

Metadata Enhancement Project

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Digital Curation and Preservation

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Metadata Enhancement Project

About two years ago I stumbled onto the LGBTQ History Museum of Central Florida's website and was pleased to find that such an archive existed here. As I browsed the collections, I noticed there was a major lacking of descriptive data – a lot of the photos had file locations as titles, questionable attributions to the creator of some of the images and a general lacking of metadata. If metadata did exist for an item, it was truly nondescriptive. Clearly, I was hoping, this was a case of More Product, Less Process (MPLP) but even if that were the case, there should have been some basic description scheme for discovery, after all if you're going through the process to make the collection available, by not adding key words or vocabulary to be able to search, you are not making the collection accessible.

For this metadata enhancement project, I chose five images from their collection *Pride Parade 2014* and created a mini collection with reworked description using the same platform the museum uses, Omeka. In the following pages I'll show the before and after of record pages and the thought process behind the creation of the metadata as well as the resources used.

Using Steven J. Miller's book *Metadata for Digital Collections* as my reference I set to work. A logical step in designing a metadata scheme is to start with what he refers to as the triad – context, content, and users (Miller, 2011). The context for me was the perspective of the

LGBTQ+ community and the ease of access to finding items that pertain to them. The content I chose was Pride parades because there's nothing more ubiquitous in the global gay community than that. I wanted my primary users to be members and allies of the community but then I thought about my secondary users – how can you learn about and understand a group of people if you can't gain access to collections about them? What about a young person trying to find their identity by searching for people like them? Using a vocabulary that is largely understood by one group alienates others. I started with the Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) but found them to be restrictive, outdated, and not having the appropriate vocabulary. For instance, when I typed "activist" in the search bar for the LCSH, the first subject heading was "sexual minority activists" - I don't know a single person who would use that phrase. So, I turned to Homosaurus, a broad subject term vocabulary that relates to the LGBTQ+ community and this scheme of using the two controlled vocabularies was the standard for the rest of the collection.



My choice of images was designed to challenge myself on how to describe them and I started with this portrait. On the surface, it's a man in drag under a rainbow umbrella but being a

member of the gay community and acute to visual cues, I know that this person is more than that, they are a member of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, an activist group that started in San Francisco in 1979. In example 1, the metadata on this image lacks any contextual information. In the example 2, you can see how I reworked the metadata to include more information and description so the item could be found more easily.

Dublin Core

Title

Photograph: os-pictures-orlando-gay-pride-parade-2014-2014-017

Description

os-pictures-orlando-gay-pride-parade-2014-2014-017

Source

Events/National Coming Out Day/2014/os-pictures-orlando-gay-pride-parade-2014-2014-017.jpg

Rights

Images may be used for educational purposes only.
Image credit: Image courtesy of LGBTQ History Museum of Central Florida.
For all other purposes please email: floridalgbtqmuseum@gmail.com

Format

image/jpeg

Language

English

Type

Digital reproduction of printed photograph.

Coverage

Orlando, Florida

Rights Holder

LGBTQ History Museum of Central Florida

Coverage

Orlando, Florida

Rights Holder

LGBTQ History Museum of Central Florida

Files



Collection

Pride Parade 2014

Tags

Events

Citation

"Photograph: os-pictures-orlando-gay-pride-parade-2014-2014-017," *LGBTQ History Museum of Central Florida - Digital Archive*, accessed April 5, 2025, <https://floridalgbtqmuseum.omeka.net/items/show/10039>.

Output Formats

- [atom](#)
- [dc-rdf](#)
- [dcmes-xml](#)
- [json](#)
- [omeka-xml](#)

Comments

Example 1: A screenshot from the LGBTQ museum's page. As you can see it really offers no information except that it was Pride Parade 2014.

