WALT DISNEY ANIMATION STUDIOS   Sharon Mizota <sharon.mizota@disneyanimation.com>

VMCAS HANGOUT: The problem of "silo-ing" 2/22
February 22, 2018

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reply-113557488998769855437@profiles.google.com joined the conversation

reply-104302975031643458511@profiles.google.com joined the conversation

Michael Nagy joined the conversation

Jessica Gengler joined the conversation

reply-114799064218872215413@profiles.google.com joined the conversation

Sharon Mizota - 11:00 AM
Hi Ashley!

Lauren Gaylord joined the conversation

Ashley Levine - 11:01 AM
Hi everyone!

Sharon Mizota - 11:02 AM
Hello! Welcome to the 2nd VMCAS Google Hangout! We'll wait a few minutes for people to get set up.

Ashley Levine - 11:02 AM
Thanks Sharon!
I see a few a/v connections

Sharon Mizota - 11:03 AM
Me too -- got my a/v working, although I am not broadcasting. At least I can hear everything

Ashley Levine - 11:03 AM
great!
You can see me though yeah?

Sharon Mizota - 11:03 AM
yes, and others!
😁
I can hear both of you!
So let's get started

reply-103581638366590536657@profiles.google.com joined the conversation

Sharon Mizota - 11:06 AM
Today's topic is "silo-ing" or the creation of more than one set of metadata for the same objects
Do you all have this issue? And is it a problem?

Jessica Gengler - 11:07 AM
It's a little confusing...you might need to let people know that they have to click to "join the video call"

Sharon Mizota - 11:07 AM
Oh, ok. If you want to join the video or audio call, click the little video camera icon in the upper left of the chat window!

Ashley Levine - 11:08 AM
Thanks!

reply-114799064218872215413@profiles.google.com left the conversation

Jessica Gengler - 11:08 AM
👍

Sharon Mizota - 11:09 AM
So for example, we create two sets of metadata: one for general use and the other specifically for exhibitions. This drives me crazy! Does anyone else have this issue?

Laura Uglean Jackson joined the conversation

Sharon Mizota - 11:10 AM
I can hear you

Michael Nagy - 11:10 AM
yes

Jessica Gengler - 11:10 AM
I can hear you. There is some feedback, but not bad

Tsoleen Sarian - 11:11 AM
yes, only we have 3 different databases to fill different purposes, but the metadata overlaps and has to be entered twice or even three times

Sharon Mizota - 11:12 AM
It looks like many people may need to unmute their mics in order to talk

reply-104302975031643458511@profiles.google.com left the conversation

Sharon Mizota - 11:12 AM
You can do this from the top of the video window

Ashley Levine - 11:13 AM
I've been discussing how my joining Artifex Press as a Lone Arranger, when the company was developing metadata guidelines, enables be to articulate the need for shared data. I'm lucky that I had a chance to be proactive about this.
I'm wonderin
Oh
Ann Artifex is a NYC company that published digital catalogue raisonne
anyway

Sharon Mizota - 11:14 AM
I think silo-ing might happen because of challenges to communication. People aren't all on the same page, or are in a hurry, so they create their own metadata.

Ashley Levine - 11:14 AM
I'm wondering what kids of institutions you all are woking in?

Sharon Mizota - 11:15 AM
I'm the Archives Data Specialist at the Walt Disney Animation Research Library -- a corporate archives

Tsoleen Sarian - 11:15 AM
in a small nonprofit, Project SAVE Armenian Photograph ARchives

Laura Uglean Jackson - 11:15 AM
University archives

Jessica Gengler - 11:15 AM
I work in a local history archive within a museum

Michael Nagy - 11:15 AM
Sorry - camera/mic not working. I'm non-profit, relgious, small college. With museum, archives, library - all of the above and lone arranger.

Lauren Gaylord - 11:15 AM
I'm at an animation studio

Michael Nagy - 11:16 AM
Our communications folks run a DAM which I consulted on. But now its gone off on its own and they want me to "contribute content" which is very unstructured and does not map to our database.

Ashley Levine - 11:17 AM
So, it looks like we have a variety of archival spheres, experiencing thi shared issue. Is this due to differing databases (like Michael), differing goal?
goals?

Michael Nagy - 11:17 AM
I'd rather the long term stuff in the DAM come back to the archives, not the other way round.

Sharon Mizota - 11:18 AM
So, different spheres of control come into play.

Tsoleen Sarian - 11:18 AM
We've had to create additional database because PastPerfect doesn't do everything we want, like tracking reference and photo orders, or invoicing

Michael Nagy - 11:19 AM
Yea, we are PP environment too

Jessica Gengler - 11:19 AM
Silo-ing occurs for my institution within the same database - the archives and collections materials sometimes overlap and different metadata may be created for the same materials/records.
We use ContentDM

Sharon Mizota - 11:19 AM
Huh, two records for the same thing in the same db?

