

Dublin Core's DCMIType 'PhysicalObject' and its use across the Open Language Archives Community

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Dublin Core & DCMIType Vocabulary

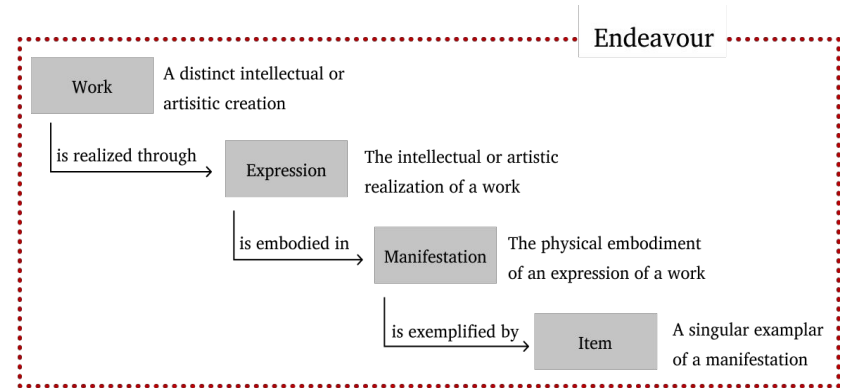
- Dublin Core is frequently used in *Digital Repositories* “Digital Archives” or “Digital Libraries”
 - It is frequently used in conjunction with OAI-PMH to power aggregators pulling metadata from across several digital repositories
 - Dublin Core contains a “built in” taxonomy for indicating the *primary interaction type* of resources. --- **DCMIType Vocabulary**

Dublin Core Record Creation

Dublin Core has some principles to consider

- Dublin Core Elements are repeatable within a record
- A Dublin Core record is supposed to describe one and only one resource --- 1:1 principle.
 - WEMI can help us identify 1:1-ness
- Where does this leave DCMIType values?

I take the confluence of these principles to mean that while a record may have more than one DC:type element, a well formed record can have only one DCMIType value.



DCMIType Values & Usage

DCMIType has 12 Values

- Collection
- Dataset
- Event
- Image
- InteractiveResource
- MovingImage
- PhysicalObject
- Service
- Software
- Sound
- StillImage
- Text

DCMIType Usage on the *Type Element*

Recommended practice is to use a controlled vocabulary such as the DCMI Type Vocabulary [[DCMI-TYPE](#)].
*To describe the file format, physical medium, or dimensions of the resource, use the **Format element**.*

PhysicalObject - Historical Definitions

Since version 002 --- including the current version 003

Label *Physical Object*

Definition *An inanimate, three-dimensional object or substance.*

Comment *Note that digital representations of, or surrogates for, these objects should use Image, Text or one of the other types.*

Version 001

Label *Physical Object*

Definition *An inanimate, three-dimensional object or substance.*

Comment *An inanimate, three-dimensional object or substance. For example -- a computer, the great pyramid, a sculpture. Note that digital representations of, or surrogates for, these things should use Image, Text or one of the other types.*

Proposal version 1999

A non-human object or substance. This category includes objects that do not fit into any of the other categories on this list. In addition these objects must be approached physically to make use of them. For example - a computer, the great pyramid, a sculpture, wheat. Note that digital representations of, or surrogates for, these things should use image, text or one of the other types.

Other Studies

Most Studies

Most studies do not report any use of DCMIType PhysicalObject --- and with reason digital repositories don't usually have physical objects... or do they?



Zavalin & Zavalina (2023)

Zavalin, V. & Zavalina, O. (2023). **Exploration of Accuracy, Completeness and Consistency in Metadata for Physical Objects in Museum Collections.** In Sserwanga, I., Goulding, A., Moulaison-Sandy, H., Du, J., Soares, A., Hessami, V. & Frank, R. (Eds.), *Information for a Better World: Normality, Virtuality, Physicality, Inclusivity.* (pp. 83–90). Springer Nature Switzerland.
https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-28032-0_7

“Inanimate” means *what* exactly?

The DCMIType definition is not super clear on where the line is drawn cross-linguistically. Logically, for biologists the inanimate often excludes the living—such as plants and animals. This is one of the driving motivations in the of development [Darwin Core](#) (Endresen et al., 2012; Baskauf et al., 2016a, b) and its class [Organism](#).

