

# Metadata is...

- data about data
- value added information
- contextual
- one person's metadata is another person's data (and vice versa)
- in the eye of the beholder

# Types:

- Structure
- Content
- Value
- Syntax
- Can we capture confidence?  
Competence? Currency?

# As Complex as Language Itself

- Knee surgery
- Free kittens



# Non-Digital Forms of Metadata

- Book bindings, ribbons, colors, locations, media
- Scroll? Framed object? Meme? Chisled in stone?
- A statue in a prominent place with engraved words conveys a lot of critical meta data.
- What about a published article?
  - Greenburg's article really says nothing new about metadata, but it neatly pulls together a host of concepts. What if a SILS student created something similar using illustrations, animations, real actor voice overs, and a ton of humor. Which would have the most credibility? Usability?

“Definitions for metadata have been influenced by both the objects to which the metadata is being applied, and the functions it is intended to support.” - Greenburg

- Who's seeking metadata? Who's making metadata? What metadata is being ignored? Or sequestered?
- Good or bad: there's bias

# Metadata can be made...

- **manually** (catalogers) using expensive human labor
- **automatically** (like timestamps, GPS locations, user names, etc.)
- **aaaand... through fusion.**
  - Two sets of metadata collide and create discernable patterns that reveal something about the universe.

# Both Boringly Rigid and Still Unexplored

- Some of what we're learning is valuable for those who will work in organizations that have already defined their metadata needs.
- Some of it will be valuable for those who will stretch the boundaries of metadata and create entirely different ways to annotate and integrate information.

# What's This?

c/o Peculiar People's Assembly main  
Opp God's Will chemist nr Trailers  
Gleebo Town



# Our Staggered Steps Forward...

- In databases we are trying to record our universe: as our understanding of the universe expands, so do our databases.
- Eden Phillpotts: “The universe is full of magical things patiently waiting for our wits to grow sharper.”

