

LIVERPOOL JOHN MOORES UNIVERSITY  
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Resource Description and Control  
on the World Wide Web

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September 2000

THIS DISSERTATION IS SUBMITTED AS PART OF THE REQUIREMENTS  
FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN INFORMATION AND  
LIBRARY MANAGEMENT

# Abstract.

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Investigation into the forms and application of resource description on the World Wide Web. Aims to evaluate major World Wide Web resource description models, and demonstrate their effectiveness as facilitators of resource classification and retrieval. Methodology for investigation comprises a literature search, using book sources, journal articles and online sources, and a practical research element, comprising a practical experiment and questionnaire. Aspects of literature search include: an evaluation of resource description models currently prevalent on the World Wide Web, a definition of metadata and approaches to metadata in concept and application, an analysis of emerging markup languages as carriers of metadata content, an evaluation of industry-standard metadata formats in terms of scope, depth and operational structure, an evaluation of current metadata initiatives in terms of general application and practical functionality, and an evaluation of potential user-participation in current metadata projects. Practical research element aims to assess metadata awareness, perceptions and working practices amongst HTML authors, and evaluate responses to metadata compilation in the experiment. Questionnaire results demonstrate high awareness and use of basic metadata models, but low awareness and use of advanced models. Recommends prevalent information providers adopt the Dublin Core elements for improved indexing and accessible record generation; also recommends inclusion of metadata functions in popular Web authoring tools. Concludes with observation that whilst metadata is in the early stages of development and adoption by HTML authors and Information Providers, it does represent an effective solution to the current problem of inadequate resource description and indexing on the World Wide Web.