Maintaining Standards – managing metadata consistency across collections and tools

Durbin, Michael

The flexibility to store any type of metadata in a fedora repository is one of its greatest strengths, but it externalizes the burden of metadata standardization and validation. This burden is exacerbated by the fact that during the course of a digital object's life, its metadata may be modified by several different applications or utilities operated by any number of users. This talk will cover strategies to deal with the task of maintaining consistency and the creation of and adherence to institutional-specific policies or standards for metadata quality. The beginning of this talk will focus on the process of metadata policy creation in both the abstract and the concrete case of Indiana University's Digital Library Program. Discussion will shift to the difficulties of ensuring policy adherence amongst several disparate collections and tools. Consideration of the hindrances to consistency and the implications of deviation will lead into technical and policy approaches to improve and validate consistent adherence to adopted metadata standards.