Michael Nagy - 11:19 AM
@Jessica - same objects or same type of objects?

Jessica Gengler - 11:20 AM
Same object with two separate records!

Michael Nagy - 11:20 AM
ugh

Jessica Gengler - 11:20 AM
One listed as a museum artifact and one as archival material

Ashley Levine - 11:20 AM
Is there no way to link this data in ContentDM...or a way to track duplication?

Michael Nagy - 11:20 AM
unique id perhaps

Ashley Levine - 11:20 AM
I'm not super familiar with the system

Jessica Gengler - 11:21 AM
It happened in the past because an item might have been transferred from the museum collections into the archive, but the item still has two records
ContentDM isn't super intuitive. You can add a field that links similar items, but there are often times still two records

Tsoleen Sarian - 11:22 AM
PP user, where else do you enter metadata that is creating conflict?

Michael Nagy - 11:24 AM
For us, we are being asked to put assets into a completly different system which does not talk to PP. So its export and massage data or re-catalog, usually into dublin core.
Someone mentioned exhibits - why is this? Is it for truncation, labels, etc.

Ashley Levine - 11:25 AM
I believe that was Sharon?

Sharon Mizota - 11:26 AM
Yes, sorry, had to step away for a minute. Our system doesn't allow us to track loans or conservation either, so we enter metadata into a Filemaker Pro db for exhibitions

Lauren Gaylord - 11:26 AM
we also have that problem, mostly because our main database doesn't yet allow for item level, so we have a separate item level database purely for exhibitions
but a lot of redundant information between the two

Sharon Mizota - 11:27 AM
It's basically the same metadata but formatted differently and enhanced with condition reports, loan info, etc. It never makes a round trip, though, and basically just sits there
getting old...

Michael Nagy - 11:27 AM
Since in theory we will also be taking items from the DAM at some point we will unfortunately be taking in copies of our stuff that we put in the DAM with different less robust metadata.

Ashley Levine - 11:29 AM
I'm wondering how others are managing visual collections, especially photos. Is anyone embedding metadata in visual assets as a way to secure consistent metadata?

Michael Nagy - 11:30 AM
Trying to have others send to us - photographers, etc. - but not much success. We aren't doing this yet.

Tsoleen Sarian - 11:30 AM
The only way I know how to do that at this point is in Lightroom, where we can enter Keywords that travel with the image once exported

Ashley Levine - 11:30 AM
I use IPTC Core, and simultaneously embed data about the photo and the depicted object (artwork).
This also centralizes copyright info, etc

Lauren Gaylord - 11:30 AM
we embed keywords in photos (IPTC Core), but beef it up with other metadata that's not embedded

Ashley Levine - 11:31 AM
I use Adobe Bridge to embed*

Tsoleen Sarian - 11:31 AM
With Lightroom, you can enter captions and title too--it's just hard to figure out where to find them when you reopen the photo!

Ashley Levine - 11:31 AM
Which is free

Lauren Gaylord - 11:31 AM
Adobe Bridge is great

Jessica Gengler - 11:31 AM
We have also used Adobe Bridge for embedding

Elizabeth Cathcart - 11:31 AM
Michael -- I work with photos in the Photo Archive at the Academy of Motion Pictures Library. We do have a template for the photographers we contract with for certain events related to our company & I use some of that when cataloging. And of course, digital photos from studios and such have embedded, but we don't put anything embedded except our Rights info

Sharon Mizota - 11:33 AM
Would it help if people with alternate metadata needs were adding to embedded metadata instead of creating new dbs?

Elizabeth Cathcart - 11:33 AM
I use Lightroom to see embedded metadata, because our database only lists some of the fields

Ashley Levine - 11:35 AM
Darn, I wold be ideal for the database to harness all the fields
it*

Laura Uglean Jackson left the conversation

Sharon Mizota - 11:35 AM
So it sounds like technology is a big limitation -- the db doesn't have the right fields or doesn't have the functionality needed.

Elizabeth Cathcart - 11:36 AM
I think embedding is great, but depending on what system you are using, the fields sometimes have different names depending on what ppl who are embedding use & so you can't see them all OR your system won't upload images because it doesn't recognize certain fields.

Ashley Levine - 11:36 AM
That's a primary reason I use IPTC...most DAMS, etc. support and make this embedded data searchable

Elizabeth Cathcart - 11:36 AM
we had that issue with our old system

Ashley Levine - 11:37 AM
Yes, technology is definitely a setback. What about record types? Are there specific kinds of records that are more problematic?
Or is it just across the board?
I deal with photos and a/v mostly

Jessica Gengler - 11:38 AM
I think a setback can also be staffing - we have a small staff (my supervisor and two part-time employees) so things like entering metadata can often fall to volunteers/interns

Ashley Levine - 11:38 AM
Great point

Elizabeth Cathcart - 11:38 AM
my experience is only photos, so I'm unsure.

