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The Collaborative Study of Archival Metadata Mapping in Taiwan

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Abstract

National Science Council (NSC) of Taiwan had been in charge of the National Digital Archiving Project (NDAP) from 2002 to 2012. Over the 10 years, many important institutions had participated in NDAP, including Academia Historica, Taiwan Historica, Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica, Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica, Institute of Taiwan History, Academia Sinica, and the Taiwan Provincial Consultative Council. The digitized collections are from Ming Dynasty, Ch'ing Dynasty, Japanese Occupied Period (1895-1945), and the period of Republican China (1912- present). The total number of digitized items in the project is over 1.4 million. In this study, digitized items with metadata elements designed by Metadata Architecture and Application Team (MAAT) were analyzed and compared to find core elements of each level according to their metadata requirements specifications. The outcomes may serve as reference for future design of metadata elements, and permit contextualized export of archival metadata as the foundation for next generation archival description.

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Keywords: archival metadata; EAD; NDAP

1. Introduction

National Science Council (NSC) of Taiwan had sponsored National Digital Archiving Project (NDAP) from 2002 to 2012. In this decade, many public institutions had participated in this project, including Academia Historica, Taiwan Historica, Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica, Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica, Institute of Taiwan History, Academia Sinica, and the Taiwan Provincial Consultative Council. The digitized collections are from the Ming Dynasty, Ch'ing Dynasty, Japanese Occupied Period (1895-1945), and

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the period of Republican China (1912 - present). The total number of digitized items is over 1.4 million. Because all of these archival repositories were in different fonds and from different time periods, their requirements of metadata elements of all levels were varied according to the content and information that the digitized items contained. Metadata Architecture and Application Team (MAAT) were thus entrusted with the task of metadata designation by some of the institutions participating in NDAP. In this study, digitized items with metadata elements designed by MAAT were analyzed according to their metadata requirements specifications so as to find the core elements of each level based on EAD. Comparison with international experience of archival description was made to set the stage for future integration with international standards.

2. Methods

The Metadata Architecture and Application Team (MAAT) were organized to assist collection-based projects of the NDAP in developing metadata mechanisms and services. With great demand for metadata requirements from thematic projects, MAAT developed the “Metadata Lifecycle Model”, which was based on the real requirements of NDAP and applies system analysis from computer science and content analysis from the social sciences. The “Metadata Lifecycle Model”, made up of four groups and 10 steps, was employed to develop a set of systematic working procedures to fulfill functions and metadata requirements of each thematic project, including quality assurance, quality consistency, and project management (see Fig. 1).

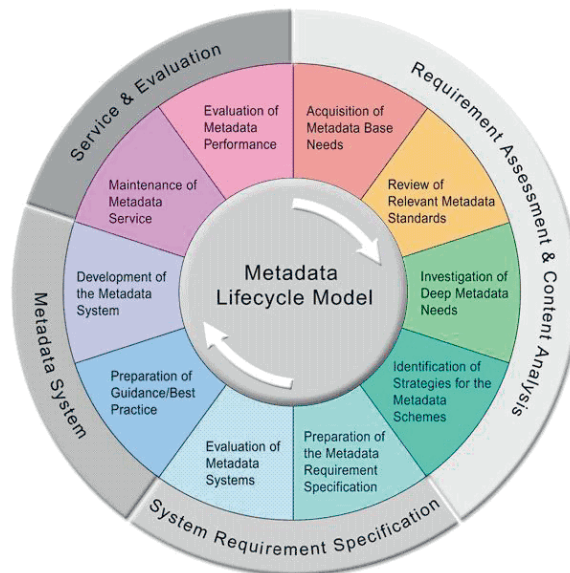


Fig.1. Metadata lifecycle model

Adapted from "Getting Start," by Metadata Architecture and Application Team. Retrieved July 26, 2013. From <http://metadata.teldap.tw/design/design-eng-frame.html>

3. Results

In this study, digitized items with metadata elements designed by MAAT were analyzed according to their metadata requirement specifications. Due to the limited time frame, this study focused on seven fonds of five major repositories from various public authorities ranging from the eras of the Ming and Ch'ing dynasty to the

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