Bringing it all together:

Metadata and museums, libraries and archives

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Or ....
Why we should all be archivists now

Collections, life cycles, and digital curation
Summary

- Current view of metadata
- Organisational change in UK
- Case study: Edinburgh University
- Archival approaches to metadata
- New directions in collection management
- Digital curation
- Concluding remarks
A History of metadata until now

- Items versus collections
- Authors versus subjects
- Access versus control
- Description versus content
Organisational change in the UK

- History of isolation
- Compartmentalisation
- Re:source
- AHRB
- mda (Cornucopia)
- Growing trends / revisiting the past
Case Study: Edinburgh University

- Edinburgh University Library
  - Special Collections
- Talbot Rice Art Gallery
- Edinburgh University Collection of Historic Musical Instruments
- Russell Collection of Early Keyboard Instruments
- DOMS
Archival approaches to metadata (1)

- Metadata for collections
  - RSLP Collection-level schema
- Increasing focus on comprehensive description
- Controlling access
  - Authentication
  - Re-use
- Fonds & Sub Fonds
  - Archival cataloguing (EAD/ISAD(G))
- Scope and content
- Access
Archival approaches to metadata (2)

- Digital preservation (OCLC/RLG Preservation metadata
  - CEDARS
  - NEDLI B, NLA
- Describing in greater depth Dublin core as common denominator (MI MARS)
  - Revealing relationships (internal navigation)
  - ‘Bubble-up’ (Endeavour)
- Records management
- Hierarchical relationships
New directions in collection management

- Metadata for physical as well as digital
  - ie managing the transition from physical to digital
  - Describing, managing physical (documentation)
- Long-term management of digital resources
  - Documenting actions
  - Preserving other types of data
  - Workflow management
- Metadata is for life, not just for Christmas
Digital curation

- Should we be talking of librarians (archivists) any more …
- Instead, think of ‘Digital curators’:
  - Managing the resource over the long-term (i.e. life-cycle)
  - Managing physical together with the digital
  - Managing access more closely
  - Managing versions of the same stuff
- Metadata makes this possible
Concluding remarks (1)

- Provenance once more critical element of metadata
  - Controlling access to resources
  - Recording actions to resources for preservation purposes
  - Assuring quality control
  - Asserting rights control on resources
- Collections as well as items - hierarchies
- Preservation – requires control of the life-cycle
- Metadata to embrace the totality (METS)
- Skills-gap
or ...

...
Concluding remarks (2)

- Archivists were right all along ...
- Presentation of metadata still requires effort
- Databases versus mark-up
- Metadata to be a two-way street
Anecdote

- When we are wailing and gnashing our teeth about the complexities of the digital age
- OCLC …. Will provide the teeth
FIN

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