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Metadata

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Assignment 3

Analysis

Part I-

For this assignment I will be analyzing episodes of PBS' *Mr. Roger's Neighborhood*

collection, available online completely free. Mr. Rogers was a very positive influence on the

lives of my sister and me when we were growing up, along with the lives of many of our friends.

He taught us a lot of basic lessons about how to deal with your emotions in a positive ways.

Every episode would begin the same way, Mr. Rogers gently singing a song about how he just

wanted us to be his neighbor and getting out of his formal wear into his lounging cardigan and

sneakers.

A friend of mine actually had a mother who worked for the local public broadcast

station that showed *Mr. Roger's Neighborhood* to the Willamette Valley region of Oregon

where I grew up and I was supposed to meet him one fall, but he died shortly before coming

out. Although I would have loved to have seen him, I was really impressed just by the fact that

he regularly toured around to local stations that purchased the rights to broadcast his show and

thank them in person, always meeting many of his young fans along the way. I also loved how

many of his fans held onto him as a cherished figure long after they had grown up. Its amazing that multiple generations got to watch him.

Mr. Roger's Neighborhood aired for decades, from 1968 to 2001, just two years before Fred Rogers died. The television show was able to record over 900 28 minute episodes with hundreds of personal working on the show over the years. Moreover, because of the unique pay structure that enabled *Mr. Roger's Neighborhood* to be broadcast on so many stations so cheaply, there is a massive number of records spread across decentralized stations, only apportion of which has been collected at the Library of Congress and other smaller private repositories.

As I've grown older and learned about who Mr. Rogers was as a human being, I have become even more impressed by him. He successfully lobbied a hostile congress in the early 1970s to prevent them from cutting the endowment for educational children's television in half. He made countless live appearances to his youngest fans over his whole career, never losing interest in the work he did. He has received over forty honorable degrees, one a Peabody award and even the Presidential Medal of Freedom. His humble and kind style have become iconic parts of American history. For these reasons I believe that Mr. Roger's Neighborhood is more than worthy of being catalogued.

Part II-

Title: The name of the individual episode from the series

Director: The name of the director of each episode

Genre: The type of story being told

Country of origin: The place the work was made in

Date of origin: The time the work was released

Language: The spoken language of the work on the audio track

Summary: A short description of the episode's story

Target Audience: The intended viewers of the show

Media: The media format the moving image is recorded in

Location: Where the episode can actually be found if one wants to view it

Part III-

My first instinct with a collection like this is to use PBCore as Mr. Roger's neighborhood aired on PBS and they have made episodes of his work available online for anyone to view. Most of the user's looking for a Mr. Roger's episode are not going to be researchers needing a highly detailed metadata standard. Instead, what they need is something much more basic so they won't get bogged down when trying to find an episode for their child or whole family. While PBCore is not as granular as some other metadata standards, it is by no means shallow and should be able to meet at least modest researchers' needs.

On the other hand, the Library of Congress has a large number of Mr. Roger's Neighborhood already in their own finding aids written up in MARC format. If there are already records existing for a work in one metadata system, it can be an advantage to depend on the precedent rather than creating a whole new set of metadata that might not be compatible with what already exists. MARC certainly provides for far more granularity than PBCore, but it is extremely cumbersome to say the least. MARC presents the opposite problems we have with PBCore. Its great for intense researcher, but not for the average fan who just wants to find a specific episode of *Mr. Roger's Neighborhood*.

Luckily, there is metadata system that can provide for an elegant compromise between the two systems and be more effective for internet based collections, like the PBSKids archive of Mr. Roger's episodes. MODS was made as a halfway point between the accessibility of PBCore and other Core based metadata standards and the old MARC records that most things at the Library of Congress has been recorded in. By using MODS instead of PBCore, we can offer Mr. Roger's fans a simple and easy to browse catalog while at the same time making use of the much more granular MARC records that already exist that would help more academic research on the subject of Mr. Rogers.

Data Element List

Part IV-

Metadata Wish List	MODS
Title	<mods:title>
Director	<mods:role>
Genre	<genre>
Country of Origin	<mods:place>
Date of Origin	<mods:dateCreated>
Language	<mods:language>
Summary	<mods:abstract>
Target Audience	<mods:targetAudience>
Location	<mods:place>
Media	<mods:physicalDescription>