Digitized Costume Cataloguing

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Abstract

This paper describes the development of a catalogue of a digitized collection of costumes. By evaluating and analyzing the collection and evaluate how well existing metadata formats can be applied to a costume collection. The desired metadata elements shown here, selected from the existing Metadata elements and try to fit the Costume data into it. Further it can be researched by taking selected samples and actual metadata treatments to be created for these selected samples using (1) American Cataloguing Rules (AACR in) use with USMARC formats (2) the Dublin Core set of Elements , and (3) the Visual Resources Association (VRA) Core Categories for Visual Resources. Comparison and analysis of the formats will be resulted in the selection with additional metadata elements, if require.

Keywords : Digital Library, Metadata, USMARC, Dublin Core

0.   Introduction

National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) was established in the year 1986 under the aegis of the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India. It has emerged as the premier institute of Design, Management and Technology, developing professionals for taking up leadership positions in fashion business in the emerging global scenario. The Institute is a pioneer in envisioning and evolving fashion business education in the country through a network of seven professionally managed centers at New Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai, Gandhinagar, Hyderabad, Kolkatta and Mumbai. NIFT has set academic standards and excelled in thought leadership by providing of creative genius and technically competent professionals. The Institute provides a common platform for fashion education, research and training.

1.   Resource Center at NIFT

Information is the most important resource and therefore, Resource Center at each NIFT centre is the nodal center for fashion information in India. Its integrated collection of print, Material resources and visual material is documented systematically.

2.   Collections in the Resource center

- The print collections include books and periodicals pertaining to fashion studies and related disciplines.
- The subscription of leading national and international fashion and textile journals
- The audio-visual materials, primarily used as teaching aids, include large collection of slides, photographs, Videos etc.
- The RC showcases the costumes (Designer's, Regional, Protoype etc.).
- The textile collection include fully documented and methodologically arranged collections of fabrics, fashion accessories, and latest international fabrics procured from leading trend services.

3.   Costume Collection in the Resource Center

The Resource center has a collection of the costumes in the Resource Center, which can be categorized as follow:

1.	Design Collection	:	This is a collection of the selected costumes, prepared by the graduating students of Fashion Design Department as part of their Diploma)
2.	Designer's costumes	:	Costumes created by the Designers from India and abroad
3.	Regional/Traditional Costumes	:	Costume collection from the different regions of India
4.	Embroidered costumes	:	Costume, which represents the embroidery of India/abroad
5.	Prototype costumes	:	Prepared specially for teaching purpose

All the above collection can be further categorized as Men's costumes, Women's costumes and Children's costumes.

4.   Why Digitized

1. Digital accesses allows researchers, students, and the public to have a visual access to an entire collection without disturbing the original costumes and thus overcomes conservation problems and make artifacts available to large audiences.
2. In future the entire/selected collection can be put on the website.

Now, when exploring options for establishing a digitized costume collection and to apply existing metadata formats to the costume collection the following is require.

1. To review existing metadata formats and to select on of these most suitable format for this collection.
2. To prepare cataloguing guidelines, examples, and a template for the Resource centre Register to be developed and maintain the catalog for the entire digitized costume collection.

5.   Metadata standards for costume collection

It is felt that in developing digitized costume collection the cataloguing format should follow the principles and standards of object description and that has been established by information professionals. Such standard guides how a collection is described and it also enhances interaction and interoperability with the collections of all NIFTs.

In the application of existing metadata standards to descriptions of such three-dimensional objects, the following two questions of central concern.

1.   For non-textual and three-dimensional objects like costumes, do any metadata standards exist?
2.   If not, which descriptive elements to be included in a metadata record for costume collections?

6.   Characteristics of Costumes

To fulfill these tasks, the characteristics of the collection objects are require to be identified, which are as follow :

1. Three dimensional
2. Multiple components (removable pieces),
3. Such pieces of items to be treated both integrally and separately
4. Showing information about history/ culture/ society
5. Showing the detail about style, pattern, material, colour, technique, Designer, etc.

7.   Browsing options

The ability to search and browse the digitized collections through various access points will enhance the knowledge and use of the collections. For this identification of the catalogue record is the most important task. The attributes can be identified as follow:

1. Perceptual (responding to a visual stimulus e.g. Colour),
2. Interpretive (requiring knowledge or inference, e.g. Style), and
3. Reactive (responding on a personal level, e.g. Linking the image

Some of the fields, which are not usually used in library catalog, are required for costume catalogue. These are as –

Style, Pattern, fabric, technique, embellishment, Fasteners/closures, measurements etc., which provide foundation for identification and comparison between costumes. Some of the geographical significance elements identify cultural influence in fashion.

8.   It is really a challenge

- To determine how to verbalize the contents of three-dimensional objects,
- How to choose particular aspects of these objects to index and
- How to interpret the subject matter that these objects represent.

Costume catalogue record usually contains the following three types of information.