Dublin Core

Title	Portrait of a Sister of Perpetual Indulgence
Subject	Gay Pride - Florida Gay Culture Gay Organizations Drag Costumes LGBTQ+ LGBTQ+ Activists
Description	A portrait of a member of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence under a rainbow umbrella.
Creator	Unknown
Source	Events/National Coming Out Day/2014/os-pictures-orlando-gay-pride-parade-2014-2014-017.jpg
Publisher	LGBTQ History Museum of Central Florida
Date	2014
Rights	Images may be used for educational purposes only. Image credit: Image courtesy of LGBTQ History Museum of Central Florida. For all other purposes please email: floridalgbtqmuseum@gmail.com
Format	Image, JPG, 42.7KB
Type	Digital reproduction of printed photograph.
Coverage	Orlando, Florida

Event Item Type Metadata

Event Type	Gay Pride parade - Orlando, Florida
Participants	Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence
Duration	2014

[View Public Page](#)[Delete](#)

Public: No Featured: No

Collection

[Orlando Gay Pride Parade](#)

Tags

- [Activists](#)
- [Florida](#)
- [Gay Pride](#)
- [LGBTQ+](#)
- [Orlando](#)
- [Parade](#)
- [Pride](#)
- [Rainbow](#)
- [Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence](#)

File Metadata

- [f89bd756038ed5d27e99203b013d54de.jpg](#)

Output Formats

- [atom](#)
- [dcmes-xml](#)
- [json](#)
- [omeka-xml](#)

Bibliographic Citation

Example 2: In this reworked file, richer descriptive information is given and the use of both the LCSH and Homosaurus makes the item more inclusive and discoverable.

The second image I chose suffered the same absence of description. The museum's page uses the title *Orl Wkly bartlettimage-8506* and as a resident of central Florida I know that Orl Wkly means Orlando Weekly, a local newspaper. Their page shows the *type* element as a "digital reproduction of a printed photograph" and has no *creator* element. Like the previous example, I

didn't give it much thought until I downloaded the image and realized that the metadata embedded in it clearly indicated that it was a digital photograph shot with a Cannon EOS 5D Mark III camera. This got me thinking about the given title; since it was shot for the Orlando Weekly could Bartlett be the photographer? A simple Google search revealed that yes Rob Bartlett does contribute to the newspaper and that he has his own site, BartlettImage.com. I could now say without a doubt that the creator was Rob Bartlett and that it was a digital photograph.



The challenge was describing this image – how do you get all of this into a comprehensible statement? I went through four or five iterations before settling on, "Drag queen in an inflatable pool innertube decorated as a doughnut and wearing a colorful sleeveless shirt with cupcakes as breasts. Also donning an orange and pink foam wig." It's a mouthful but I think if you didn't see the photo, you could clearly picture it your mind. The next challenge was assigning subject headings. While the image does have a representation of a doughnut, I didn't think that would be appropriate because that's not what the image is about. The same thought process was

applied for cupcakes and pool innertubes/ inflatables, so I settled on *Drag Queens, Costumes, and Camp (Gay Culture)*.

Dublin Core

Title	Drag Queen in a doughnut innertube, Gay Pride parade, Orlando, Florida
Subject	Gay Pride - Florida Gay Culture Pride Parades Drag Queens Costumes Camp (Gay Culture) LGTBQ+
Description	Drag queen in an inflatable pool innertube decorated as a doughnut and wearing a colorful sleeveless shirt with cupcakes as breasts. Also donning an orange and pink foam wig.
Creator	Rob Bartlett
Source	Events/National Coming Out Day/2014/Orl Wkly bartlettimage-8506.jpg
Publisher	LGBTQ History Museum of Central Florida
Date	2014
Rights	Images may be used for educational purposes only. Image credit: Image courtesy of LGBTQ History Museum of Central Florida. For all other purposes please email: florida-lgbtqmuseum@gmail.com
Format	Image, JPG, 396 KB
Type	Digital Image
Coverage	Orlando, Florida

Event Item Type Metadata

Event Type	Gay Pride parade - Orlando, Florida
Duration	2014

[View Public Page](#)[Delete](#)

Public: No Featured: No

Collection

[Orlando Gay Pride Parade](#)

Tags

- [Drag Queens](#)
- [Florida](#)
- [Gay Pride](#)
- [LGBTQ+](#)
- [Orlando](#)
- [Parade](#)
- [Pride](#)

File Metadata

- [2f275102666deae73bd35b7c10f9eff](#)
c.jpg

Output Formats

- [atom](#)
- [dcmes-xml](#)
- [json](#)
- [omeka-xml](#)

Bibliographic Citation

Rob Bartlett, "Drag Queen in a doughnut

Example 3: In the reworked record, the title was changed to something more descriptive and in the subject element

I again used a mix of LCSH and Homosaurus. Since discovering the photographer, I added him into the creator element though not knowing the donor agreement, I left the rights element alone.

