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# Metadata

Interoperability across systems, time, and conceptions

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# Outline

1. Definitions: metadata, interoperability
2. Three types of interoperability: synchronic, diachronic, and intentional
3. Constructs that help us achieve these types of interoperability: application profiles, change schemas, and conceptual models



# Metadata

Information that characterizes another information resource, especially for purposes of documenting, describing, preserving or managing that resource.



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*InterPARES 2 Glossary*

The word metadata is used in many different ways, and by many different communities.



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For example, in the information sciences we are design metadata for document retrieval and document discovery.



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And tho' *finding* is a concern for archives, metadata for records and aggregations of records is required for the presumption of authenticity, first, and retrieval second.



# Archival Metadata

Authenticity

Identity

Integrity

Form and Content

Contextual Description



## Archival Metadata

Authenticity

Identity

Integrity

Form and Content

Contextual Description

## Identity Metadata:

Names of persons

Action or matter

Dates of creation and  
transmission

Expression of archival  
bond

Indication of attachments





## Archival Metadata

Authenticity

Identity

Integrity

Form and Content

Contextual Description

## Integrity Metadata:

Name of handling office

Name of office of primary responsibility (if different from handling office)

Indication of types of annotations added to the record

Indication of technical modifications



# Archival Description

The creation of an accurate representation of a unit of description and its component parts, if any, by capturing, analyzing, organizing and recording information that serves to identify, manage, locate and explain archival materials and the context and records systems which produced it.



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This is the view from the bluff, the narrative, rather than discrete pieces like names and dates. That is not to say archival description would not use names and dates, but instead is made of names and dates coupled with the archivist's view of body of records and their context.



# Interoperability

The ability of one application/system  
to communicate or work with  
another.

*InterPARES 2 Glossary*



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Interoperability can happen

(1) at one point in time  
- synchronic

(2) through time  
- diachronic

(3) and that aligns  
purposes - intentional



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- (1) at one point in time  
- synchronic

For example, one recordkeeping system may successfully capture all names (author, writer, originator, and addressee), while another only captures one type of name.



# Interoperability

The ability of one application/system to communicate or work with another.

*InterPARES 2 Glossary*

RK1

RK2

Author

Author

Writer

?

Originator

?

Addressee

?



# Interoperability

The ability of one application/system to communicate or work with another.

*InterPARES 2 Glossary*

RK1

RK2/DC

Author

Creator

Writer

Creator

Originator

Creator

Addressee

Audience?





# Interoperability

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For example, a metadata scheme (or even a classification) could change over time, and we want our permanent preservation system to handle this.



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*InterPARES 2 Glossary*

## *Access Points in Archival Description*

RK1.0 (pre-1999)

Northwest Territories

RK2.0 (1999-Present)

Northwest Territories

Nunavut



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## Application Profiles

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(3) and that aligns  
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## Application Profiles

is a declaration of the metadata terms an organization, information resource, application, or user community uses in its metadata.

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An application profile is not considered complete without documentation that defines the policies and best practices appropriate to the application.

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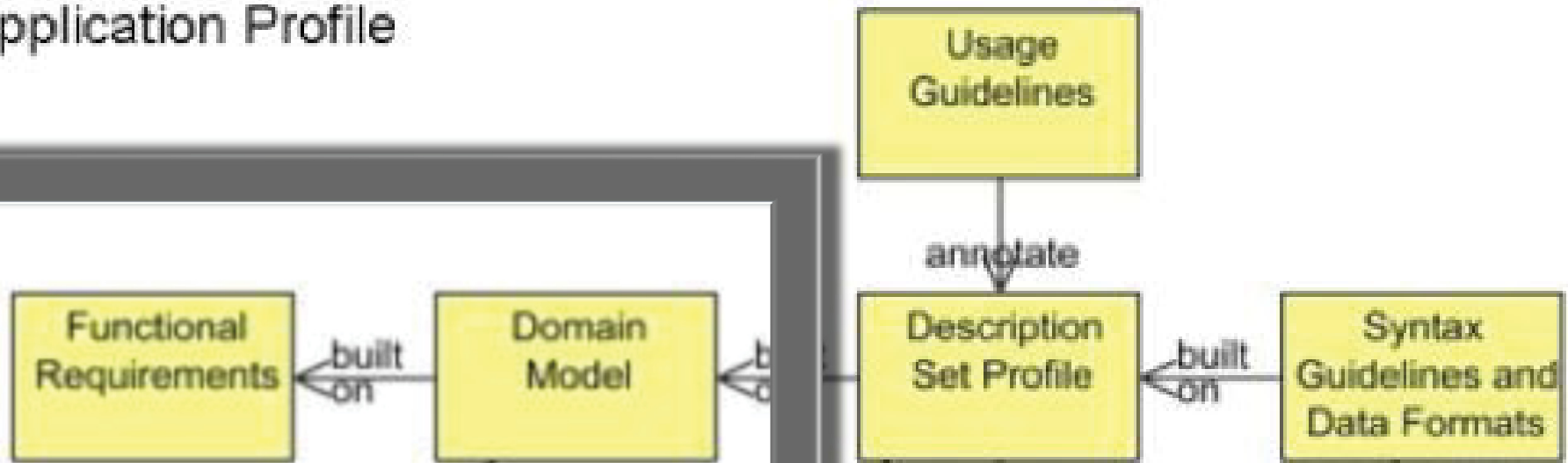
An application profile is not considered complete without documentation that defines the policies and best practices appropriate to the application.

Interoperability can happen

(3) and that aligns purposes -intentional

That is, a clear and explicit statement of purpose and functional requirements is published with the metadata.

## Application Profile



## Application Profile Components

As we can see we have functional requirements (retrieval or authenticity or both?)  
And a domain model archives, open web, museums? What is the purpose what is the context?



## Working With These Challenges

The next steps for metadata work in the context of InterPARES is to work with all of these types of interoperability as we publish metadata schemas for use by small and medium sized organizations.

We will want systems to work together at one time, through time, and with clear articulation of purpose.



## Working With These Challenges

This means we will publish application profiles, change schemas, and conceptual models.

The next steps for metadata work in the context of InterPARES is to work with all of these types of interoperability as we publish metadata schemas for use by small and medium sized organizations.

We will want systems to work together at one time, through time, and with clear articulation of purpose.



Thank you

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