

Metadata for Conservators

ABSTRACT

Metadata is quickly becoming indispensable for anyone who creates and manages digital information. Conservators create digital images and text files for treatment documentation, and they are also often involved in preservation/access projects in which digital files are created in large numbers. Although the purpose of metadata is to make digital files more manageable and easier to access, it is often a source of confusion to non-specialists. While there are some standards under development, the lack of standards for conservation metadata as well as the lack of user-friendly metadata tools only contributes to these difficulties. This talk is a broad introduction to metadata, particularly as conservators may encounter it in the course of their work, and is intended to lay a framework and contribute to a fuller understanding of the metadata related aspects of the EMG/BPG joint session talks.

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