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Assignment 2: Metadata Crosswalk Evaluation

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Metadata Crosswalk: Review of Metadata Standards

The MODS metadata standard offered a reasonable amount of application for use in cataloging elements that refer to moving images, most by its inclusion of sub-elements and attributes. However, I feel like MODS is not the most ideal standard to use for moving images because the broadness of the terms, which I feel would lead to over repetition of elements. In creating a record for a moving image object using MODS, the repetition would limit the specificity that is useful in cataloging moving images.

The same is true for Dublin Core, which is even more general than MODS, but perhaps in its minimalism sets a sort of standard for how to approach cataloging moving image objects. It seems like using Dublin Core would necessitate focusing on a narrower range of qualities or elements for a given work. The qualifiers did help, and did indeed map to many of the elements listed, but again there was a lack of specificity, which made it more suited to a general or bare-bones catalog record of a moving image.

SMPTE, being designed for moving image works, obviously offered the greatest amount of granularity for the chosen elements (of “leafs” [leaves?] as they are referred to in SMPTE). In a way, there were so many options that it was difficult to map the chosen elements because the elements to be mapped were not specific

enough. For example, for the element “format”, SMPTE has a leaf for every type of moving image format available, as well as an option to eliminate the moving image aspect and use “object description”, which left the mapping rather open-ended.

Overall, I found the three standards to each have their own upsides and downsides, but the exercise itself revealed the opportunity for adapting each by using a controlled vocabulary to make them all useful in their own way, and for different purposes.