Metadata Subcommittee Annual Report, July 2013-June 2014

Lisa McFall, Chair


The Metadata Subcommittee sponsored the plenary “Moving on from MARC: An Examination of BIBFRAME” at the 2014 MLA Annual meeting. The subcommittee also co-sponsored the MLA 2014 program “Digital Humanities in the Library: Music Librarians as Collaborators” with the Emerging Technologies and Services Committee. Subcommittee chair Lisa McFall was the moderator for this session.

On behalf of the Metadata Subcommittee, Kimmy Szeto and Molly O’Brien worked with the ALA PARS (Preservation and Reformatting Section) Task Force on Audio Preservation Metadata to produce a revised version of the document “Metadata Standards and Guidelines Relevant to Digital Audio”. The revised version of this document should be officially released by the end of this summer.

Extensive work was also done on the Metadata for Music Resources (MMR) site (formerly called the Metadata Clearinghouse). During his time as interim chair, Kimmy Szeto developed an initial prototype for MMR, which was then migrated to MLA’s website in June 2014. Work on revising content and tweaking some display issues is ongoing, with the intention of unveiling the site to a wider audience once the review of the site by the Subcommittee and BCC is completed.

Past Goals

Prepare prototype content for the Clearinghouse and go live with this content by January 2014:

Due to the delayed migration of the BCC website to the new MLA website platform, the goal of having a prototype of the Metadata for Music Resources site (formerly called the Metadata Clearinghouse) was deferred. A prototype that is currently under subcommittee review was released on June 9. A wider release is hoped for by the end of the Summer 2014.

Continue to explore partnership with groups outside of MLA, to bring knowledge of music metadata issues to relevant groups, and to inform MLA of initiatives relevant to our work going on in other areas:

The subcommittee chair has continued her relationship as a liaison to the ALA Metadata Interest Group. The subcommittee chair and interim chair have also attended meetings of the ALA Metadata Standards Committee during the ALA Annual and Midwinter meetings. The Metadata Subcommittee also worked with PARS to complete part of the
Goals for FY 2015

Make available a live, publicly accessible version of the Metadata for Music Resources site.

Play a role in the development and revision of metadata encoding standards such as PBCore, particularly with an eye to representing the needs of the music user community.

Work to make MLA a testbed organization for BIBFRAME, so that the music library community can be an active partner in the development of BIBFRAME.

All of these goals are in direct support of the MLA Strategic Plan objectives “Increase the visibility of MLA among library and music organizations, individual scholars, musicians and librarians” and “Use new technologies to build greater public awareness, understanding and support for the Association, music libraries and music librarianship.” The Metadata Subcommittee’s first goal also addresses the MLA Strategic Plan objective to “Publish open access content on the web.”

In the upcoming year, the Metadata Subcommittee may be merged with the MARC Formats Subcommittee as part of the BCC reorganization review. If this is the case, the merged subcommittee will plan to work on the goals specified by the previous subcommittees.