

KNOWLEDGE
IS HERE

Metadata Strategy at Library and Archives Canada

**New Directions in Description / Canadian
Metadata Forum 2005 Joint Session**

Monday, September 26, 2005



Library and Archives
Canada

Bibliothèque et Archives
Canada

Canada

Outline

KNOWLEDGE
IS HERE

- LAC: A Whole New World
- Metadata Strategy Catalytic Initiative
- Metadata Framework
- Integration of Metadata from External Sources
- Standardizing Names
- Rationalizing Descriptive Terminology
- The Future



LAC: A Whole New World

KNOWLEDGE
IS HERE

Chronology

- April 2004: proclamation of the Library and Archives Canada Act
- June 2004: Catalytic Initiatives established
- September 2004 : Metadata Strategy Catalytic Initiative underway
 - Core Team
 - Budget
 - Projects identified
 - Timelines defined



Metadata at LAC

KNOWLEDGE
IS HERE

Result of all descriptive activities related to LAC's published and unpublished resources regardless of support medium.



Metadata Strategy Catalytic Initiative

KNOWLEDGE
IS HERE

Purpose

Develop and implement a strategy for a collaborative approach to description facilitating integrated access to published and unpublished resources in all media

Access is the driver

5



Library and Archives
Canada

Bibliothèque et Archives
Canada

Canada

Metadata Framework

KNOWLEDGE
IS HERE

MCI "flagship" deliverable, bringing coherence to institutional metadata activities, beginning with descriptive metadata

Deliverables

- Policy and "user's guide".
- Definition of common minimum descriptive metadata sets dependent on user needs.
- Mappings between descriptive metadata standards used at LAC.
- Clusters of elements from different standards to inform federated search.



Metadata Framework Impacts

KNOWLEDGE
IS HERE

External

- Public is better able to identify, select and locate the resources they need.

Internal

- A coherent approach to description of all LAC resources.
- Greater portion of the documentary heritage is described in accordance with appropriate standards.



Integration of Externally-produced Metadata

KNOWLEDGE
IS HERE

- From Publishers
- From Subject Experts
- From Government Departments and Agencies



Metadata From Publishers

KNOWLEDGE
IS HERE

Building a mechanism for publishers to communicate with LAC using their metadata “language” (ONIX, the **ON**line **I**nformation **eX**change standard).

Deliverables

- Automation of the Canadian ISBN Agency communication with publishers in multiple formats, including ONIX.
- On-line, real-time updateable ISBN logbooks for publisher use



Publishers' Metadata Impacts

KNOWLEDGE
IS HERE

External

- Enhanced relationship with Canadian publishers.
- Descriptions enriched with publisher-produced metadata

Internal

- Integration of Canadian ISBN Agency operations with other LAC systems.
- Studies of publisher processes and internal process impacts
- Identification and implementation of workflow re-engineering opportunities (operational efficiencies)

10



Library and Archives
Canada

Bibliothèque et Archives
Canada

Canada

Metadata from Subject Experts

KNOWLEDGE
IS HERE

Developing methods of acquiring and re-using description information from individuals and groups about LAC unpublished holdings.

Deliverables

- Policy on acceptable minimum quantity (core metadata requirements) and quality (internal verification levels required) for externally-produced metadata.
- Processes for incorporating externally-provided metadata into LAC systems.



Subject Experts' Metadata Impacts

KNOWLEDGE
IS HERE

External

- Metadata describing more LAC items and collections.
- Increased client access to unpublished materials.
- More Canadians engaged with their documentary heritage.

Internal

- Corporate policy decisions based on user needs
- Operational efficiencies

12



Library and Archives
Canada

Bibliothèque et Archives
Canada

Canada

Metadata From Government Departments and Agencies

KNOWLEDGE
IS HERE

Records Management Metadata Standard for the Government of Canada (GoC) aligned with GoC and ISO standards

Deliverables

- Core set of metadata elements for use in describing records through their life cycle.
- Metadata set aligned with GoC core metadata standard (TBITS 39) and with LAC requirements for archival records transfer.
- To be incorporated into the functional requirements of the RDIMS shared solution (PWGSC).

13



Library and Archives
Canada

Bibliothèque et Archives
Canada

Canada

Government Metadata Impacts

KNOWLEDGE
IS HERE

External

- More consistent approach to IM across government institutions
- Enhanced capacity of government to serve Canadians and achieve better business results through sound information management
- Heightened awareness of LAC leadership role in GoC records management

Internal

- Increased capacity in metadata standards related to government information

14



Library and Archives
Canada

Bibliothèque et Archives
Canada

Canada

Standardizing Names

KNOWLEDGE
IS HERE

Integrated controlled name authorities for published and unpublished materials.

Deliverables

- A single standard
- A single process



Standardizing Names Impacts

KNOWLEDGE
IS HERE

External

- Public is better able to identify, select and locate documentary heritage materials.
- Greater portion of the documentary heritage is described in accordance with appropriate standards.

Internal

- Efficiency gains from a single process
- Highly visible integration effort



Rationalising Descriptive Terminology

KNOWLEDGE
IS HERE

Making sense of varying descriptive practices related to use of controlled subjects and keywords to improve client information discovery.

Deliverables

- Policy for application of subjects (by types of material, etc)
- Defined relationships between full text index terms (keywords) and controlled subjects.
- Study of possible search engine configuration using automated techniques for transparent clustering of terms around concepts.



Rationalizing Terminology Impacts

KNOWLEDGE
IS HERE

External

- Public is better able to identify, select and locate documentary heritage materials.

Internal

- Increased understanding of the ways in which clients want to search for LAC holdings.
- Improved alignment between descriptive practices and user needs.



Leadership in Metadata

KNOWLEDGE
IS HERE

Sharing research results and leading the way.

Deliverables:

- Participation in descriptive standards development for new domains
 - NISO MetaSearch Initiative, Dublin Core Metadata Initiative
- Sponsorship of IM community events
 - New Directions in Description, Canadian Metadata Forum



Metadata Leadership Impacts

KNOWLEDGE
IS HERE

- Canadian perspective represented on emerging standards bodies
- Increased knowledge sharing by LAC in the Government of Canada, national and international metadata communities

20



Library and Archives
Canada

Bibliothèque et Archives
Canada

Canada

Future of the MCI

KNOWLEDGE
IS HERE

- Deliverables due by June 2006.
- Only the beginning of a new orientation for LAC
 - Role of Intellectual Management Office
 - The way forward...



Deane Zeeman
Lead, Metadata Strategy Catalytic Initiative
Library and Archives Canada

deane.zeeman@lac-bac.gc.ca

(819) 934-4358