1. Registration information: Includes accession information, nature of the object, source/donor, Designer, manufacturer, owner etc.
2. Descriptive information: Includes information about a costume's style, influence, accessories and parts, dyes, fabrics, patterns, surface ornamentation, measurement, etc.
3. Subject information: includes subject terms that include the function of a costume like men's wear. Women's wear, etc.

9.   Formats

There are the rules by which objects are described, their data stored, and the system communicates. The main objective for establishing the standards is to unify the representation, manipulation or transmission of some piece of information so that two or more different systems can understand it the same way.

10.   Bibliographic

These are concerned with description of the material, both as to its content and its physical and descriptive attributes. Bibliographic standards are generally very complex and cover the most difficult, intelligent part of the object definition. These definitions are necessary for processing the material and also for searching for it. These definitions are all a form of metadata in that they are information about the basic record (the data)

There are several metadata formats are available.

Some of them are:

10.1   Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, 1988 rev.ed.

AACR'2s Chapter 10 "Three Dimensional Artifacts and Realia," provides a very brief guideline for cataloging three-dimensional objects. According to the glossary of AACR2, realia is an artifact or naturally occurring entity, as opposed to replica. The rules covered in chapter 10 are not limited to realia but also cover three-dimensional artifacts. According AACR costume is realia category.

10.2   USMARC Formats for Bibliographic Data

The MARC formats are standards for the representation and communication of bibliographic and related information in machine-readable form. The *MARC 21 Format for Bibliographic Data* is designed to be a carrier for bibliographic information about printed and manuscript textual materials, computer files, maps, music, continuing resources, visual materials, and mixed materials. Bibliographic data commonly includes titles, names, subjects, notes, publication data, and information about the physical description of an item.

10.3   Dublin Core Metadata

The Dublin Core Metadata Initiative is an open forum engaged in the development of interoperable online metadata standards that support a broad range of purposes and business models. DCMI's activities include consensus-driven working groups, global workshops, conferences, standards liaison, and educational efforts to promote widespread acceptance of metadata standards and practices.

10.4   Encoded Archival Description (EAD)

The EAD Document Type Definition (DTD) is a Standardized Generalized Markup Language (SGML) standard designed for encoding finding aids to collections of material.

10.5   Visual Resources Association Core Categories for Visual Resources, version 2.0

The Visual Resources Association is a multidisciplinary community of image management professionals working in educational and cultural heritage environments. The Association is committed to providing leadership in the field, developing and advocating standards, and providing educational tools and opportunities for its members.

10.6   Record Export for Art and Cultural Heritage (Research) Element Set

RLG is a not-for-profit membership corporation of over 160 universities, national libraries, archives, historical societies, and other institutions with remarkable collections for research and learning. Rooted in collaborative work that addresses members' shared goals for these collections, RLG develops and operates information resources used by members and nonmembers around the world.

Founded in 1974 and incorporated in 1975 by Columbia, Harvard, and Yale Universities and The New York Public Library, RLG was conceived to help achieve the economies and power of service that come from pooling resources, expertise, and operations. The organization became a pioneer in developing cooperative solutions to the problems that research collections and their users face in the acquisition, delivery, and preservation of information.

In 1997, RLG launched the REACH project to explore how existing information in museum collection management systems could be extracted and repurposed to provide online access to museum object descriptive information.

10.7   Categories for the Description of Works of Art

It is a product of the Art Information Task Force (AITF), which encouraged dialog between art historians, art information professionals, and information providers so that together they could develop guidelines for describing works of art, architecture, groups of objects, and visual and textual surrogates.

Formed in the early 1990s, the task force was made up of representatives from the communities that provide and use art information: art historians, museum curators and registrars, visual resource professionals, art librarians, information managers, and technical specialists.

Each of the above formats was constructed from an understanding of specific domains, information resource needs, and unique requirements for describing document. The formats are not particularly designed for describing non-document-like objects, but each one has some kind of applicability.

11.   Selection of Format

Compatibility and simplicity are the two main criteria for selection of the format. On the basis of Richness of content and structural presentation in a record as well as productivity and quality of cataloguing should be given priority.

11.1   Desired Elements for Registration Information

No.	Desired Element	Description of Element
1.	Accession number/No. and source	Unique number used to identify items and the name of agency which assigns the number
2.	Original cataloguing source	The organization which created the original record and the language of cataloguing
3.	Language of information	The language of any textual information accompany the costume
4.	Geographical information	The geographical information of the costume
5.	Temporal information	Time period of the contents of the costume
6.	Work Type	Category of the costume being catalogued
7	Manufacturer information	Place, manufacturer and date. Other about manufacturer
8.	Source/Donor	Name(s) of individual(s) who owned or donated the costume
9.	Repository name, Location	Name of Geographic place of the repository that currently hosts the costume
10.	Tag collection	Location of the tag
11.	Electronic location and access	All the electronic information of the costume
12.	Exhibition notes	Any exhibition history
13.	Remarks	The history, role, criticism, special characters of the costume

