Steps on the Path to Enriching and Enhancing Archival Moving Images with Linked Data: A Comparison of Potential Description Models for Moving Image Production and Archiving

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Abstract: This poster summarizes recent findings from an ongoing study on the challenges of enriching and enhancing archival moving images with Linked Data (LD). Moving images kept by libraries, archives, and museums (LAMs) often create datasets and systems that keep records of individual objects and collections, but the various pieces of information about creators, places, and events found in each record are not easily connected to relevant information in other sources. To make those connections, comparison and alignment of the various conceptual and data models, vocabularies, and schemas must be accomplished. Yet, conceptual and data models developed in the bibliographic universe often do not meet archival requirements. Additionally, existing information systems use metadata schemas and vocabularies that may not be easily aligned to one another, due to mismatch in granularity between vocabularies, hidden information in unstructured fields, and limited accessibility of proprietary information from metadata aggregators.

This research considers possible metadata models for moving image production and archiving, such as those suggested in the BIBFRAME AV Modeling Study (Van Malssen 2014), records management lifecycle, and continuum models, to assess how these models may be relevant for creating mappings between archival moving image records and relevant external data sources. Successful mappings will aid in access and preservation of those materials by making them easier to manage and find. Having a common metadata model for critical archival descriptive activities may help in the alignment of current vocabularies and developing new ones that more closely address our needs; such a model must consider the full lifecycle of archiving through production, use, and reuse.

This research also explores the feasibility of using a vocabulary such as the Ontology for Media Resources to provide a core set of descriptive metadata for archival moving images that would serve as a bridge between LAM and LOD metadata schemas.

About the Author:

Karen F. Gracy, Ph.D., is an associate professor with tenure at the School of Library and Information Science of Kent State University. She possesses an MLIS and PhD in Library and Information Science from the University of California, Los Angeles and an MA in critical studies of Film and Television from UCLA. Recent publications have appeared in JASIST, Archival Science, The American Archivist, Journal of Library Metadata, and Information and
Dr. Gracy’s scholarly interests are found within the domain of cultural heritage stewardship, which encompasses a broad range of activities such as preservation and conservation processes and practices, digital curation activities that consider the roles of heritage professionals and users in the lifecycle of objects and records, as well as knowledge representation activities such as definitions of knowledge domains, development of standards for description, and application of new technologies to improve access to cultural heritage objects. She also teaches graduate coursework in archival studies, digital preservation and curation, and preservation of cultural heritage materials.