Trying to Mean More with Metadata

Prepared for the Sorting Libraries Out Symposium, March 13th 2019

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UBC Library
Outline

• Challenges
• Goals
• Strategies
• Details of Xwi7Xwa enhancements
• Future plans and aspirations
Limitations of our traditional library approaches to cataloguing

• Readily available information on title page; and first named author focus

• Settler terminology and vocabulary

• “Official” subject headings use dated/obsolete language

• A few major publishers and/or vendors get most of the business

• Focus on Roman alphabet and the qwerty keyboard
Surfacing First Nations content

• How to make contributions to scholarship by and about Indigenous people more “findable” in our catalogue
• How to improve/increase the descriptive language in the metadata
• How to use more meaningful ontologies
• How to better represent the original language and script of writers in our metadata
• How to lead researchers to discover the Xwi7xwa part of our massive UBC library collection
RDA core record

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1XX</td>
<td>First named creator of the content. Use authorized form of name of the person or body responsible for the content. For original description, include also $e subfield for &quot;role&quot;: use only the terms included in RDA appendix I. For derived copy, make sure any terms in $e are from this same list. Authorized access point for the person, family or body responsible (work).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>130/240</td>
<td>$a Title of the work $i Language of the expression Use this field if you know that the original title of the work was different from the title on your item (e.g. translations). Accept on copy (check for typos). Add when missing on translations if your item gives you the original title. Note that for musical and legal works there may be additional requirements for these fields. Preferred title (work) Language (expression)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>245</td>
<td>$a Title proper Transcribe exactly as found on the item. Title proper (manifestation) (often also preferred title of the work)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$b Subtitle and parallel title(s) Cataloguer judgment: UBC's database is so large that subtitle transcription should be included whenever possible and practical. First stated parallel title included on title page is also highly desirable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$c Statement of responsibility Transcribe exactly as found on the item. If not found on the same place (title page, cover, etc.) as the title, but found elsewhere on the item, no [] are needed. If you don't transcribe all the names use this pattern: [and 6 others] Statement of responsibility (manifestation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250</td>
<td>$a Edition statement Transcribe exactly as found if present, including numbering, naming and revision information. Edition statement (manifestation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<td>-------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300 $c</td>
<td>Dimensions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 $a</td>
<td>General note [Indigenous content]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 $a</td>
<td>General note [Indigenous language details]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 $a</td>
<td>General note [Indigenous names/places]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>505</td>
<td>Table of Contents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>508</td>
<td>Creation/Production Credits/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>511</td>
<td>Participant or Performer Note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>520</td>
<td>Summary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>520</td>
<td>Summary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ensuring the endurance of our enhancements

• “Owning” library
  • Prevention of accidental editing
  • All requested Xwi7xwa staff can participate
  • Updates from
    • Vendors
    • OCLC
  • Special treatments and instructions for authority services
  • Overlay protection (e-versions, micro versions)
  • Less confusion over appropriateness/reliability of terms – other thesauri vs. local – when not all mixed up in one record
Enhancement:

*Statements of responsibility*

- Transcribed from title pages and elsewhere.

- **Title:** Dah dzāhge esigits = We write our language / contributions, Angela Dennis [and four others]

- **Title:** Dah dzāhge esigits = We write our language / contributions, Angela Dennis, Regina Louie, Odelia Dennis, Hostelma Pauline Hawkins, Edōsdī Dr. Judy Thompson; illustrations, Peter Morin, Una-Ann Moyer, Tsēma Igharas.
Enhancement:

Additional access points

• Listing additional contributors as additional names (100/700)
Enhancement: Alternative titles

• Cover/container/jacket titles
  • Title page: “The Okanagon ...”
  • Cover title: “The Okanogan ...”
  • Title screen: Art of drum making
    • Container title: Making a drum

• Other language titles
  • Title page: Li minoush
    • Cover has additional title in English: Thomas and his Cat

• Standard Romanization rules (for example: ? = ‘ or ə = ä ) vs. more user-friendly romanization?
  • Actual characters: Xwi?qxwa
    • Xwi’qxwa or Xwi7xwa ?
  • Actual characters: tənəmén
    • tänämén or tenemén
Enhancement:

Additional contents of interest to note

• Maps
  • Includes maps of Stoney Highway and Morley Reserve and Bow Valley.

• Glossaries
  • Includes glossary of Dene words

• Portraits
  • The illustrated song cards have portraits of Gitxsan elders and can be used as posters or for shared reading and singing.

