

CLOSED BOOK, IN-CLASS TEST - APRIL 28, 2004

One hour only. **Answer ONE question from each of the THREE sections**, in any order. Ration your time. Try to give as complete an answer as you can within the limited time available. When applicable, use **real or imaginary examples** to illustrate your answers. In any answer, draw on any parts of the course that are relevant. Write legibly. Use clear English.

Section One: Answer one the two following questions:

- 1A. At the beginning of the semester, we discussed two challenges in organizing collections: A collection of coins; and a database for selecting a prospective blind date for a hypothetical friend. In what ways do these two cases differ? And how are they really the same?
- 1B. "*Facets are co-equal*, but any facet may contain a *hierarchy*." Explain and define each italicized word. Explain what the sentence means. Any additional comments?

Section Two. Answer ONE of 2A, 2B or 2C.

- 2A. You have been asked to advise on the design of a thesaurus. You are asked how large it should be, meaning: how detailed, how many preferred terms. What factors would be relevant to this decision? What circumstances would lead to a growth or contraction over time?
- 2B. An organization has the task of merging two collections with similar scope. The metadata of the two collections is the same except that different thesauri have been used. How would you unify two different thesauri? What options can you think of? Under what circumstances might you decide not merge the thesauri – or not completely? Explain and justify your decisions.
- 2C. A thesaurus (or list of subject headings) is used to describe documents. New editions of the preferred terms keep being published, why? Sometimes, assigned subject headings already assigned get changed. Since the documents haven't changed, why would this happen?

Section Three: Answer any one of the following:

- 3A. It has been claimed that set theory is central to topics covered in this class. (A) What does this mean? (B) What justification is there for this claim? (C) What are the limits or weaknesses of this view?
- 3B. In what ways might an organized collection of information be considered good or bad? What different senses of good and bad?
- 3C. In an in-class assignment we encoded the following descriptive statement using MARC 041.
The text is primarily in Iroquoian, but the document also includes a translation into English, with a summary in French, a libretto in Italian, and other significant material in Chinese, German, and Spanish.
Show how the same statement might be written encoded in SGML/XML style.