

Plenary 20

The Metadata IG did not hold a session at RDA Plenary 20 in Goteborg, for several reasons:

- The work of the group had been somewhat disrupted by COVID;
- Plenaries during COVID had not been well attended;
- In general, it was observable that requirements had evolved;
- Technologies had evolved with new initiatives relevant to metadata (as just one example, FAIR Adopt);

At P20 the co-chairs sat in on sessions of other groups to get an informal 'landscape picture' of where we are with metadata. Just about every group with whom we interacted has requirements for metadata, and those requirements increasingly require more complex metadata. The other good news is that RDA participants seem to realize that 'library catalog card' metadata is insufficient and that metadata with complex structures are required to provide the information necessary for applications in each domain of interest.

Regarding technology, the big push is towards graph representations of information structures, particularly knowledge graphs with base entities/objects (such as a dataset or software service) as vertices/nodes and relationships between them (with rich semantics) as edges/arcs. Such representations may use triplestores - with RDF triples or utilize relational (or object-relational) stores - with n-tuples - as infrastructure.

Thus, the co-chairs propose to restart the work on the MIG metadata element set (see: <https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups/metadata-ig.html>). We already have some volunteers to act as editors for some of the elements - please volunteer to join the group around each of the elements in which you have an interest and where you are willing to contribute to the discussions (and if there is currently no leader for that element, contact the co-chairs to offer to do this important coordinating job). This should be a self-organizing activity (we are all volunteers in this community). The co-chairs will try to monitor the developing activity and assist as necessary.

Metadata with formal syntax and declared semantics are even more necessary now, to ensure FAIRness but also with the range of application areas requiring such metadata, and especially to ensure that systems increasingly utilizing AI (not just the currently popular large language models but more for data management, analytics, simulation, and visualization) have a basis in formal logic. So:

1. Put your name down against metadata elements of interest <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Y-mhE5gRZmaFRBL-HDm5hn23cCHJg1Yf8Gq-jeI89Kc/edit?usp=sharing> (you all have edit access);
2. If you are willing to lead the activity on an element contact the co-chairs.