

Proposal for Future Statewide Project

Project Name: Metadata Cleanup / DPLA Readiness Grants for Washington Libraries

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1. Briefly describe your idea for the use of LSTA funding (limit your response to approximately ½ page).

This proposal would fund metadata creation, rectification (“cleanup”), and/or enhancement at Washington libraries, including those seeking to eventually contribute digital collection records to the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA). It would also establish a formal partnership between the Washington State Library (WSL) and Oregon State Library (OSL).

Background: The [DPLA](#) is a federated search portal that aggregates records from the digital collections of America’s galleries, libraries, archives, and museums (“GLAMS”). The portal greatly improves discoverability of materials held at disparate institutions and acts as a platform for innovative uses of digital content. Data is added to the DPLA by way of standalone or multi-institutional “[service hubs](#)” working with and “harvesting” (via OAI-PMH) the records of GLAMS in specific states or regions. In early 2015, Orbis Cascade Alliance (OCA) Council expressed interest in working toward becoming a DPLA service hub for all Alliance institutions. It is possible that they would also serve non-Alliance institutions as the service hub matures. In March 2015, a group of stakeholders including OCA and non-OCA institutions came together in Salem, OR for a [Northwest Digital Collections Summit](#) to discuss avenues for collaboration throughout the region. One of the recommended actions resulting from the summit was to “Encourage institutions in Washington and Oregon to form one or more initial collaborative projects focused on eventual participation in the Digital Public Library of America...” (p. 12 [Northwest Digital Collections, final report](#)).

Additional Context: In the last two decades [organizations throughout the Pacific Northwest](#) have built substantial digital collections, using a variety of metadata practices, in an environment of ever-evolving best practices and standards. This has led to a lack of uniformity and standardization between digital collections. Informal scrutiny of digital collections produced by libraries throughout the region reveals that virtually all of these collections fail to meet the minimum criteria for entry into the DPLA. For example, almost none of these institutions have adopted the use of discrete, uniform copyright status “labels” (statements) ala projects such as [Europeana](#) or [Oregon Digital](#).

Funding for this project would include competitive sub-grants for library staffers to revisit and re-catalog digital collections, bringing them in line with the [DPLA Metadata Application Profile](#) (DPLA MAP), a standard that outlines data requirements for DPLA partners. Project funding would also be used to provide in-depth training in the following areas: 1) Copyright assessment for digitized materials, provided by an intellectual property expert (contractor); 2) Understanding the DPLA Metadata Application Profile; and 3) Guided development of a localized metadata enhancement plan.

This project would provide an opportunity for WSL to formally partner with OSL, by sharing training costs, and co-hosting regular meetings and events. WSL staff would manage Washington’s associated sub-grants, and both organizations would convene an ad hoc Northwest Metadata Forum (NWF)—a discussion forum comprised of sub-grant recipients, staff from libraries in both states, and metadata experts contributing in an advisory capacity. The NWF would collaborate via face-to-face and virtual meetings, an email list, as well as a content management system (e.g., a wiki, Sharepoint, etc.). As their metadata enhancement work progressed, members of the working group would share ideas and local practices, discuss thorny metadata issues, explore relevant developments in the digital library world, and build a knowledgebase of best practices, real-world policies, and project documentation.

2. Briefly describe why funding of this idea is important to the Washington library community (limit your response to approximately ½ page).

In order for “digital library” collections (i.e. digitized archival, cultural heritage, and special collections) to realize their potential for maximal usefulness to researchers, students, and the general public, they must first be findable. Bringing digital collections in line with a number of national standards will make these collections: 1) readily harvestable by regional and national initiatives; 2) transformable to “linked data”—integrating them into the emerging Semantic Web. This promises to publicly expose digital collections, and the institutions that maintain them, in a way that has not been possible to date. Washington library staffers need formal training, peer guidance, and ongoing support in order to improve knowledge, skills, and abilities regarding metadata creation.

3. Briefly describe the outcome that is expected should the idea be funded. In other words, how will we know if the project has been successful and has achieved its goals? (limit your response to approximately ½ page):

By the end of the grant cycle, participants:

- Will have remediated and/or enhanced metadata of 1-3 digital collections (equivalent to 1-3 “sets” harvestable through an OAI-PMH service).
- Will understand, at a high level, the DPLA Metadata Application Profile. Participants will have remediated OAI sets to include all “required” and most “recommended” DPLA MAP metadata elements.
- Will feel confident in assessing the copyright status of digitized works, and in making informed assignments of discrete copyright labels conforming to the [DPLA’s interoperable rights statements](#).
- Will feel confident in applying evolving best practices and authorities for place names and dates (e.g., dc:coverage and dc:spatial). Participants will become familiar with, and utilize, recommendations created by the [Mountain West Digital Library Geospatial Discovery Task Force](#), in standardizing place names.

Pre- and post- grant project surveys will evaluate individuals’ change in knowledge, skills, and abilities.

A peer-review process will evaluate how effectively metadata has been improved per initial enhancement plan, including whether or not participants' metadata sets meet minimal DPLA standards.

General Information

Which library types are intended as the primary beneficiaries of this project? (check all that apply)

- Academic (private and public two-year and four-year academic institutions)
- Public (libraries organized under RCW 27.12)
- School (private and public K-12 schools)
- Special (business and industry, law, medical, other government, tribal, other)

If other, specify:

The intended beneficiaries of the project? (check the primary beneficiary)

- Library staff
- Library users or potential library users
- A specific group of staff or users, or a potential user group. Name the target beneficiaries(s):
_____ (e.g., children, adults, disadvantaged, remote access library users, unserved community members, reference staff, IT staff, students)

The activities needed to implement this project are envisioned to include (check all that apply):

- User training (discipline faculty)
 - Staff training (library faculty)
 - Grants
 - Development of best practices
 - Demonstration of emerging technology or practices
- Other, please explain:

Considering the outcome desired, how long should the project continue?

2 years _____

(Note that most projects are from one year to four years in length.)

Which Library Council areas of focus support the idea you are submitting (check all that apply)

- 1. Advance applied literacy in the state of Washington in areas such as legal research, health information, employment/job searching, and developing civic/voter education resources.
- 2. Enhance libraries relevancy in a democratic society.
- 3. Serve underserved, unserved, and culturally diverse communities and populations

Supporting references:

Geospatial Discovery Task Force, Mountain West Digital Library:

<https://sites.google.com/site/mwdlgeospatial/home>

Getting it Right on Rights, DPLA: <http://dp.la/info/about/projects/getting-it-right-on-rights/>