Metadata for Works of Art the Application of CDWA

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Outline

- Variant terms of metadata
- Typology of current metadata development for Museum
- Metadata Standards Matrix
- Case study: application of CDWA
- Findings and suggestions

Variant Terms of Metadata

- **Computer Science**: Data Dictionary, Schema
- **Library Science**:Library Catalogue
- **Museum**: Inventory, Documentation, Register, Data Standard
- **Archives**: Inventory, Archival Description, Finding Aids
- **Bio-informatics**: Schema, Bio-ontology
- Others…

What is Metadata (for Museum) ? [1]

- Data describes attributes of artifacts/works
- Structured information about artifacts/works
- Metadata are used to provide documentation for artifacts/works. In essence, metadata answer who, what, when, where , why, and how about every facet of the artifacts/works that are being documented

What is Metadata (for Museum) ?$_2$

- To structure and annotate artifacts/collections which can then be easily reused, transformed, accessed, etc., in order to gain more information and knowledge on demand
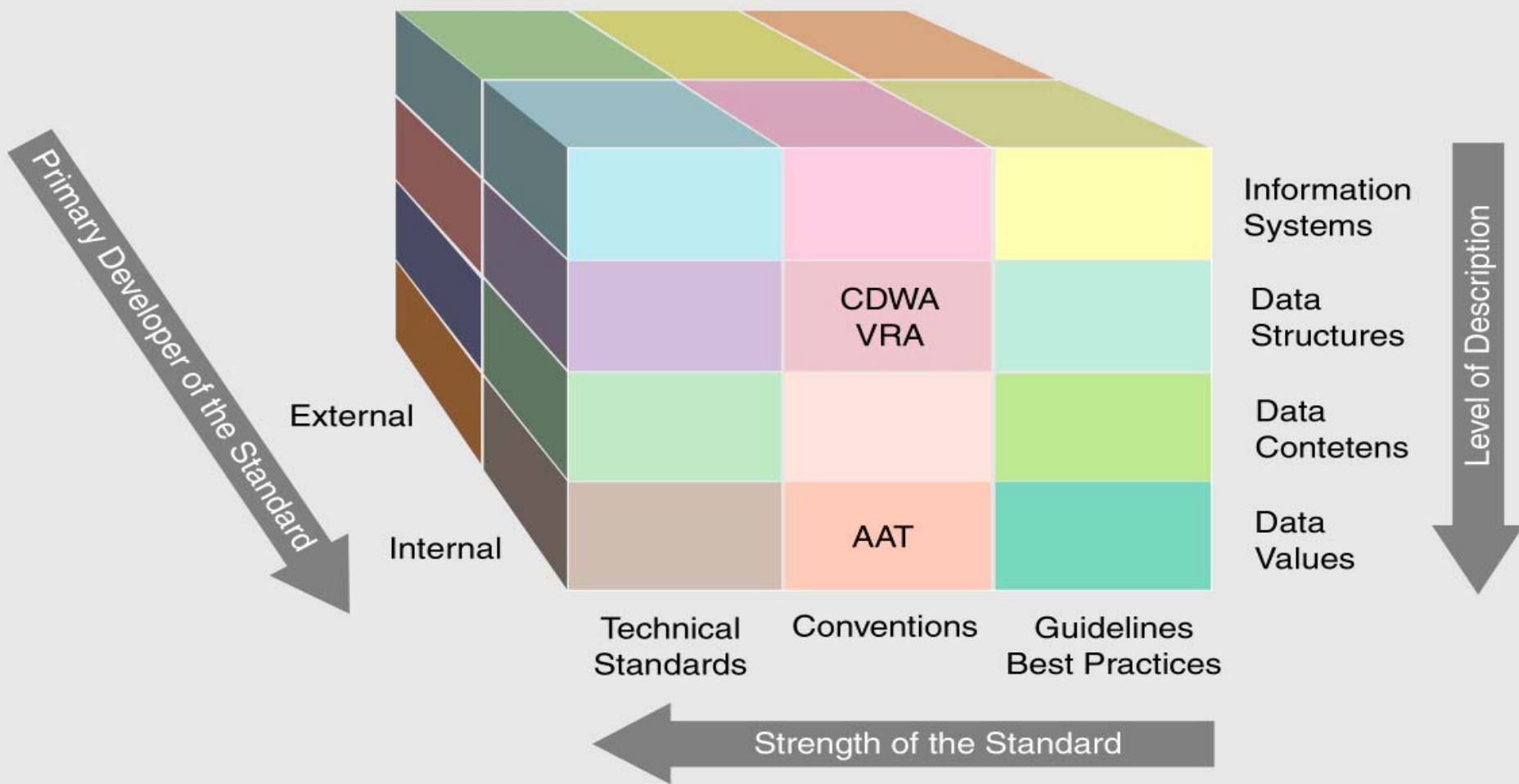
Typology of Current Metadata Development for Museum

