

been identified. The tool could go further with assisting users in creating the relatively complex code for encoding schemes such as DCMI Box, Period, and Point. A small pop-up box, for example, could accept input from users on the desired information and automatically format and insert the needed code. Similarly, features could be added to allow users to directly look up information such as ISO language codes or subject heading vocabularies. For standards where a list of codes or terms are freely provided, a simple search functionality could be integrated to allow users to find and automatically insert desired terms without the need to visit another website. The tool could also grow to provide output in other formats such as RDF/XML, RDFa, or HTML5 Microdata. Given that the core functionality of the site has been already been successfully coded, adding additional output formats is a relatively simple task.

While ILS-integrated metadata tools will likely remain the preferred tool for catalogers, the value of quality free online tools remains. Andy Powell, one of the developers behind the DC-dot metadata tool, noted that he felt good online tools such as DC-dot are useful “more as an awareness-raising tool, demonstrating the kinds of things that [can] be done with DC” (Medeiros, 2004, p. 62). They also offer an instructional value for users just beginning to learn about Dublin Core. Glaviano (2000) observed that quality tools helped his students get the grasp of Dublin Core with less frustration than those who lacked them. This instructional value is especially salient given that recent surveys such as Lopatin's (2010) show that many libraries continue to make use of non-professionals including support staff, students, and even volunteers for assigning metadata to items in their collection. By supporting and collaborating on free tools for working with Dublin Core, we can help engage people new to the standard and make their first attempts to work with Dublin Core rewarding and successful.

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