The DPLA is a platform that enables new and transformative uses of our digitized cultural heritage. The DPLA's application programming interface (API) and open data can be used by software developers, researchers, and others to create novel environments for learning, tools for discovery, and engaging apps.

Library Observatory
metaLAB (at) Harvard

Library Observatory recognizes a unique opportunity the emergence of the DPLA represents: both to imagine new ways of interacting with cultural and scientific resources and to reflect on what collections of such materials mean, what stories they tell.

App Home Page

Search DPLA and Europeana
Jesús Domínguez

Through the Europeana and DPLA APIs, it’s easy to discover sources of information previously unknown or unforeseen and go directly to a digital version of an item.

App Home Page

StackLife
Harvard Library Innovation Lab

StackLife demonstrates one way a group independent of the Digital Public Library of America can create its own way of browsing its collection, using the information made openly available by the DPLA.

App Home Page

DPLA Map
Ed Summers

OpenPics
Say Goodnight Software / PJ Gray
Digital Commonwealth 2.0 and Metadata
— Make, Morph, Manipulate, Master —

— Slides prepared by —
Danny Pucci, Lead Digital Projects Librarian
Tom Blake, Digital Projects Manager
Boston Public Library
Digital Commonwealth
2.0 and Metadata
— Make, Morph, Manipulate, Master —

— Slides prepared by —
Danny Pucci, Lead Digital Projects Librarian
Tom Blake, Digital Projects Manager
Boston Public Library
Enforcing the Dress Code
Standards, Standards, Standards

- Content standards (text formatting, title formulation, source instruction)
  - AACR2, Graphic Materials

- Value standards (controlled vocabularies, taxonomies)
  - LCSH, TGM, AAT

- Structure standards (schemas, formats for holding data)
  - MODS, Dublin Core
Dublin Core vs. MODS

- **Metadata Object Description Schema**
  - Old system = Dublin Core, few requirements
  - New system = MODS, more required elements

- MODS is more granular

- MODS is just a vehicle for transporting data
  - Participants won’t need to be experts
What are you describing?

- Analog original?
- Digital surrogate?
- Why?
Describing the Original

**Title:** Jackie Robinson of the Brooklyn Dodgers at Braves Field

**Creator:** Jones, Leslie, 1886-1967 (photographer)

**Date created:** ca. 1947 – 1957

**Physical Description:** 1 negative : film, black & white ; 4 x 5 in.

**Format:** Film negatives

**Subjects:** Brooklyn Dodgers (Baseball team); Robinson, Jackie, 1919-1972

**Rights:** Copyright © Leslie Jones
Describing the Surrogate

**Title:** Jackie Robinson of the Brooklyn Dodgers at Braves Field

**Creator:** Boston Public Library

**Date created:** March 2, 2010

**Physical Description:** 1 photograph : digital, JPEG file

**Format:** Digital photographs

**Subjects:** Brooklyn Dodgers (Baseball team); Robinson, Jackie, 1919-1972

**Rights:** Copyright © Boston Public Library
Ingest Form
– Beta Version –
Many options available
- Direct into form
- Spreadsheet
- XML or text editor
- Export from other systems
- Batch upload (under development)
- OAI-PMH (under development)