- Generic Metadata
  - Dublin Core
- Domain-specific Metadata
  - CIMI (Consortium for the Computer Interchange of Museum Information)
  - CIDOC Information Categories: International Guidelines for Museum Object Information
  - SPECTRUM: the UK Documentation Standard
  - CDWA (Categories for the Description of Works of Art)
  - VRA Core Categories for Visual Resources
  - (more)…

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Metadata Standards Matrix

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Dublin Core

- The latest Version: 1.0
- Content: 15 elements with 2 types of qualifiers (elements refinements, encoding schemes)
- Purpose/Goals:
  - To enhance resource discovery and description on the Web
  - To achieve semantic interoperability
  - To be recognized as an international standard

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CDWA (Categories for the Description of Works of Art)

- Last modify: Sep. 20 2000
- The latest Version: 2
- Produced by: J.Paul Getty Trust
- Content: 26 Categories
- Feature:
  - It was formulated with the needs of the academic researcher or scholar in mind.
  - It is regarded as core representing the minimum information necessary to identify a particular work of art or museum object.

VRA Core Categories for Visual Resources

- Last modify: Feb. 20, 2002
- The latest Version: 3.0
- Produced by: Visual Resources Association
- Content: 17 Categories
- Feature:
  - a DC-like elements set for image collections
  - borrowed much from CDWA

CIDOC Information Categories

- Last modify: Oct. 1995
- Produced by: International Committee for Documentation (CIDOC) of the International Council of Museums (ICOM)
- Elements: 22 Information Groups
- Feature:
  - Ensure accountability for objects
  - Aid the security of objects
  - Provide an historic archive about objects
  - Support physical and intellectual access to objects

Case Study: the NDAP[1]

- NDAP: the National Digital Archives Program
- Through Metadata Continuum Model Methodology (MCM Methodology), Six Projects have adopted CDWA as the metadata standard, including:
  - The Digital Archives of Rubbings and Archaic Texts
  - Digital Archives of Chinese Archaeological Data

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Case Study: the NDAP$_2$

- Digital Archives for Artifacts from Ethnic Groups of Southwestern China
- Digital Archives Project of Chinese Antiquities at the National Palace Museum
- Digital Archives Project of Chinese Painting and Calligraphy at the National Palace Museum
- Digital Library Project of National Museum of History

Crosswalk of CDWA, VRA, CIDOC, DC

CDWA	VRA 3.0	CIDOC	DC
Orientation/ arrangement	Description	Description	Description
Inscriptions/ Marks	Description	Mark and Inscription Information	Description
Condition/ Examination	Description	Condition Information	Description
Conservation/ Treatment History	Description		Description

Case Study: the NDAP$_3$

- **Experience of the Application of CDWA at the NDAP**
  - **Different viewpoints of categorizing a set of elements**
    - Casting (鑄造痕跡), Using Physical Description(使用痕跡與遺存): Physical Description? OR Condition/Examination History?
    - Shape-Skill (形制-技法), Decoration-Skill(紋飾-技法): Physical Description? OR Materials and Techniques-Processes or Techniques-name?
    - Mounting and Accessory (裝裱,裝潢) : Materials and Techniques? Physical Description?

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Case Study: the NDAP$_4$

- **Experience of the Application of CDWA at the NDAP (cont.)**
  - **Chinese culture needs**
    - Inscription/Marks-Transcription or Description-Direction, lines, words (文字回向), (行格):
  - **Deeper structuralized information**
    - Date: Chinese Dynasties(朝代), Emperor(帝王), Reign(年號)
    - Related Visual Documentation-Preferred
    - Cataloging History
    - ....

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Case Study: the NDAP$_5$

- ## The Key Issues:
  - ### Work vs.Manifestation
    - Original work? Slide reproduction? Photo reproduction? Digital reproduction?…how about rubbings and its physical artifacts?…how about photo and its original something (building, people)?
  - ### Granularity consideration
    - The basic unit of an e-book? A series title, a title, a chapter of the book, a poem from the book…
  - ### Different requirement focuses
    - Research, Media or Register orientation?…
  - ### Multiple metadata sets for varying levels of the collection
    - In Archeology, artifacts and sites need different standards. Eg. CDWA vs. MIDAS

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Conclusion & Suggestions

- How to start:
  - identify requirements, review relevant standards
- How to apply:
  - application profile, best practice
- How to develop metadata system:
  - design or select metadata systems
- How to integrate metadata system:
  - With Legacy systems
  - With digital library systems