After reading the article *Focus on Metadata: Creating Simple and Specific Subject Terms*, I took the author, Elizabeth Lhost's advice and kept the subject terms simple. She points out that,

especially for digital collections, using complex terms makes items difficult to find when people use only use keywords to search. Also, I used her recommendation of using more specific text for description, using mainly one- or two-word descriptions. In the following examples I came across the same scenario as above with *Orl Wkly bartlettimage* titles only to find out that they were also digital images from the same creator.



Photograph: Ori Wkly bartlettimage-8529

Dublin Core

Title

Photograph: Ori Wkly bartlettimage-8529

Description

Ori Wkly bartlettimage-8529

Source

Events/National Coming Out Day/2014/Ori Wkly bartlettimage-8529.jpg

Rights

Images may be used for educational purposes only.
Image credit: Image courtesy of LGBTQ History Museum of Central Florida.
For all other purposes please email: floridalgbtqmuseum@gmail.com

Format

image/jpeg

Language

English

Type

Digital reproduction of printed photograph.

Coverage

Orlando, Florida

Rights Holder

LGBTQ History Museum of Central Florida

Example 4: Both the image and original description.

Dublin Core

Title	Twink spraying sunscreen on himself, Gay Pride, Orlando, Florida
Subject	Gay Pride - Florida Gay Culture Pride Parades Gay Youth Twink LGBTQ+
Description	A young man (twink) wearing a speedo and red Nike sneakers spraying himself with sunscreen.
Creator	Rob Bartlett
Source	Events/National Coming Out Day/2014/Orl Wkly bartlettimage-8529.jpg
Publisher	LGBTQ History Museum of Central Florida
Date	2014
Rights	Images may be used for educational purposes only. Image credit: Image courtesy of LGBTQ History Museum of Central Florida. For all other purposes please email: floridalgbtqmuseum@gmail.com
Format	Image, JPG, 700 KB
Type	Digital Photograph
Coverage	Orlando, Florida

Event Item Type Metadata

Event Type	Gay Pride parade - Orlando, Florida
Duration	2014

[View Public Page](#)[Delete](#)

Public: No Featured: No

Collection

[Orlando Gay Pride Parade](#)

Tags

- [Florida](#)
- [Gay Pride](#)
- [LGBTQ+](#)
- [Nike \(sneakers\)](#)
- [Orlando](#)
- [Parade](#)
- [Pride](#)
- [Speedo](#)
- [Twink](#)

File Metadata

- [00c25a233f6d802a2a82c7c9859fdb9f.jpg](#)

Output Formats

- [atom](#)
- [dcmes-xml](#)
- [json](#)
- [omeka-xml](#)

Example 5: The updated record



Photograph: Orl Wkly bartlettimage-9054

Dublin Core

Title

Photograph: Orl Wkly bartlettimage-9054

Description

Orl Wkly bartlettimage-9054

Source

Events/National Coming Out Day/2014/Orl Wkly bartlettimage-9054.jpg

Rights

Images may be used for educational purposes only.
Image credit: Image courtesy of LGBTQ History Museum of Central Florida.
For all other purposes please email: floridalgbtmuseum@gmail.com

Format

Image/jpeg

Language

English

Type

Digital reproduction of printed photograph.

Coverage

Orlando, Florida

Rights Holder

LGBTQ History Museum of Central Florida

Example 6: Image and original record.

