

SIMS 202 PHONE PROJECT – Metadata Creation Guidelines

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1. INTRODUCTION

This document contains a set of helpful guidelines for creating metadata frameworks.

2. METADATA CREATION GUIDELINES

1. Format

You will present your metadata system in an Excel file as described in Assignment 6.

2. Metadata Verification

Using your application scenario as a guide, evaluate whether your metadata structure is sufficiently developed in its breadth and depth. Could your metadata framework organize the data that you need to implement your application scenario?

3. Specificity Level

If descriptors exist on the same level in the hierarchy, they should denote the same level of specificity. In the example below:

Place>Type>Building>**Theater**
Place>Type>Building>**Room**

Theater and Room do not have the same level of specificity because Room is part of a building, while Theater is a type of building.

Another thing to look out for as you determine whether subfacets at the same level are also the same degree of specificity is whether all descriptors at a particular level are also the same part of speech. A facet sublevel that contains a mix of descriptors like Strenuous, Light, Working, Playing probably needs to be rearranged so the adjectives and gerunds are in the right facets. Strenuous and Light describe activities while Working and Playing are activities.

4. Combining Descriptors

Recognize that a descriptor may be created by combining descriptors from more than one facet. For example, the incorrect descriptor path Activities>Tasting>Wine can be corrected by using an Activities facet that contains Tasting and an Object facet that contains Wine. When you go to annotate a photo depicting wine tasting you use one descriptor from the Activities facet (Activities>Tasting) and one descriptor from the Object facet (Object>Drink>Wine). So each facet should be targeted at categorizing broad types of concepts, e.g. Things, Places, People. These general facets can be combined to describe many particular items or individuals.

Since top level facets occupy the highest level in the metadata hierarchy, they should be general enough to support applications other than your own. Avoid names that are vague or too specific. For example, a facet called Culture is too vague because it is unclear what Culture refers to. On the other hand, a facet called Equipment is too specific because not all objects can be classified as Equipment.

5. Use of Slashes

Avoid using slashes in descriptor names. Slashes are a good indication that a facet should be broken down into more levels of increasing specificity, or that you need to decide on the best of several synonymous words.

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