

# PRESERVATION METADATA WORKSHOP

## *A workshop*

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**Abstract – Metadata is a fundamental component of all digital preservation activities. This half day workshop offers a space to explore and discuss preservation metadata.**

**The workshop will be based on the community standards of PREMIS, METS and OCFL and facilitated by members of the boards of all three. This is the first time that the three boards have collaborated on such a session.**

**The purpose of the workshop is to connect the maintainers of the standards with the digital preservation community and offer implementers of preservation metadata an opportunity to discuss issues, successes and future directions.**

**Keywords – Metadata, Preservation metadata, Standards, Standardization, Collaboration**

**Conference Topics – 1. Collaboration: a Necessity, an Opportunity or a Luxury? 3. Exploring New Horizons**

## I. INTRODUCTION

This workshop offers a space to explore and discuss preservation metadata.

The workshop will be based on the community standards of PREMIS, METS and OCFL and facilitated by members of the boards of all three standards. This is the first time that the three boards have collaborated on such a session.

The purpose of the workshop is to connect the maintainers of the standards with the digital preservation community and offer implementers of

preservation metadata an opportunity to discuss issues, successes and future directions.

PREMIS is a standard addressing the information you need to know to preserve digital content in a repository, and METS is a standard for transfer and storage of metadata and digital objects, where OCFL is a standard for storage of metadata and digital objects.

## II. OUTLINE OF WORKSHOP CONTENT

### A. *Overview of the standards*

1) *PREMIS*: The PREMIS Data Dictionary for Preservation Metadata [1] is the international standard for metadata to support the preservation of digital objects and ensure their long-term usability. This session will reflect on changes that have happened across the last year and offer a view on upcoming activities and future direction. It will in particular focus on:

- the linked data version that has been developed over the last two years;
- changes in preservation controlled vocabularies;
- reporting back on work that is being carried out to understand the reach and impact of PREMIS.

2) *METS*: The METS schema [2] is a standard for encoding descriptive, administrative, and structural

metadata regarding objects within a digital library as well as digital archives, expressed using the XML schema language of the World Wide Web Consortium. This session will report back on activities from the last year and report on planned activities. In particular, feedback will be sought on the future direction of METS.

3) *OCFL*: The Oxford Common File Layout [3] initiative began as a discussion among digital repository practitioners about the ideal layout and characteristics for persisted objects. It grown into an open community effort defining an application independent way of storing versioned digital objects with a focus on long term digital preservation. The OCFL represents the community's recommendations addressing five primary requirements: completeness, parsability,, robustness, versioning and storage agnosticism.

#### B. *Community participation*

The primary purpose of this workshop is to encourage community participation: continued community engagement with standards ensures their continued relevance and appropriateness for purpose.

The workshop is one of the few times that implementers can come together to show and discuss their implementations. They are crucial for not only fostering a sense of community, but also for institutions and individuals to get direct feedback on critical questions and challenges in their digital preservation programmes.

Likewise, this workshop is a rare opportunity for the Boards of the standards to get direct feedback and comment from the community. The workshop will be driven by the community and is not didactic in nature. We will encourage active participation in two ways:

- Encouraging participation of the community in the workshop through contributions regarding implementations of, questions about, and suggestions for the future of PREMIS and/or METS and/or OCFL.
- Creating a safe, participatory workshop space where all participants can engage meaningfully. The workshop will be crafted to ensure it is not didactic, but rather involving and collaborative.

### III. INTENDED AUDIENCE

The workshop is designed for those who are interested in or utilise preservation metadata. This includes digital preservation practitioners (digital librarians and archivists, digital curators, repository managers and those with a responsibility for or an interest in preservation workflows and systems) and

experts of digital preservation metadata, and transfer and storage of objects.

### IV. PROCESS FOR SOLICITING CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions will be solicited from the PREMIS Implementers' Group via its discussion list. Likewise, the METS and OCFL community will be asked for contributions. A general call will also go out through wider fora. All proposals will be reviewed and selected on relevance. Direct invitations may also be issued to organizations and people that the organizers feel will bring important and new directions to the discussion.

### V. OUTCOMES

We believe this workshop to be key for a number of reasons, and the proposed outcomes reflect that.

1. Support for implementers from those that develop preservation metadata standards.
2. A closer connection between the community and the boards that maintain the standards.
3. A physical meeting for those who implement or have an interest in preservation metadata standards. While the communities for these standards operate mainly through virtual environments, experience tells us that there are meaningful benefits from face-to-face interactions.
4. Closer connections between the standards. This workshop should trigger a deeper level of connection between the different communities.
5. A strong indication of future directions for preservation metadata and PREMIS, METS and OCFL in particular.

### VI. SHORT BIOGRAPHIES OF ORGANIZERS

**Karin Bredenberg** is a Senior Technical Advisor on metadata at the Swedish National Archives. She currently serves as the chair of PREMIS EC, co-chair of TS EAS, chair of the DILCIS Board as well as a member of the METS Board. Currently Bredenberg is the activity lead for specifications in the project E-ARK4ALL and the eArchiving Building block.

**Neil Jefferies** is Head of Innovation for Bodleian Digital Library Systems and Services at the University of Oxford. He is PI and Community Lead for SWORDV3, a protocol for machine-to-machine transfer of digital objects, a co-author of the Oxford Common File Layout for preservation-oriented object storage and Technical Strategist for "Cultures of Knowledge", an international collaborative project to "reconstruct the

correspondence and social networks of the early modern period". He also serves on the Steering Committee for the Preservation and Archiving SIG and is a Judge for the DPC's Digital Preservation Awards. Previously, he was also a co-creator of the International Image Interoperability Framework.

**Andreas Nef** holds a MA in History and Computer Science from the University of Zurich. Since 2004, he has been working as archivist and project manager at Docuteam GmbH and is currently Technical Lead for the development of digital archiving solutions. The company provides information management services, and implements/manages physical and digital archives for which the Matterhorn METS Profile is one of the main package standards. Since 2014, he is member of the METS Editorial Board. A regular member of the International Council on Archives, Andreas Nef joined the Swiss Expert Pool for Civilian Peacekeeping in 2009 and is also serving as archives expert for Swisspeace. In these functions he has been allowed to support a number of activities preserving records of archives at risk.

**Sarah Romkey** is the Program Manager for Archivematica, the open-source digital preservation software developed by Artefactual Systems. She has a Masters in Archival Studies and a Masters in Library and Information Studies from the iSchool at University of British Columbia. She was previously an archivist for the Rare Books and Special Collections division of University of British Columbia Library. Sarah has been a member of the PREMIS Editorial Committee since January 2019.

## REFERENCES

- [1] PREMIS Editorial Committee 2015. PREMIS Data Dictionary for Preservation Metadata, accessed 2019, located at <http://www.loc.gov/standards/premis/v3/premis-3-0-final.pdf>.
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