Dublin Core

Title	Stilt walkers in the Gay Pride parade, Orlando, Florida
Subject	Stilt-walkers Gay Pride - Florida
Description	Stilt walkers in colorful attire waving in a parade.
Creator	Rob Bartlett
Source	Events/National Coming Out Day/2014/Orl Wkly bartlettimage-9054.jpg
Publisher	LGBTQ History Museum of Central Florida
Date	2014
Rights	Images may be used for educational purposes only. Image credit: Image courtesy of LGBTQ History Museum of Central Florida. For all other purposes please email: floridalgbtqmuseum@gmail.com
Format	Image, JPG, 494 KB
Type	Digital photograph
Coverage	Orlando, Florida

Event Item Type Metadata

Event Type	Gay Pride parade - Orlando, Florida
Participants	Stilt walkers
Duration	2014

[View Public Page](#)[Delete](#)

Public: No Featured: No

Collection

[Orlando Gay Pride Parade](#)

Tags

- [Florida](#)
- [Gay Pride](#)
- [LGBTQ+](#)
- [Orlando](#)
- [Parade](#)
- [Pride](#)
- [Stilt Walkers](#)
- [Stilts](#)

File Metadata

- [de65d4a466df15d7c0d61a84b3ccfc8a.jpg](#)

Output Formats

- [atom](#)
- [dcme-s-xml](#)

Example 6: Updated record.



Photograph: Orl Wkly bartlettimage-8868

Dublin Core

Title

Photograph: Orl Wkly bartlettimage-8868

Description

Orl Wkly bartlettimage-8868

Source

Events/National Coming Out Day/2014/Orl Wkly bartlettimage-8868.jpg

Rights

Images may be used for educational purposes only.
Image credit: Image courtesy of LGBTQ History Museum of Central Florida.
For all other purposes please email: floridalgbtqmuseum@gmail.com

Format

image/jpeg

Language

English

Type

Digital reproduction of printed photograph.

Coverage

Orlando, Florida

Rights Holder

LGBTQ History Museum of Central Florida

Example 7: Image and original record.

Dublin Core

Title	Onlookers at a Gay Pride parade in Orlando, Florida.
Subject	Gay Pride - Florida Gay Culture Pride Parades Gay Youth Baby Gays Queer Joy Queer People LGBTQ+
Description	A group of joyous parade onlookers.
Creator	Rob Bartlett
Source	Events/National Coming Out Day/2014/Orl Wkly bartlettimage-8868.jpg
Publisher	LGBTQ History Museum of Central Florida
Date	2014
Rights	Images may be used for educational purposes only. Image credit: Image courtesy of LGBTQ History Museum of Central Florida. For all other purposes please email: floridalgbtqmuseum@gmail.com
Format	Image, JPG, 446 KB
Type	Digital Image
Coverage	Orlando, Florida

Event Item Type Metadata

Event Type	Gay Pride parade - Orlando, Florida
Duration	2014

[View Public Page](#)[Delete](#)

Public: No Featured: No

Collection

[Orlando Gay Pride Parade](#)

Tags

- [Florida](#)
- [Gay Pride](#)
- [LGBTQ+](#)
- [Orlando](#)
- [Parade](#)
- [Pride](#)

File Metadata

- [7b0a2121ce8112e723aa29f6edd8e231.jpg](#)

Output Formats

- [atom](#)
- [dcmes-xml](#)
- [json](#)
- [omeka-xml](#)

Bibliographic Citation

Rob Bartlett, "Onlookers at a Gay Pride

Example 8: Updated record.

Resources:

1. Homosaurus Vocabulary Site. Accessed April 14, 2025
<https://homosaurus.org>
2. Library of Congress Subject Headings. Accessed April 14, 2025
<https://id.loc.gov/authorities/subjects.html>
3. Lhost, Elizabeth. "Focus on Metadata: Creating Simple and Specific Subject Terms". UCLA Library. February 21, 2024. <https://meap.library.ucla.edu/about/news/metadata-matters-creating-simple-and-specific-subject-terms/>
4. Lhost, Elizabeth. "Focus on Metadata: Using Controlled Vocabularies for Subject Terms". UCLA Library. April 22, 2024. <https://meap.library.ucla.edu/about/news/focus-on-metadata-using-controlled-vocabularies-for-subject-terms/>
5. Miller, Steven J. *Metadata for Digital Collections*. Neal-Schuman, 2011