

# *Merging Metadata from Multiple Traditions: IN Harmony Sheet Music from Libraries and Museums*

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# What is “sheet music”?

- Not synonymous with “popular music”
- Defined bibliographically\*
  - Musical notation
  - Unattached and unbound at the time of sale
  - No fasteners
- Intended for mass consumption
- For small ensemble, performing informally

\*MLA “Guidelines for Sheet Music Cataloging”

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# IN Harmony Project

- Digitize, catalog, and deliver online 10,000 pieces of sheet music
- 3-year project funded by IMLS
- Collaborative project among 4 Indiana cultural heritage institutions

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# Indiana University Lilly Library

- 2 primary sheet music collections
  - Sam DeVincent Collection of American Sheet Music; ca. 24,000 pieces
  - Starr Sheet Music Collection; ca. 100,000 pieces
- Library with an archival streak
- Strong library cataloging tradition, including authority control
- Some legacy metadata in a custom database and MARC records
- Will catalog new items and not update legacy records

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# Indiana State Library

- Approximately 1,600 pieces of sheet music, all with an Indiana connection
- Strong library cataloging tradition, but sheet music has not been a priority
- Skeletal MARC records exist, converted from cards

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# Indiana Historical Society

- Sheet music of two types
  - ca. 950 Indiana-related items
  - Jane B. Anderson Sheet Music Collection; ca. 12,000 pieces
- Archival mission with a library perspective
- Sheet music not currently described
- Metadata created will end up in CONTENTdm digital asset management system

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# Indiana State Museum

- 1,800 pieces of sheet music, largely from the DeVincent Collection
- Description for the purpose of collection management
- No library cataloging tradition
- Sheet music records currently in Multi MIMSY museum management system

# Diverse partners

	Primary purpose of records	Culture of authority control?	Existing data?	Native format
IU Lilly	Description & access	Yes	Yes, and no	Custom database and MARC
ISL	Description & access	Yes	Yes	MARC
IHS	Access & collection management	Yes	No	CONTENTdm
ISM	Collection management	No	Yes	Multi MIMSY museum management system

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# Metadata model

- **Goals**
  - Address user needs for sheet music, but interoperable
  - Meet the individual needs of all project partners
  - Make it easy to create high-quality data
- **Developed collaboratively by representatives from all partner institutions**
- **Heavily informed by a series of user tests**
- **MODS chosen as the base format**

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# Selecting a schema only the first step

- Determine required vs. optional elements
- Determine when elements repeatable
- Specify authority control for selected fields
- Determine syntax rules for selected fields
- Develop usage guidelines

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# Interesting metadata decisions

- Titles
- Names
- Dates
- Subjects
- Cover art

# Titles

- Need to support both description and access
- Users know songs by labels other than title proper
- Several types of titles specified
  - Title proper
  - First line, first line of chorus
  - Title of larger work
  - ...etc.
- All titles must belong to one of these categories
- Can use as many as are deemed appropriate
- Provide list of previously-used titles within interface
- Allow indication of non-sorting characters

# Names

- Need to support both description and access
- Several types of names specified
  - Composer
  - Lyricist
  - Arranger
  - ...etc.
- All names must belong to one of these categories
- Can use as many as are deemed appropriate
- Assist all users in providing authoritative form of name when possible; construct according to project rules otherwise

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# Dates

- Primarily for user access
- Record in YYYY format
  - Use as many digits as are known
- Separate indication of copyright vs. publication date
- Separate indication that the date is approximate, inferred, or questionable

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# Subjects

- For collection management and user access
- Major focus of user research
- “Subject” categories used
  - Topical
  - Form/genre
  - Instrumentation
  - Geographic
  - Language
  - Local – essential for individual institutions
- Can use as many as are deemed appropriate
- Use LCSH when appropriate
- Policy on LCSH subdivisions still under review

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# Cover art

- Not commonly a focus in the library environment
- Of primary importance in museum environment
- Can record
  - People
  - Subjects
- Not required
- Useful for planning exhibitions, history & social science research

# Mapping metadata

- From native format to project format
  - Legacy Lilly data
  - ISM
  - IHS
- From project format to format for individual institution
  - ISM
  - ISL?

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# Next steps

- Finalize metadata model and cataloging guidelines
- Cataloging tool development complete in October 2005
- Map metadata into central system when needed
- Plan for mappings out of central system into local systems
- Start creating metadata!

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# More information

- **Project Web site:**  
<<http://www.dlib.indiana.edu/projects/inharmony/>>
  - Cataloging guidelines
  - Metadata model field summary
  - Project MODS template
- **These presentation slides:**  
<<http://www.dlib.indiana.edu/~jenlrile/bbfall05/inharmony/>>
- **jenlrile@indiana.edu**