

Discussion

What are the advantages and disadvantages of a tool such as DC-dot?

What does DC-dot base its example metadata on?

Do you think that DC-dot has a role to play in your institution?

Further Information

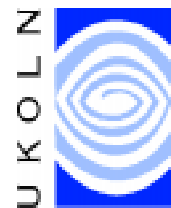
DC-dot was developed by UKOLN, primarily as a tool for people to experiment with the Dublin Core metadata element set. By generating example metadata based on existing <META> tags and other information, such as headings, in Web pages it is possible to get a good feel for the kind of metadata that can be created using Dublin Core.

By converting Dublin Core into other formats it is possible to experiment with moving Web-based metadata into other environments, such as library OPACs.

An experimental Java version of DC-dot has been developed and the current Web version continues to be enhanced. The source code of both versions of DC-dot is available from <URL: <http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/metadata/software-tools/>>.

More information about the Dublin Core is available from <URL: http://purl.org/metadata/dublin_core>

General information about metadata is available from <URL: <http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/metadata/>>



Metadata Tools

DC-dot

Introduction

This document gives instructions on using DC-dot, a Web-based tool for creating Dublin Core metadata. The document was originally produced for use by participants on the Metadata session at the **Institutional Web Management** workshop held at Newcastle University on 15-17 September 1998.

Aims of This Exercise

These exercises provide familiarisation with DC-dot. They are also intended for people who wish to gain experience of the Dublin Core metadata element set.

Using DC-dot

Task 1 Getting Started

In your web browser enter the address <URL: <http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/metadata/dc-dot/>>.

The DC-dot home page will be displayed as shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1 DC-dot home page

Task 2 Creating some Example Metadata

Use DC-dot to create some metadata for a Web page, such as your University home page.

Type the URL of the page into the **URL** text box on the DC-dot home page.

DC-dot will attempt to guess the publisher of the page – this can sometimes be quite slow. Un-tick the box if you do not want DC-dot to do this.

Click on the **Submit** button.

After a few moments, a new page will be displayed containing some example Dublin Core metadata about your page.

The example metadata is shown as a set of HTML **<META>** elements.



Figure 2 Creating metadata

Task 3 Enhancing the Example Metadata

Scroll the window down until you can see some text boxes for each Dublin Core element. Add metadata into some of the blank text boxes or modify the example metadata to improve it.

For example, you might add the name of the page author into the **Creator** box. Unless your page already has embedded metadata, the example DC.Subject META tag is likely to contain some *unusual* terms!

When you have finished scroll back up and click on the **re-submit** button. Your improved metadata will be displayed to you.

Note that you do not have to complete all the fields.

Repeat tasks 2 and 3 for several different URLs by clicking the **New URL** button if you have time.

Task 4 Getting Help

Click on the **Help** button to get some context sensitive help.

A separate help window will appear. Move it until it is visible alongside the main window.

Click in the **Creator** box to see the help message shown here. As you click in the other boxes, the help message will change.



Figure 3 DC-dot help window

Task 5 Saving the Metadata

Use your mouse to highlight the HTML **<META>** tags at the top of the page and select your Web browser's **Edit, Copy** menu item. Then you can simply paste the metadata into a Web page using your usual HTML editor.

Task 6 Saving the Metadata in Other Formats

You can use DC-dot to convert your metadata into other formats. To convert it to RDF and save it to a local file, do the following:

Click on the **Other Formats** button. A new window will appear.

Pull down the **Format** menu and select **RDF** as shown here. Click on the **create** button.

Your Web browser should prompt you for the name of an application that can be used to view the RDF or for the name of a file in which to save it. You may use a simple text editor such as **Notepad** to view the RDF or simply type the name of a file.



Figure 4 Saving in other formats