

JISC Scoping Study - Metadata Aggregations

1. Introduction to the scoping study survey

This is a JISC funded project to support the [Resource Discovery Taskforce vision](#) of having a *collaborative, aggregated and integrated resource discovery and delivery framework*. Please [click this link to open a one-page project summary](#) that describes the challenge, the aggregation approach and what we are trying to achieve. It may be useful to keep this open while you consider the survey questions as it explains what is meant by metadata, an aggregation of metadata and the diagram opposite.

What do we need to know?

Your experiences working with images and time-based media resources (e.g. films/videos and sound clips), their metadata (information used to describe the resource), and services for finding and using them in learning, teaching and research. Your thoughts about the potential benefits of the aggregation (metadata collection) approach, the challenges involved, and what you might need for your organisation to get involved.

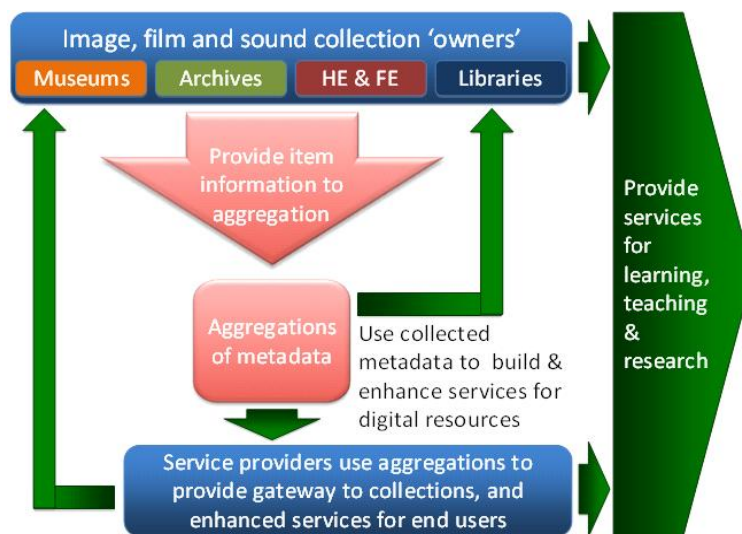
Who would we like to hear from?

A wide range of people, particularly those who:

- Use images, films/videos or sounds in learning, teaching or research,
- Own, curate or manage collections (large and small) that contain images, films/videos or sounds, especially museums, libraries, archives and university departments who hold images or multimedia resources,
- Work with metadata or collections of metadata in other areas, for example in document or learning repositories or archives,
- Might be interested in developing collections of metadata for images and time-based media, or
- Might be interested in in developing services using collections of metadata, or in using collections of metadata e.g. in research.

Most of the questions in the survey can be skipped if you prefer not to answer, and some pages will be skipped depending on your answers. It should take between 10 and 25 minutes to complete depending on the selections you make and the extent of your answers.

Please do pass the link for this survey (<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YHT8JNR>) on to others you know who have an interest in this area. For further project information please see [the project homepage](#).



2. Stakeholders relating to metadata for digital images, videos and sounds

These questions are to better understand the stakeholders involved with aggregations, or collections, of [metadata](#) for images and time-based media, and to determine appropriate questions for further pages.

* **1. What is your role?**

* **2. What is your organisation?**

* **3. Which of these describes your organisation?**

Note: it is possible to select more than one option, e.g. a Museum may act as both a Museum and a Metadata Aggregator if they collect metadata from more than one source or collection but provide it somehow in a combined manner.

Museum (Collection 'Owner')

Higher Education Institution (Collection 'Owner')

Library (Collection 'Owner')

Further Education Institution (Collection 'Owner')

Archive (Collection 'Owner')

Higher Education Institution (User of digital resources in Learning, Teaching or Research)

Metadata Aggregator

Further Education Institution (User of digital resources in Learning, Teaching or Research)

Service Provider / Service Developer

Commercial Organisation

Other Image or Time-based Media Collection 'Owner'

Other (please specify)

3. Perspectives from content 'owners'

These questions are to better understand the perspective of those who hold digital images and time-based media and its associated metadata.

1. Approximately how many of the following types of digital resources do you currently hold?

Images

Films/Videos

Sounds

2. Is the metadata for these items digitised? Please leave the relevant section(s) blank if you don't hold that type of resource.

	Images	Films/Videos	Sounds
There is no available metadata	€	€	€
Metadata is held in card catalogues or offline storage	€	€	€
Metadata is held in a database or digital form but is only available for internal use	€	€	€
Metadata is held in a database or digital form and is available for others to use on the internet	€	€	€
Metadata is held in a database or digital form that can be machine harvested (e.g. via OAI-PMH)	€	€	€

Additional comments, particularly if metadata varies by collection

3. Who holds the rights to share the metadata? i.e. who would need to agree to enable sharing of the metadata in an aggregation?

4. Have you or your organisation already contributed metadata about your collection to another organisation? For example, to [Europeana](#), or to the [MICHAEL service](#).

I don't know

No

Yes, I have already contributed metadata to the following organisations or services (please note each one on a separate line):

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5. Do you have other resources that you would like others to find and make use of, for example physical items for which digital metadata is held, or other physical items? If yes, what are they?

6. Would you be willing to share your collection metadata with an aggregator, bearing in mind that the digital objects and access to them would remain within your control?

