and photograph bald eagles, which are making a comeback on Iowa rivers.

FAVORITE BOOKS: Currently reading *Jitterbug Perfume* by **Tom Robbins**. Just read *The Long Emergency* by **James Howard Kunstler**. I like anything by **Neal Stephenson**.

PET PEEVES/WHAT MAKES ME MAD: Bad attitudes.

PHILOSOPHY: How goals are accomplished is usually more important than what goals are accomplished.

MOST MEANINGFUL CAREER ACHIEVEMENT: Helped digitize and make available through the digital library an important series of local history books that means a great deal to the community.

GOAL I HOPE TO ACHIEVE FIVE YEARS FROM NOW: I hope to see a successful program of mass digitization at our library.

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: More interactive services and opportunities for library users to interact with each other online. But libraries will still be important gatekeepers and filterers of information. I hate to make too many bold predictions that can be used against me when it all goes differently! 🍄



complex digital objects, the **METS** schema provides:

a flexible mechanism for encoding descriptive, administrative, and structural metadata for a digital library object, and for expressing the complex links between these various forms of metadata. It can therefore provide a useful standard for the exchange of digital library objects between repositories.³

Often described as a "wrapper," **METS** isn't an alternative to **Dublin Core**, but rather a schema for creating a standardized container that can include **DC** records along with additional data necessary for the internal management of a digital object. The schema consists of seven major sections: **METS** header, descriptive metadata, administrative metadata, file section, structural map, structural links, and behavior.

As **METS** neophytes, DLS staff designed a simplified exemplar for the fanzines, incorporating administrative metadata into the descriptive metadata section, and omitting the structural links and behavior sections, which were deemed unnecessary for the project. Modeling records after the samples provided both by **DigiTool** and on **LC's METS** site proved fairly straightforward; for each item in the fanzine collection, the **METS** wrapper provided a consistent order for the digital object thumbnail, image files for cover and table of contents pages, TOC text file, and metadata record. The most time-consuming part of the process was also the most familiar — choosing data elements and syntax for the descriptive metadata section.

Since quantity had been prioritized over fullness and detail, a fairly simple record tem-

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