CanCore Guidelines Version 2.0: Annotation Category

History of Annotation Category Document

Date	Version	Comment	Person
June 6, 2002	1.1	Based on IMS Learning Resource Meta-data 1.2.1	Sue Fisher
March 7, 2003	1.7	Preliminary Revisions	Scott Habkirk
June 16, 2003	1.8	Based on IEEE 1484.12.1 LOM	Norm Friesen
August 2, 2003	1.9	Revisions; examples	Norm Friesen
November 23, 2003	2.0	Final revisions incorporating feedback	Norm Friesen

Use of Annotation Category Elements in Other Application Profiles

Element	CanCore	SCORM	Curriculum Online	TLF	Sing-CORE	UK LOM Core	Dublin Core
8:Annotation	Y	O	O	O	N	O	
8.1:Entity	Y	O	O	O	N	O	
8.2:Date	Y	O	O	O	N	O	
8.3:Description	Y	O	O	O	N	O	

Legend
Y = Yes, Included in Subset
O = Optional
N = No, Not Included in Subset
DC = Dublin Core

8:Annotation

Explanation	Size	Order	Value Space	Datatype
This category provides comments on the educational use of this learning object, and information on when and by whom the comments were created. This category enables educators to share their assessments of learning objects, suggestions for use, etc.	Smallest permitted maximum: 30 items	Unordered	-	-

Use the Annotation category to provide end user comments that might facilitate the use or reuse of the learning resource, and to indicate who has written the comments and when they have been written.

Providing comments on the educational use of a learning object that are associated with a date and a personal name can be very valuable for resource reuse and adaptation, for community formation, and for realizing the full potential value of metadata descriptions.

- The precise purpose associated with this element group, and the way in which it is applied, may vary considerably from one implementation to another.

The sub-elements in this category are:
  8.1:Entity
  8.2:Date
  8.3:Description
Elements listed in **bold** are included in the CanCore application profile.

Examples

- Annotation:
  Entity: John W. Smith, Athabasca University
  Date: 12:00, January 15, 2003
  Description: I highly recommend the Web page as a must for any student learning about the brain in the 13-16 age group. It is also a must for any biology or health instructor teaching this age group about the brain. It would be an excellent source of fun homework for students. In other words, students could be sent to the Web page to learn about the Stroop Effect. It is a fun game. Try it. Some older students could utilize the Web page, but might find it "kiddish. "
- Annotation:
  Entity: Andrea Tremblay, AFNORQ
  Date: April, 2003
  Description: I spent a number of hours looking over and reviewing the information provided on this site. I found that the information provided would be helpful to both students and teachers. As an educator the activities and lesson ideas were very appealing. Children would be drawn in and would gain tremendous knowledge about the nervous system by it.

XML Examples

```
<annotation>
  <entity>
    BEGIN:VCARD
    VERSION:3.0
    N:Smith;John;W.
    FN:John W. Smith
    ORG:Athabasca University
    END:VCARD
  </entity>
  <date>
    <dateTime>2003-01-15T12:00:00.0</dateTime>
  </date>
  <description>
    <string language="eng">I highly recommend the Web page as
    a must for any student learning about the brain in the 13-
    16 age group. It is also a must for any biology or health
    instructor teaching this age group about the brain. It
    would be an excellent source of fun homework for students.
    In other words, students could be sent to the Web page to
    learn about the Stroop Effect. It is a fun game. Try it.
    Some older students could utilize the Web page, but might
    find it "kiddish."</string>
  </description>
</annotation>

<annotation>
  <entity>
    BEGIN:VCARD
    VERSION:3.0
    N:Tremblay;Andrea
    FN:Andrea Tremblay
    ORG:AFNORQ
    END:VCARD
  </entity>
  <date>
    <dateTime>2003-04</dateTime>
  </date>
  <description>
    <string language="eng">I spent a number of hours looking
    over and reviewing the information provided on this site.
    I found that the information provided would be helpful to
    both students and teachers. As an educator the activities
    and lesson ideas were very appealing. Children would be
    drawn in and would gain tremendous knowledge about the
    nervous system by it.</string>
    </description>
  </annotation>
```