11.2   Desired Elements for Descriptive information

No.	Desired Element	Description of Element
1.	Costume Title	Title of costume being catalogued
2.	Gender	Gender information of the object
3.	Accessories	Accessories of the costume
4.	Dimension	Dimension or size or measurements
5.	Techniques	Technique used
6.	Materials	Primary and secondary materials used
7.	Colour/Pattern/Structure	
8.	Quantity	Number of pieces of a dress
9.	Related person or organisations	The name(s) and age(s) of individual(s) or organization(s) who owned, worn
10.	Culture/Influence	Primary cultural influence
11.	Period	Time period of the contents of the costume
12.	Index items	Uncontrolled terms which are not derived from a controlled subject heading system/thesaurus
13.	Descriptions	Terms from controlled subject systems/thesauri
14.	Secondary Materials	Trimmings (laces, beads, ribbons etc.)
15.	Citations	Published references
16.	Remarks	The history, role, criticism and special characteristics of the costume

12.   Conclusion

In developing a metadata framework, it is necessary to choose metadata scheme carefully and make decision about what words to use within its categories. Depending on particular need of the collection it is require to find :

1. Using an existing controlled metadata format as it is
2. Adapting or customizing a metadata format
3. Developing own metadata format
4. Using uncontrolled metadata format

It is quite reasonable to use a combination of these approaches and to use multiple vocabularies, e.g. a formal vocabulary plus additional keywords, which will assist in retrieval.

In choosing a metadata format, the following matter should be considered:

- The users – use the terms - which are meaningful to them
- The nature of the collection - if it is of special nature, e.g. three-dimensional, need a detailed vocabulary
- The skills and available time of cataloguing staff – it will require experience or training to use properly
- Similar community – it is advisable to use vocabularies that similar collections are using.

If metadata are chosen and managed carefully, it makes cataloguing easier and improve retrieval and presentation of the objects from the collection.

In preparing a "Digital collection" to document these three dimensional objects, a traditional method of cataloguing should be employed to record the attributes of costume and for this metadata format is chosen and managed carefully, which will help in -

- in improving retrieval
- in improving cataloguing consistency
- helping the collection interoperate with other collections

For this characteristics of the costume has examined and the way the data is accessed, presented and researched by the known (Students and faculty members) and potential users (Designers, artists, People from the industry) should be analyzed and the cataloguers find the need to add additional elements for a complete description of the three-dimensional visual document.

For Digitised Costume collection, variety of metadata format sheets for a variety of garments (Dress, Skirts, Pants, woven shirts, Bodysuits/Jumpsuits, pullover, outerwear etc.) to be prepared. This sheet is for record keeping (cataloguing records).

13.   References

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Example from Design collection costumes : Summer eveningwear with three pieces.

No.	Desired Element	Description of Element
1.	No.	98/111/Des.Cost./4, Procured in 1998, it is the 4th costume in the Design collection category and 111 is the number of total costume collection no.
2.	Title	Women's clothing, Evening wear
3.	Gender	Female costume
4.	Original cataloguing source	NIFT, Gandhinagar
5.	Language of information	English
6.	Geographical information	N/A
7.	Temporal information	20th century
8.	Work Type	Design collection
9.	Manufacturer information	Gandhinagar, 2003
10.	Repository name, Location	Resource Centre, NIFT, Gandhinagar
11.	Tag collection	On the short top at right armhole (below), On shorts and Trousers at waistband, left side
12	Electronic location and access	Resource Centre's server, NIFT, Gandhinagar,
13	Exhibition notes	Displayed on the ramp, at Greenwoods Lawn, Ahmeadbad, 10th May, 2003
14	Remarks	Won the Award for Best Design collection
15	Accessories	Bag
16	* Dimension	For short-Top

For short-Top
1. Neck – Width
2. Neck-Drop-Back
3. Neck Drop-Front
4. Neck circumference
5. Collar height
6. Neck opening at top of trim
7. Shoulder length
8. Across shoulder
9. Front length
10. Back length
11. Armhole circumference
12. Across chest
13. Across waist
14. Side length
15. Dart – Length
16. Dart placement
17. Button placement

For Trouser/Shorts
1. Waist circumference
2. Waist band – Height
3. High hip

		4. Front rise
		5. Back rise
		6. Inseam
		7. Outseam
		8. Tigh circumference
		9. Knee circumference
		10. Ankle circumference
18	Techniques	Seam finish is French seam, Dart Manipulation at back
19	Materials	Khadi Silk
20	Colour/Pattern/Structure	Short-top, transparent trouser to be worn with shorts.
21	Quantity	3
22	Related person or organisations	Mentor : Ms. Vandita Mahida, Asst. Prof. Sponsors : Parijat, Ahmedabad
23	Culture/Influence/Theme	Theme : Raw elegance which represents simplicity, down to earth and practical collection
24	Index items, not derived from a controlled subject heading system/thesaurus	Subject : Dart manipulation
25	Descriptions, Terms from controlled subject systems/thesauri	Silk , Women's clothing, Evening wear
27	Secondary Materials, Buttons, Closuers etc.	Wooden Button at the back
28	Citations	Design collection, 1999 catalogue

(* In Dimension, actual measurements not shown)