Jessica Gengler - 11:39 AM
We usually check the metadata before approving the records, but checking hundreds of records and metadata fields can become very tedious

Sharon Mizota - 11:40 AM
Has anyone successfully "blended" two (or more) of metadata sets?

Michael Nagy - 11:41 AM
Our metadata is primarily descriptive - about analog objects in files and boxes. Anything embedded would be in surrogates which is a separate function / project.

Jessica Gengler - 11:41 AM
Sharon - I have not and am honestly not sure what that would look like!

Ashley Levine - 11:43 AM
I've done some data migration, but not full integration between systems

Tsoleen Sarian - 11:43 AM
no, that is the challege: how to, whether to, or to migrate everything to a system that can handle all we wnat to do. Or to get the systems to talk to each other.
ONe of the issues with PastPerfect is both the import and export functions are limited to 254 characters

Latasha M. joined the conversation

Sharon Mizota - 11:46 AM
Tsoleen -- what does that mean? You can only export/import up to 254 characters in a field?

Tsoleen Sarian - 11:46 AM
yes, it truncates after that

Sharon Mizota - 11:47 AM
Ugh. I'm sorry. ☹️

Michael Nagy - 11:47 AM
I think it is only if you go directly to excel. If you go to html then to excel it will save it.

Ashley Levine - 11:48 AM
Oh nice. That could be a feasible work around?

Tsoleen Sarian - 11:48 AM
Ok, I'll look into that
The whole problem seems to involve work-arounds...to the point where it almost is easier just to enter it twice!

Ashley Levine - 11:49 AM
haha!

Michael Nagy - 11:50 AM

We imported into PP from another system. Data map was imperfect. We did not "lose" anything that I know of - but some of it went into weird places.

Latasha M. left the conversation

Tsoleen Sarian - 11:51 AM

we did lose some data when we started with PP--and it was that problem of truncation. This was even with their tech team doing the migration

Michael Nagy - 11:51 AM

The idea - posed earlier - about merging worries me in that data from two places will try to go into the same field. How would that go?

Ashley Levine - 11:51 AM

Has anyone here discussed siloing with others (and specifically non-archivists) at your workplaces?
To get buy-in for a better appraoch

Michael Nagy - 11:52 AM

Vendors 😝

Sharon Mizota - 11:52 AM

Michael - we are in the early stages of looking for a new CMS and in terms of features, repeatable fields is high on our list -- I hope that data from 2 different systems could be migrated into repeatable fields.

Ashley Levine - 11:52 AM

haha

Michael Nagy - 11:54 AM

Yes, we went from a repeatable field DB to PP which has "custom" fields that can be renamed but not repeatable. That repeatable data was some of the oddly placed stuff coming out.

Sharon Mizota - 11:54 AM

I see -- something to watch out for!
We've got about 5 min. left -- any last minute thoughts or questions?

Michael Nagy - 11:56 AM

Any tutorials or good presenations on embedded metadata in photos?

Tsoleen Sarian - 11:56 AM

Well, I've certainly been validated in thinking that this is a problem without an easy solution!

Sharon Mizota - 11:56 AM

🙂

Ashley Levine - 11:57 AM

I presented on using bridge to embed IPTC metada in photo sat SAA 2016, and worte about it here: https://lonearrangers.
wordpress.com/2016/12/15/the-challenges-of-archiving-and-making-available-born-digital-catalogues-raisonnes/

Jessica Gengler - 11:57 AM

http://www.embeddedmetadata.org

Ashley Levine - 11:57 AM

That too!

Michael Nagy - 11:57 AM

Thanks

Tsoleen Sarian - 11:59 AM
Thank you, that's helpful!

Sharon Mizota - 11:59 AM
Thanks to everyone who joined us today -- we may not have come up with a bunch of great solutions, but at least we know we're not alone!

Tsoleen Sarian - 11:59 AM
bye!

Ashley Levine - 11:59 AM
Haha
!

Elizabeth Cathcart - 12:00 PM
Yes, thank you, that was very interesting!

Ashley Levine - 12:00 PM
Thank you all! Some stuff to think about for sure!

Sharon Mizota - 12:00 PM
If you have any feedback for us, please contact me (sharon.mizota@disneyanimation.com) or Ashley (alevine@artifexpress.com).

Ashley Levine - 12:00 PM
🙂

Jessica Gengler - 12:00 PM
Thank you for hosting this hangout!

Ashley Levine - 12:00 PM
OUr pleasure!

Sharon Mizota - 12:01 PM
See you all next time!