
Ontologies for music from a digital library practitioner's perspective

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A vision for Web-based music ontologies

- Machine-readable
 - Multilingual
 - Faceted structure
 - Wide coverage
 - Created and updated quickly and easily
 - Moving the catalog from just a “finding” system to a “research” system
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Machine-readable

- Allows integration into software systems
 - Assists cataloging
 - Eases data entry
 - Enforces data integrity
 - Assists searching and browsing
 - Lead-in term mapping
 - Narrower term expansion
 - Broadening or refining a result set
 - Related term suggestions
 - Requires vocabularies to adhere to defined structure
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Multilingual

- Possible with the move from a *heading* as an identifier to a *transparent ID*
 - If desired, implementations could choose a preferred language, perhaps even for individual terms
 - The developing Library of Congress/OCLC [Virtual International Authority File](#) may be a good model
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Faceted structure

- Should separate out:
 - ❑ Instrumentation
 - ❑ Genre
 - ❑ Topic
 - ❑ Language
 - ❑ Geography
 - ❑ Etc...
 - Form/genre/style will be problematic
 - Necessary for:
 - ❑ Building “helpful” cataloging applications
 - ❑ Data quality control
 - ❑ More powerful end-user searching
 - ❑ End-user browsing by category
 - Faceted structure may imply postcoordination
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Wide coverage

- Will be of interest and utility to communities beyond music libraries (including scholars)
 - Must include:
 - Non-Western musics
 - “Popular” music
 - Etc...
 - Allow evolution over time to respond to changes in musical style, knowledge, and scholarship
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Ease of creation and maintenance

- Creation
 - Make use of existing data
 - Some facets may already exist from other communities
 - Experiment with automated methods to suggest terms & structure, then editing by experts
 - Maintenance
 - Allow easy integration of new terms into the existing syndetic structure
 - Networked environment makes it more feasible to maintain one central copy of data to which all applications connect
 - Should explore open models allowing contributions by many communities
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Moving from a finding system to a research system

- Moving beyond just bibliographic data — the *work*, not just the publication
 - Enabling new sorts of discovery
 - Not just vocabularies:
 - Related works
 - Gender of composer
 - Date/place of composition
 - Etc.!
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Keep the conversation going...

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- **These presentation slides:** <http://www.dlib.indiana.edu/~jenlrile/presentations/iaml2006/ontologies.ppt>