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8.1:Entity

Explanation	Size	Order	Value Space	Datatype
Entity (i.e., people, organizations) that created this annotation.	1	Unspecified	VCard, as defined by IMC vCard 3.0 (RFC 2425, RFC 2426)	Character-String (smallest permitted maximum: 1000 char)

The content of the 8.1:Entity element is governed by the vCard (virtual business card) specification (www.imc.org/pdi/) and, as such, could contain very specific information about contributors such as e-mail address, affiliation, and address. CanCore does not recommend tracking detailed or exhaustive affiliation information in the metadata record for a resource. A record describes the properties of a learning resource and should not contain information peripheral to that resource. Affiliation information is subject to change, difficult to track, and would necessitate a data management model separate from that necessary to maintain a metadata record that describes a learning resource.

CanCore strongly recommends that contact information for annotators not be stored in the metadata for the learning resource itself.

- The vCard specification is intended for the interchange of personal contact and affiliation information, such as that found on business cards or personal homepages. It includes dozens of elements, including time zone, photograph, logo, and delivery address.

- Three elements or properties are declared to be mandatory in the vCard specification. As defined in the vCard specification itself, these are:
  - FN (formatted person's name; e.g., Mr. John Q. Public, Esq.)
    "FN is a (possibly ambiguous) name by which the person is commonly known and conforms to the naming conventions of the country or culture with which it is associated. A value for FN is a text string. For example, a typical name of a person in an English-speaking country comprises a personal title if required (e.g., Mr., Ms., Dr., Professor, Sir), a first name, middle name(s) and/or initial(s) if any, a last name, a generation qualifier if any (e.g., Jr.), and decorations and awards if any (e.g., QC). It is based on the semantics of the X.520 Common Name attribute."
  - N (structured person's name; e.g., Stevenson;John;Philip,Paul;Dr.;Jr.)
    "N is a list of components separated by the SEMICOLON character in the following sequence: Family Name, Given Name, Additional Names, Honorific Prefixes, and Honorific Suffixes. Each component can have multiple values (e.g., multiple Additional Names) separated by the COMMA character (ASCII decimal 44). This type is based on the semantics of the X.520 individual name attributes [sic], and is a single structured text value"
    - VERSION (The value of the VERSION property, as per the LOM specification, will always be 3.0.)

- CanCore further recommends that a fourth vCard element, ORG, be included in the context of LOM records:
  - ORG (the name and optionally the unit or units of the organization; e.g., ORG:ABC, Inc.;North American Division;Marketing)
    This is the institutional entity with which the person is associated as a contributor to the learning resource. CanCore recommends including specific organizational unit(s) as described in the vCard specification, going from general (e.g., university or corporation name) to specific (e.g., department or division).

- Name in vCard 3.0 applies only to a person and is a mandatory element. However, corporate contributions may be made to a learning resource where no actual values for the mandatory FN (formatted name) and N (structured name) properties exist. Best and common practices for dealing with this issue have not yet emerged, but CanCore recommends that a pseudo-value of "none" be supplied for FN and N elements when a corporate author is being described.

Technical Implementation Notes

- To save some data-entry effort, implementers should consider automatic population of FN based on manually entered values for N and the naming conventions of the specific country or culture. For example, in contexts where English, French, or some other European languages dominate, a string representing a value of N would be formulated as follows:
  - [family name];[given name];[additional names];[honorific prefixes];[honorific suffixes]
  This can be translated into the following FN value:
  - [honorific prefixes] [given name] [additional names] [family name], [honorific suffixes]

Examples

- Smith, John W.
- Athabasca University

XML Examples*

```
<entity>
  BEGIN:VCARD
  VERSION:3.0
  N:Smith;John;W.
  FN:John W. Smith
  ORG: Athabasca University
  END:VCARD
</entity>
```