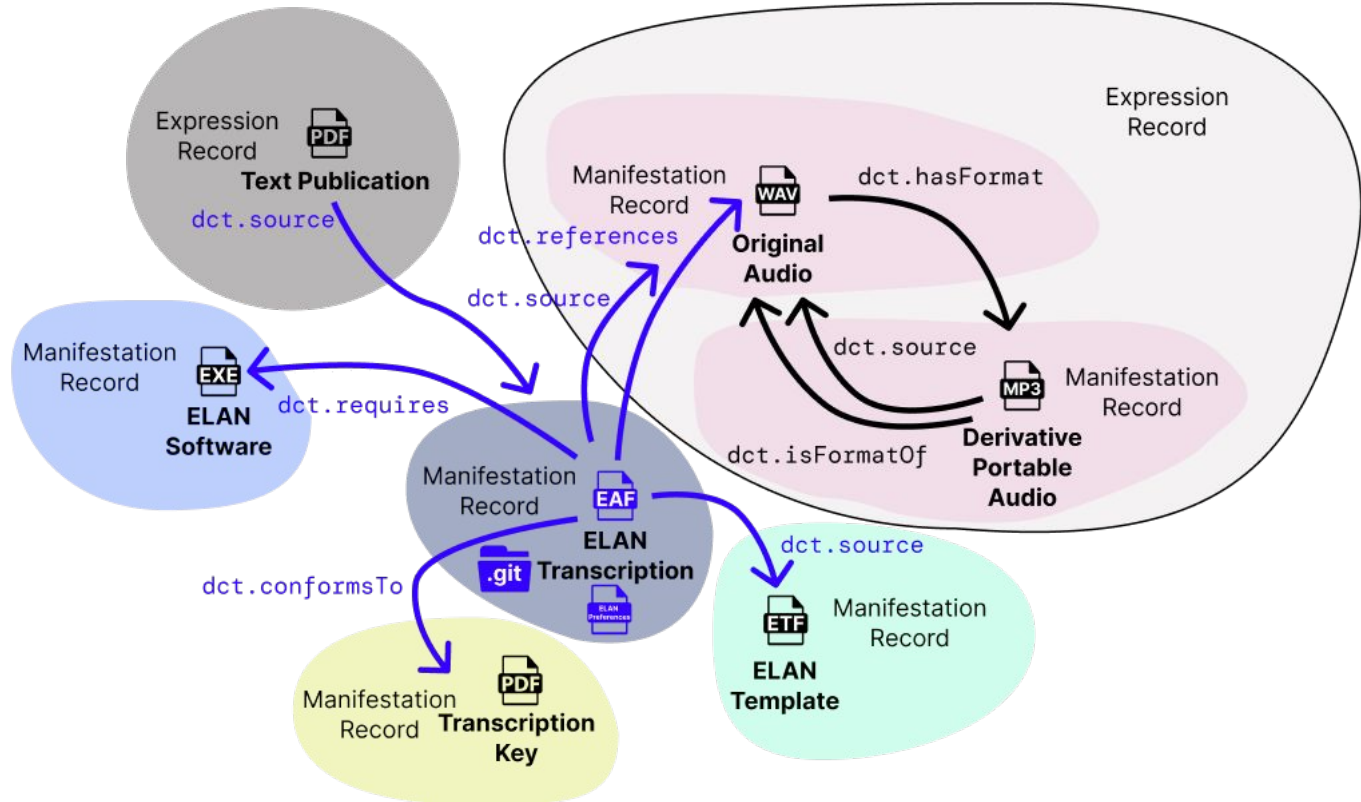
Animate	Inanimate
Human	Non-human (Animal/Plant/Other)
Human/Animal	Plant/Other
Human/Animal/Plant	Other

Open Language Archive Community Usage

16 Records --- 61 total data providers; 480,812 total OLAC records

Data Provider	Number of Records	Proper DCMIType	Content
Speech & Language Data Repository (SLDR)	1	Dataset	XML
California Language Archive	3	Collection	Plant Specimens
The American Philosophical Society	12	Collection (uses multiple assignments of DCMIType and Type in source records)	Computer Disks, Plants, Baskets, Crafts, Tools, Blowguns, Reed/Grass ornaments

Transcription



A semantically correct PhysicalObject type use case

