

SHADES OF GREY: INTEGRATING METADATA FOR DISCOVERY IN A MIXED-CONTENT SINGLE-SUBJECT LIBRARY



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Explore



Access



Learn



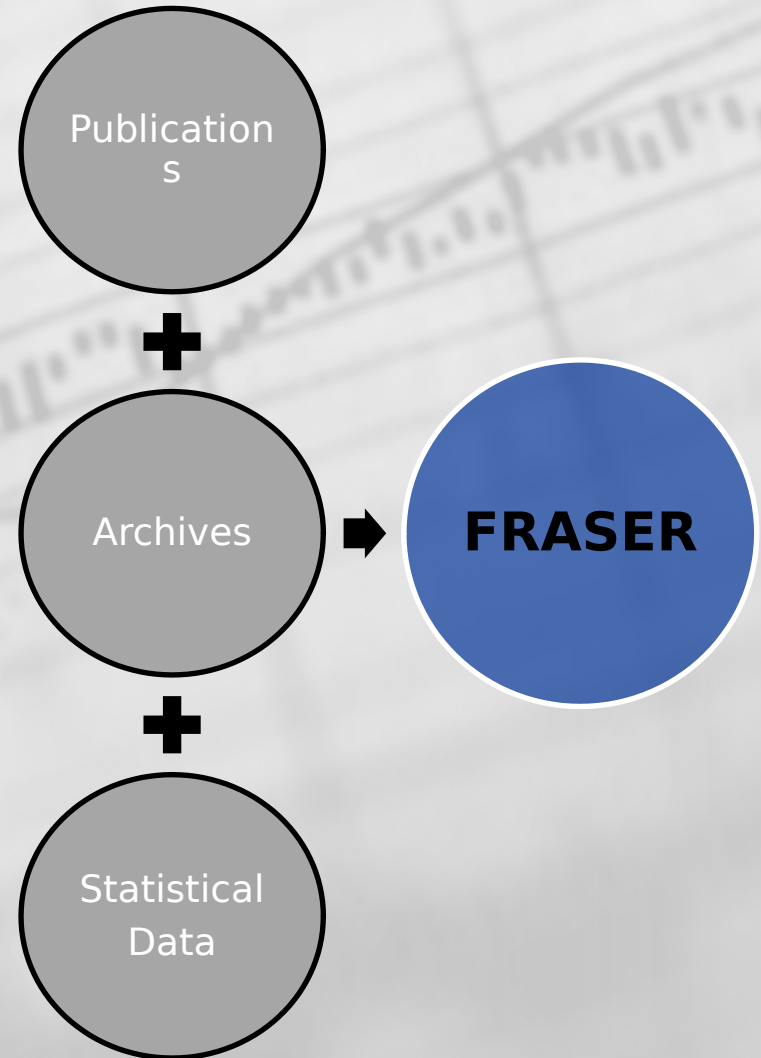
FRASER (fraser.stlouisfed.org) is a mixed subject and institutional repository that preserves and provides access to economic and banking data and policy documents.

FRASER IS GREY

- **Federal Reserve publications make up approximately 30% of FRASER's nearly 1200 titles, including economic datasets**
- **United States government publications make up more than 50% of FRASER titles**
 - **Legislation**
 - **Hearings**
 - **Reports**
 - **Data**
- **FRASER also holds more than two dozen digitized archival collections**

WHERE DID WE START?

- FRASER began as in 2004 as a data preservation and accessibility project – not a “digital library”
- Metadata was developed ad-hoc
- Each section of the public website had its own metadata set in the database



GOALS

- More attractive and browsable public site launched in conjunction with the Federal Reserve centennial
- Better interoperability with other collections and with DPLA
- Improved ability to share content, including dynamically-generated research citations

THE PROCESS

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DUBLIN CORE

- Pros
 - commonly used
 - easy crosswalk
 - DPLA compliant
 - simple and straightforward
- Cons
 - broad instead of precise
 - many element usage conventions didn't fit FRASER collection
 - poor representation of related items and series

TESTING EXPOSES PITFALLS

- How much work will this take to implement?
 - Can data entry be automated?
 - Will you have to create vocabularies and best practices from scratch?
 - How much of the collection will an ‘out of the box’ implementation describe accurately?
- What’s out of our control?
 - Technological limitations
 - Organization of special collections or collections from contributing institutions

MODS

- More 'library-like' – AACR2 and RDA compliant
- Avoids Dublin Core implementation issues
- Allows import/conversion of MARC records
- DPLA compliant

But...

Still isn't a perfect fit for archival collections, some titles, multiple authors, or non-print items

IMPLEMENTATION

- Once a standard is selected, you still have to implement it.
 - Carefully document choices you make when implementing
 - Make adjustments to the standard if necessary
 - Automate what you can
 - Resign yourself to doing the grunt work
 - May need to change materials or practices and not the standard

**The perfect is the enemy of the
good.
(*Le mieux est l'ennemi du bien.*)
— Voltaire**

LESSONS LEARNED

- Begin at the beginning, if possible
- Test, test, test, and then test again
- Even the best fit isn't a perfect fit
- Sometimes you have to change your practice
- One step at a time...
- ...even if you step backwards
- Document *everything*
- Just Do It.



QUESTIONS?

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