Individual institutions decide where data should live (thus, how to create data)
| File name       | Provenance          | Title                                                   | Alternative title | Related item/item number | Statement of responsibility | J | Genre | D   | E   | F   | G   | H   | I | J | K | L   | M | N   | O   | P   | Q   | R   | S   | T   | U   | V   | Y   | AB  | AC  | AE  |
|-----------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|---|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| A0_05_024887    | Boston Public Library: Construction 1930-1939 | Construction of vault under delivery room floor |             |                          | presumably provided by the Boston Public Library | Gelatin silver print | 1980-01-03 | 0.12 | 0.87 | Photograph: print | 1 photographic print; 0.12 x 0.87 in. | Photograph print; 0.12 x 0.87 in. | Public Libraries | Building conservation | Boston Public Library | 105457 | Boston Public Library | 
| A0_05_024888    | Boston Public Library: Construction 1930-1939 | Boston Public Library in process of construction | Construction of vault under delivery room floor | presumably provided by the Boston Public Library | Gelatin silver print | 1980-01-03 | 0.12 | 0.87 | Photograph: print | 1 photographic print; 0.12 x 0.87 in. | Photograph print; 0.12 x 0.87 in. | Public Libraries | Building conservation | Boston Public Library | 105457 | Boston Public Library | Boston Public Library | 
| A0_05_024889    | Boston Public Library: Construction 1930-1939 | Boston Public Library, Copley Square. Construction: Front wall |             | presumably provided by the Boston Public Library | Gelatin silver print | 1980-01-03 | 0.12 | 0.87 | Photograph: print | 1 photographic print; 0.12 x 0.87 in. | Photograph print; 0.12 x 0.87 in. | Public Libraries | Building conservation | Boston Public Library | 105457 | Boston Public Library | Boston Public Library | 
| A0_05_024890    | Boston Public Library: Construction 1930-1939 | View of the Marthas Vineyard building under construction, taken from the site of the S. P. Pierce building |             | presumably provided by the Boston Public Library | Gelatin silver print | 1980-01-03 | 0.12 | 0.87 | Photograph: print | 1 photographic print; 0.12 x 0.87 in. | Photograph print; 0.12 x 0.87 in. | Public Libraries | Building conservation | Boston Public Library | 105457 | Boston Public Library | Boston Public Library | 
| A0_05_024891    | Boston Public Library: Construction 1930-1939 | Marthas Vineyard building under construction |             | presumably provided by the Boston Public Library | Gelatin silver print | 1980-01-03 | 0.12 | 0.87 | Photograph: print | 1 photographic print; 0.12 x 0.87 in. | Photograph print; 0.12 x 0.87 in. | Public Libraries | Building conservation | Boston Public Library | 105457 | Boston Public Library | Boston Public Library | 
| A0_05_024892    | Boston Public Library: Construction 1930-1939 | View from S. P. Pierce building of the S. P. Pierce building |             | presumably provided by the Boston Public Library | Gelatin silver print | 1980-01-03 | 0.12 | 0.87 | Photograph: print | 1 photographic print; 0.12 x 0.87 in. | Photograph print; 0.12 x 0.87 in. | Public Libraries | Building conservation | Boston Public Library | 105457 | Boston Public Library | Boston Public Library | 
| A0_05_024893    | Boston Public Library: Construction 1930-1939 | Construction at BPL at 19th and 19th St. |             | presumably provided by the Boston Public Library | Gelatin silver print | 1980-01-03 | 0.12 | 0.87 | Photograph: print | 1 photographic print; 0.12 x 0.87 in. | Photograph print; 0.12 x 0.87 in. | Public Libraries | Building conservation | Boston Public Library | 105457 | Boston Public Library | Boston Public Library | 
| A0_05_024894    | Boston Public Library: Construction 1930-1939 | Coram stone for BPL at 19th and 19th St. |             | presumably provided by the Boston Public Library | Gelatin silver print | 1980-01-03 | 0.12 | 0.87 | Photograph: print | 1 photographic print; 0.12 x 0.87 in. | Photograph print; 0.12 x 0.87 in. | Public Libraries | Building conservation | Boston Public Library | 105457 | Boston Public Library | Boston Public Library | 
| A0_05_024895    | Boston Public Library: Construction 1930-1939 | Boston Public Library, Copley Square. Construction: Front wall |             | presumably provided by the Boston Public Library | Gelatin silver print | 1980-01-03 | 0.12 | 0.87 | Photograph: print | 1 photographic print; 0.12 x 0.87 in. | Photograph print; 0.12 x 0.87 in. | Public Libraries | Building conservation | Boston Public Library | 105457 | Boston Public Library | Boston Public Library | 
| A0_05_024896    | Boston Public Library: Construction 1930-1939 | Boston Public Library, Copley Square. Construction: Front wall |             | presumably provided by the Boston Public Library | Gelatin silver print | 1980-01-03 | 0.12 | 0.87 | Photograph: print | 1 photographic print; 0.12 x 0.87 in. | Photograph print; 0.12 x 0.87 in. | Public Libraries | Building conservation | Boston Public Library | 105457 | Boston Public Library | Boston Public Library |
Original vs. Digital
Which do you use for reference?

- Sometimes it’s easier to work from the original analog object
  - Information on back?
- But, matching digital file with digital ID = GOOD
  - Opportunity for quality control
Points to Remember

- Describe the original not the digital
- Format dates correctly
- Don’t mix description with administrative notes
  - e.g., don’t put “Harry has a 2nd copy” in your abstract
- Think about scaleablity
You learn by doing it!
Access and Use
Things to think about . . .

- Rights
- Permissions
- Restrictions
- Copyright
- Licenses
- Etc.
Resources

MODS (Metadata Object Description Schema)

MODS is a data structure standard (that is, a vehicle for housing your descriptive object data). Its bibliographic element set is similar to MARC and may be used for a variety of purposes. The standard is maintained by the Network Development and MARC Standards Office of the Library of Congress with input from users. Learn more about MODS here:

http://www.loc.gov/standards/mods/