

SAA-ACRL/RBMS Joint Task Force on Holdings Metrics

Conference call: 5 May 2015, 11-12 PDT

Present

Alvan Bregman, Martha O'Hara Conway, Lara Friedman-Shedlov, Angela Fritz, Emily Novak Gustainis, Lisa Miller (recorder), Katie Rawdon, Cyndi Shein

Absent

Adriana Cuervo, Rachel D'Agostino

I. Draft report to SAA Council

The draft report was sent out this morning. Many members had already read it and all thought it was ready for submission to Tim Pyatt, our Council liaison.

II. Group review of Objects and Artifacts definition

While everyone agreed that this category is meant to cover plaques and tee shirts, lively discussion centered on several issues:

- Should the definition explain the difference between objects and artifacts? Because artifacts are a type of object, some thought we should cast the net wide and use object, while others thought that we needed to focus on art and cultural objects. Some were concerned that users of this category would have to go to a second spot to learn the definition of artifact.
- Should "specimens" be included? Some repositories do not have specimens in their collections. Some specimens, such as a skull bearing an assigned number, may not easily fit the definitions of object or artifact.
- Do works of art fall under the Graphic/Visual Material category? We agreed that flat art falls under this other category, so "two-dimensional" should be cut from the Objects/Artifacts definition. We went back to our Graphic Visual materials definition and saw that both "two-dimensional" and "human created" were cut.
- Are "tangible" and "three-dimensional" both necessary? Some thought yes, raising examples of digital objects and holograms. Both words are relevant regardless of the origin of an object.
- May objects be counted either individually or as collections? A button collection served as a model for a discussion on counting. Counts depend on both how the buttons are managed (as a collection or as items), and the purpose of the count--we might count differently for a report, space management, or a physical move. We agreed that our levels of counting can allow for collections of objects, so that users can choose how to count.

- How to shape and format our category definitions? So far we have been stripping down the definitions, but in this case we seem to be expanding the definition. We need to be consistent. There was concern that the more we define, the more we risk excluding things. We don't want to send users to the matrix, which will help guide users, any more than necessary, and we want to separate examples in the matrix from the category definitions. Our definition template should design, scope, and provide examples.

Decisions

- The name of the category will be Objects and Artifacts. This encompasses the names people are accustomed to.
- "Tangible" and "three-dimensional" should both be in the definition. They are relevant regardless of an item's origin.
- Flat art falls under the Graphic/Visual Material category.
- We confirmed previous agreements:
 - We will limit our decisions now to the first sentence.
 - We will use the positive phrase "separate categories exist for..." instead of "don't count here..."
 - We will first develop each definition and then review them all for format, consistency, and scoping.
- We should discuss two definitions during each of our one-hour conference calls. This should be possible because we will only discuss the first sentence.

Action items

- Martha will articulate the scope in the working document and propose a second sentence for the Objects and Artifacts definition.

Next categories: Moving Image Material (Film/Video) and Sound Recordings

Next meeting: Doodle poll is pending

Next recorder: Katie Rawdon