

The CELL Metadata Element Set

A Standard Representation for Creative Works of Electronic Literature

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Abstract

These 18 elements (henceforth “the standard”) will be the foundation of entry fields for creative works of electronic literature for each database participating in the CELL initiative. Partners will make this metadata set available for indexing, cross-site search, and other future uses.

Introduction

The partners intend to create interoperability 1) to access bibliographical and other information about works; 2) to pursue research across electronic literature, engaging questions that deal with the entire field; and 3) to define a standard representation of a work of electronic literature. To this end, representatives from the CELL consortium have come together through a series of discussions to promote more effective discovery standards for electronic resources. The resulting metadata element set defines eighteen elements for resource description in an interoperable information environment.

Scope and Purpose

The Consortium for Electronic Literature (CELL) is an initiative aimed at developing partnerships among organizations, universities, and publishers for the purpose of sharing research in the area of electronic literature. CELL stems from a desire to establish cooperative communication among databases devoted to electronic literature worldwide. The first generation of CELL partners, who have agreed upon the following elements, include the Electronic Literature Directory (Electronic Literature Organization), the University of Western Sydney, ELMCIP (University of Bergen), Po.Ex (Fernando Pessoa University), NT2 (Université du Québec à Montréal), Electronic Book Review, University of Siegen, Brown University’s Digital Arts Directory, I ♥

Entry Requirement

Any work to be included in the cross-site search must include all the fields in the standard. We recognize that works within individual databases may or may not include all of these fields, but works must include all fields in order to be part of the interoperability initiative.

Development Process

The team first met January 14, 2013 to begin working through the metadata fields from each database. The metadata fields of all the partners were discussed during several meetings. The partners recognized that only some fields (e.g. title and unique identification number) were absolutely necessary for a basic entry in some of the partner databases. In the end, on the February 27 meeting, the partners agreed upon and finalized the eighteen elements for the shared metadata standard.

Audience

It is our intent to make electronic literature available to all who wish to learn about and study electronic literature. Audiences may include: students of electronic literature who wish to research works of electronic literature; scholars of electronic literature wish to reference electronic literature ; and practitioners/creators of electronic literature who wish to learn from others in the field. The interoperability between partner databases will also further efforts to bring electronic literature to the general public.

Elements

The following 18 elements constitute the metadata standard for a creative work of electronic literature.

Element Name: **author**

Label: Author
Definition: The person who is primary creator of the work.
Comment: This field will be referenced against the name authority file. There may be multiple author fields.
Type: String
Multiple fields (1,n): n

Element Name: **title**

Label: Title
Definition: The title of the creative work.
Comment: This is typically the title of the work as it was published.
Type: String
Multiple fields (1,n):1

Element Name: **unique_id**

Label: Unique identification number
Definition: A unique identifying number for the creative work.
Comment: First use what is in VIAF, and then create IDs as needed.
Type: Integer
Multiple fields (1,n): 1

Element Name: **description**

Label: Description

Definition: A short summary of the creative work in English.
Comment: This does not have to be the same as the description in the original language.
Type: String
Multiple fields (1,n): 1

Element Name: **language**
Label: Language
Definition: The language in which the creative work was originally written.
Comment: There may be multiple entries if the original work was written multiple languages.
Type: String
Multiple fields (1,n): n

Element Name: **date**
Label: Date
Definition: A date associated with creative work.
Comment: Frequently the date of publication.
Type: Integer
Multiple fields (1,n): 1

Element Name: **publisher**
Label: Publisher
Definition: A name associated with where the creative work was originally published.
Comment: Frequently a journal, but may be the author's website.
Type: String
Multiple fields (1,n): 1

Element Name: **medium**
Label: Medium/Platform
Definition: The software environment in which the creative work is created.
Comment: These fields will be drawn from a taxonomy of platforms and media.
Type: String
Multiple fields (1,n): n

Element Name: **entry_author**
Label: Entry author
Definition: The name of person who created the database entry.
Comment: This field will be referenced against the name authority file.
Type: String
Multiple fields (1,n): 1

Element Name: **relation**
Label: Relation
Definition: A relation between the creative work and another work.
Comment: A relation such as "part of," "influenced by," "referenced by," etc.
Type: String
Multiple fields (1,n): n

Element Name: **reviewed**

Label: Reviewed
Definition: The status of the database entry.
Comment: This is a binary yes/no entry, indicating if the record was reviewed and approved.
Type: String
Multiple fields (1,n): 1

Element Name: tags

Label: Tags
Definition: One or more terms applied to the creative work.
Comment: This is a folksonomic list generated by the individual teams.
Type: String
Multiple fields (1,n): n

Element Name: url

Label: URL
Definition: A persistent uniform resource locator for the creative work.
Comment: This typically corresponds to the publication location of the work.
Type: Integer
Multiple fields (1,n): 1

Element Name: isbn

Label: ISBN
Definition: The official book number.
Comment: In some cases, this may be an ISSN, e.g. in the case of journal publication. In some cases, this field may simply indicate no ISBN, e.g. in the case of author self-publication.
Type: Integer or String
Multiple fields (1,n): 1

Element Name: translator

Label: Translator
Definition: The person who translated creative work from the original language into English.
Comment: This field will be referenced against the name authority file.
Type: String
Multiple fields (1,n): 1

Element Name: license

Label: License
Definition: An indication of the copyright status of the work.
Comment: In some cases, the status may not be readily available.
Type: String
Multiple fields (1,n): 1

Element Name: date_revised

Label: Date of revision
Definition: A date indicating the last revision to the entry.
Comment: This value will be the date the entry was originally created.
Type: Integer
Multiple fields (1,n): 1