Metadata Underground: Visualizing metadata transfers from repository to end-user

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Abstract: An increasing number of academic and research libraries are implementing discovery layers that search multiple systems such as integrated library systems and institutional repositories. Out of the view of the end-user, metadata travels within and between systems, like trains on the NYC subway. This poster session will provide librarians with an easy-to-use map illustrating the flow of metadata and its transformations, as it journeys to its final destination – the end-user’s screen.

Background: At Binghamton University Libraries we use the Rosetta digital preservation system as a repository to store and preserve digital objects. Rosetta does not have a built-in discovery layer; we use Primo as the primary means by which end-users are able to search and discover digital objects preserved in Rosetta (as well as items from the Libraries’ integrated library system and the Primo Central Index).

In order for Primo to make the digital objects in Rosetta discoverable, it is necessary for the descriptive metadata to be transferred from Rosetta to Primo. This is a multi-step process:

1. Rosetta needs to be configured to allow Primo to harvest the metadata
2. Primo harvests the metadata
3. Primo indexes the metadata
4. Primo creates display fields based on the metadata mapping tables

The process is complicated by multiple factors. There are a limited number of locally-defined search and display fields in Primo. These fields need to accommodate metadata coming from multiple systems, in multiple formats. For example, the descriptive metadata in Rosetta is based on Dublin Core while the integrated library system uses MARC. Additionally, it is important to get by-in from various stakeholders within the library.

Legend
- Existing metadata route
- Planned metadata route
- Simple Dublin Core field
- Qualified Dublin Core field
- Primo search field
- Primo display field
- Primo dropdown search field