

Dublin Core's DCMIType 'PhysicalObject' and Its Use across the Open Language Archives Community

HUGH PATERSON III

Abstract

The semantics of the Dublin Core DCMIType vocabulary terms can be confusing. The current study investigates the semantics and use of one particular term within the DCMIType vocabulary, 'PhysicalObject'. The records investigated are available via the Open Language Archive Community. The findings are consistent with other literature investigating the use of 'PhysicalObject' – that confusion abounds with indexers/catalogers. This study goes beyond an analysis of the current usage by proposing a semantically valid use case for the vocabulary term within records for data providers using Dublin Core, OAI-PMH, and the OLAC application profile.

About the authors:

Hugh Paterson III is a PhD student at the University of North Texas. He studies metadata application profiles and cataloging practices with an emphasis on language resource description and discovery related to minority language resources. <https://hughandbecky.us/Hugh-CV/#about>