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Access; Linda Tadic

Data Mapping: MARC, MODS and PBCore.

MARC is by far the most granular, meaning it is the most specific and detailed of all formats. On the whole, it allows for more flexibility because there is a space for everything and in some cases, it repeats itself. However, this also makes it the most complicated and often redundant of systems. There are at least two ways to list creators and contributors: 245\$c lists them as a group and then 508\$a breaks down the various job titles or contributions. Again, it seems redundant, but the effectiveness is clear and provides different ways of referring to information within one catalog. Of course, there is precedent for the benefits of redundancy, such as LOCKSS. MARC is the most complete cataloging system available for the variety of formats in the world.

MODS, as a variation of MARC, is about as granular as MARC. For example, language is broken down into different subfields for both MARC and MODS. In PBCore, only one language is identified under InstantiationLanguage and all other language forms such as subtitles, sung, or translation are grouped under InstantiationAlternativeModes. However, after the intense detail offered by MARC, MODS does seem simplified. The best way to understand the system and value of MODS is to see it in action. For example, the category of <name> makes more sense when <name type> is identified. This allows information regarding a particular name to be in the same place, such as role and life span dates. Still, the information

has to work its way down to granular rather than creating a field specifically for a granular piece of data, like in MARC.

PBCore distinguishes between the descriptive metadata and instantiation or physical form. This system is not useful for acquisitions information, presumably because it is meant for cataloging material made in house. I chose this particular format because I was still slightly confused by the purpose of the instantiation. The reasoning is now clear: there is a need to differ between the idea of a work and the various manifestations of it. Yet, there is no clear link between the manifestation and the idea. On an interesting note, the category to surprise me most was one for the playback system needed. MARC calls this Media Type and describes it as “general type of intermediation device required to view, play, run, etc., the content of a resource.” In PBCore, the InstantiationMediaType refers to the format the material is recorded on. From what I could tell, PBCore never refers to the required playback system, which is surprising for a cataloging system designed for broadcasting. Overall, I felt PBCore grouped too many things together, such as the creators, or offered no alternatives in listing different dates.