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```
<entity>
  BEGIN:VCARD
  VERSION:3.0
  N:None;
  FN:None
  ORG:Athabasca University
  END:VCARD
</entity>
```

*vCard uses non-XML encoding, requiring its own parsing rules and supporting technologies. Given different behaviours of existing parsing tools for XML and vCard, best and common practices for the optimal formulation of vCard encoding are not yet clear. It may be best to insert vCard encoding into a LOM XML record as a "CDATA section" as follows:

```
<entity>
<![CDATA[BEGIN:vCARD
VERSION:3.0
N:Smith;John;W
FN:John W. Smith
END:vCARD]]>
</entity>
```

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8.2:Date *Explanation*	*Size*	*Order*	*Value Space*	*Datatype*
Date this annotation was created.	1	Unspecified	-	DateTime

Where known and appropriate, indicate a date on which the annotation was made or completed.

- This element is governed by DateTime, a datatype described in the LOM, Section 8. Dates should be entered according to the ISO 8601:2000 specification for date (http://www.w3.org/TR/NOTE-datetime). Summarized briefly, dates should be expressed in the YYYY-MM-DD format. For general or partial dates, eliminate values as necessary from right to left: YYYY (a year date only), or YYYY-MM (a year and month date only).

- Textual descriptions of date are permissible if the date cannot be expressed according to ISO 8601 or if textual information is needed to supplement the ISO 8601 value.

Vocabulary Recommendation

Use ISO 8601:2000.

Examples

- 2003
- April, 2002
- 12:00, January 15, 2003
- April 15th, 1998 (First quarter 1998)

XML Examples

```
<date>
  <dateTime>2003</dateTime>
</date>

<date>
  <dateTime>2002-04</dateTime>
</date>

<date>
  <dateTime>2003-01-15T12:00:00.0</dateTime>
</date>

<date>
  <dateTime>1998-04-15</dateTime>
  <description>
    <string language="eng">First quarter of 1998</string>
```

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```
    <string language="fra">le premier trimestre de
    1998</string>
  </description>
</date>
```

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8.3:Description *Explanation*	*Size*	*Order*	*Value Space*	*Datatype*
The content of this annotation.	1	Unspecified	-	LangString (smallest permitted maximum: 1000 char)

Provide comments on the educational use and/or value of the learning object from a particular or individual perspective.

- Ideally, comments provided would relate to the specific application within the educational context as indicated by the elements in 5:Educational.

- This element could provide an example of a successful use of the resource in a particular educational context, also indicating specific challenges or strengths presented by the resource in that context.

- This element could be used to describe educational characteristics of the resource that *cannot* be accommodated by the elements in 5:Educational.

- The smallest permitted maximum of 1000 characters may be confining for longer annotations; users should be able to add multiple annotations if appropriate. However, because the repetition of the 8:Annotation category is unordered, multiple annotations should be self-contained, and not serialized or interdependent in any way.

Examples (from www.merlot.org):

- I spent a number of hours looking over and reviewing the information provided on this site. I found that the information provided would be helpful to both students and teachers. As an educator the activities and lesson ideas were very appealing. Children would be drawn in and would gain tremendous knowledge about the nervous system by it.
- I highly recommend the Web page as a must for any student learning about the brain in the 13-16 age group. It is also a must for any biology or health instructor teaching this age group about the brain. It would be an excellent source of fun homework for students. In other words, students could be sent to the Web page to learn about the Stroop Effect. It is a fun game. Try it. Some older students could utilize the Web page, but might find it "kiddish. "

XML Examples

```
<description>
  <string language="eng">I spent a number of hours looking over
  and reviewing the information provided on this site. I found
```

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```
    that the information provided would be helpful to both
    students and teachers. As an educator the activities and
    lesson ideas were very appealing. Children would be drawn in
    and would gain tremendous knowledge about the nervous system
    by it.</string>
</description>

<description>
    <string language="eng">I highly recommend the Web page as a
    must for any student learning about the brain in the 13-16
    age group. It is also a must for any biology or health
    instructor teaching this age group about the brain. It would
    be an excellent source of fun homework for students. In other
    words, students could be sent to the Web page to learn about
    the Stroop Effect. It is a fun game. Try it. Some older
    students could utilize the Web page, but might find it
    "kiddish."</string>
</description>
```

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