

# New Descriptive Practices in Libraries

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# Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Metadata Assessment & the Environment
3. What is Needed for High Quality Metadata?
4. Near Future of the Library Metadata World
5. Wrap Up

# Introduction

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*I was given leeway to present on any metadata topic, so here goes!*

- Metadata analyst for [UC San Diego Digital Collections](#). Special collections, research data, etc.
- Hydra-based repository; RDF-based metadata that supports transformation of MARC, MODS, SharedShelf, and more. We call these "input streams".
- Past metadata work in digital humanities, social science; video game quality assurance tester.

# Metadata Assessment & Today's Environment

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- DLF Metadata Assessment group - <http://dlfmetadataassessment.github.io/>
  - *A wide range of groups are addressing issues related to metadata and issues related to assessment of library services, but relatively few are directly working on the assessment of metadata.*
- Europeana's *Report and Recommendations from the Task Force on Metadata Quality* - [link](#)
  - "Good quality metadata" defined as:
    1. Resulting from a series of trusted processes
    2. Findable
    3. Readable
    4. Standardized
    5. Meaningful to audiences
    6. Clear on re-use
    7. Visible

# What is Needed for High Quality Metadata?

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- **Trust** and **transparency** in processes that produce metadata.
- **Skills** development in software, data analysis, metadata enrichment, etc.
- Openly available **documentation** of all of the above.
- **Collaboration** between metadata staff, and management giving them "permission to learn".



# Near Future of the Library Metadata World

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## Warning: speculation!

- Currently MARC vs. non-MARC: Future BIBFRAME vs. non-BIBFRAME?
  - This being "good" or "bad" depends on perspective and goals.
- Aggregators and LoC will drive rapid standards and processes development.
  - Somewhat paradoxically, MARC will survive for quite a while. (sorry, [Roy](#))
- Day-to-day cataloging will look very similar to today.
  - In-depth knowledge of linked data, ontologies, and hypermedia will remain the domain of limited number of experts.

# Wrap Up

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- Disruption occurring, but metadata folks can adjust with gradual skill development.
- Linked data adoption remains slow and ultimately will not change cataloging work radically.
- A focus on metadata *quality*, assessment, and documentation should be primary focus.

Thank You!

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