• Timelines
  • Includes timeline: “Indian residential schools in British Columbia” p. 10
Enhancement:

**Places**

- Locations of conferences, workshops
  - Proceedings of a conference held May 12-14, 1994, in Bkejwanong, Ontario

- Locations of studies/research
  - This study explores the conditions that contribute to teacher success in First Nations communities by focusing on the experiences of educators and community members from the Ermineskin Reserve, which is located in central Alberta.

- Places or Nations of authors and other contributors of content
  - Ten Sto:lo Elders ... shared traditional and personal life experience stories about traditional ways of becoming a storyteller.
Enhancement: Subjects of Contents

Wisdom of the elders: native traditions on the Northwest Coast, the Nuu-nulth, Southern Kwakiutl and Nuxalk

Author: Ruth Kirk; Royal British Columbia Museum.
Rating: ★★★★★ (not yet rated) 0 with reviews - Be the first.
Nootka Indians.
Kwakiutl Indians.
View all subjects

More like this

WorldCat

Subject(s): Kwakwaka’wakw--Culture
Nuu-chah-nulth--Culture
First Nations--Elders--British Columbia
First Nations--Kinship--British Columbia
First Nations--Ceremonies--British Columbia
First Nations--Archaeology--British Columbia

Description: 256 pages : Illustrations (some colour), maps, portraits ; 26 cm.
Notes: Includes index.
Bibliography: pages 250-251.
ISBN: 088894490X
Contents: Foreword
Preface
Acknowledgements
pt. 1 People of transition
  ch. 1. Today's Elders
pt. 2. The world that was
  ch. 2. Kinship, rank and privilege
  ch. 3. Ceremonials and religion
A sense of place and past
  ch. 4. Daily life
  ch. 5. Dealing with others: trade, conflict and marriage
  pt. 3. Time's flow
  ch. 6. Seeing the past from the present
To carry on the legacy
  ch. 7. The dawn of a new era
  ch. 8. A changing world
  ch. 9. Today and tomorrow.
Enhancement:

Summaries, credits, participants in videos

Credits:

Written, directed and produced by Shane Belcourt; editor, Jordan O'Connor; director of photography, Shane Belcourt.

Cast:

Melanie McLaren, Duane Murray, Cheri Maracle, Lorne Cardinal.

Summary:

"Ray and Jolene discover an unexpected connection when their paths cross in Tkaronto (the original Mohawk word for "Toronto"). Through their chance meeting they reveal their hopes, dreams, fears and failures, and realize their common struggle: to stake claim to their urban Aboriginal identity"-- Container.
Enhancing access to **Language content**

- Multilingual publications
  - Identifying the multiple languages, recording alternative titles, noting presentation of texts (facing pages, etc)

- Language groups vs. languages vs. dialects
  - “sal” Salishan -> Halkomelem (and variant spellings) -> island/downriver/upriver dialects (Wikipedia terminology!)

- Scripts (syllabics)
  - Identifying presence of scripts other than Roman
  - Transcribing
    - Wysiwyt whenever possible
    - Fonts: International: [Canadian Aboriginal Syllabics](#)
    - Fonts: Local: [First Nations Unicode Font](#)

- Art that speaks (symbolic figures): example, [Susan Point](#)

- Respectful language for our records (notes and summaries)
  - UBC's 2018 [Indigenous Peoples: Language Guidelines](#)
  - Terminology guide from the Government of Canada: [Terminology Guide: Research on Aboriginal Heritage](#)
  - Gregory Younging’s 2018: *Elements of Indigenous Style* (Younging)
Xwi7xwa collection name

- Dedicated added entry: *Xwi7xwa Collection*
- Persists into storage locations
- Preserves the trail of where (at Xwi7xwa branch) the material entered the collection
- Donor name added if needed or desired
Future work possibilities: *our aspirations*

- Thesaurus software
  - Sharing terms locally
  - Involving community in validating/updating/expanding/correcting
- Identity management
  - Cross references in existing NARs
  - Corrections (dates, etc.)
  - Disambiguation
  - Providing Canadian context
  - Filling gaps with new NARs
- Location identification
  - Names of places (alternatives)
  - Names of nations (preferred and alternative)
  - Mapping
  - Enriching our local metadata with community input and scholar guidance
  - Enriching metadata at the co-operative level, to enhance discovery of Indigenous content North America wide
Thank you !