Yes

No

Yes, depending on the following factors...

4. Perspectives of potential metadata aggregators and service developers

These questions are to better understand the perspective of those who hold collections of metadata for digital images and time-based media and of those who may use it to develop services.

1. What experiences have you had in developing aggregations of metadata? This may be in a field other than for images and time-based media, for example geographical metadata, repository metadata or learning object metadata.

2. What experiences have you had in developing services to end-users or other organisations based on aggregations of metadata? This may also be in a field other than for images and time-based media.

3. What other experiences have you had working with metadata or metadata aggregations that we can most usefully learn from?

5. Perspectives of Higher and Further Educational Staff

These questions are to better understand the perspective of those in Higher and Further Educational Institutions who use digital images and time-based media in learning, teaching or research.

1. What types of collections or subjects do you look for or need to use in your work?

Images	<input type="text"/>
Films/Videos	<input type="text"/>
Sounds	<input type="text"/>
Other	<input type="text"/>

2. What formats of digital resources do you need for your work? For example, jpeg, high-resolution 3D viewers, mp3, etc.

Images	<input type="text"/>
Films/Videos	<input type="text"/>
Sounds	<input type="text"/>
Other	<input type="text"/>

3. What issues or challenges do you have in finding, sourcing or using relevant images, films/videos, or audio for your work?

4. What experiences have you had working with or using other metadata aggregations that we can most usefully learn from? For example, in relation to repositories, geo-data, learning objects, etc.

6. Participation in aggregations of metadata

This is to better understand the barriers to participating in aggregations of metadata, and potential opportunities and value.

* **1. The aggregator(s) may raise the level of visibility of smaller collections, and allow service developers to provide broader and richer services to end users. Who do you think the principal users of an aggregation of metadata would be?**

- Non-commercial service developers
- Commercial service developers
- Collection owners themselves
- Higher and Further Educational Institutions
- Other (please specify), or additional comments
- I don't know
- Existing aggregators
- None

2. What services or tools do you think are needed for images, films/videos and sounds that would be based on aggregation(s) of metadata?

For each option please describe the kind of service or tool you might want, e.g. to search for elephant noises that can be used in public presentations, research into changing trends of image metadata, or to build a commercial application for social networking.

Search services/tools	<input type="text"/>
Tools to remix content	<input type="text"/>
Mashup tools	<input type="text"/>
Other services	<input type="text"/>
Other tools	<input type="text"/>
None (why?)	<input type="text"/>

3. What benefits do you see in developing aggregation(s) of metadata for images, films/videos and sounds, or services based on such an aggregation?

For learners?	<input type="text"/>
For teachers?	<input type="text"/>
For researchers?	<input type="text"/>
For aggregators?	<input type="text"/>
For service developers?	<input type="text"/>
For others?	<input type="text"/>

4. One possible area of value is for the metadata provided to be enriched, e.g. adding a new categorisation according to a standard, or for adding user-generated tags from a service. A more complex but potentially more valuable example is to make the metadata available in linked data format, which could make it machine-discoverable (please see [the Semantic Web](#) and [linked data](#) for more information).

Do you think the metadata should be enriched? If so, who should do this?

Yes, the collection owner should be given technical support to do this as they know their metadata best

Yes, the aggregator should do this as they can act consistently for all collections

Yes, the service provider should do this depending on the demands of users for the service

No, it will not be valuable to enrich the metadata

No, as it will be too hard to include the enriched metadata back into the original collection

Other (please specify yes or no and your reasons)

5. What barriers exist for you or your organisation sharing or using metadata or an aggregation of metadata for images and time-based media? Please select all that apply and include other challenges that you consider relevant.

- Organisational issues, e.g. getting cooperation, responsibilities and division of labour within organisations
- Legal issues, e.g. licence and contractual issues (setup and administration)
- Financial issues, e.g. focus can only be given when funding is available, or this is a small part of someone's job
- Technical resource issues, e.g. limited technical staff to support
- Other resource issues, e.g. lack of hardware
- Metadata standards, e.g. technical compliance with a given standard
- Metadata quality, e.g. inconsistency or lack of completeness in metadata
- Managing changes to metadata between collections and aggregations, e.g. deletion of an item from the collection
- Previous experiences with aggregators have not been positive
- No clear benefit to the organisation
- No obvious use for end-users in research, teaching or learning
- Considering images and time-based media separately to other digital resources would involve more effort
- Other (please specify)

7. Incentives or support for participation, and gaining value from enriching t...

What incentives or support would be needed for you to participate, and should a common standard be used by all?

* **1. Would you need support or incentives before being able to participate in such a metadata aggregation?**

I don't know

No

Yes, please specify what support or incentives you would need to participate

2. All collections hold different metadata descriptions and use different standards, although there are often a limited number of fields in common such as title. There are arguments for and against normalising metadata into a common standard, i.e. agreeing a standard (for examples see [this list of metadata standards](#)) and making everyone who contributes comply with the mandatory fields.

One argument suggests that each collection owner holds the most relevant data for their collection, and trying to coerce it into a common standard could lose information that may be valuable to another user.

Another suggests that if the data is not converted into a common standard then less value can be derived from it, such as searching for a particular subject or category.

Should metadata be normalised into a common standard? If so, who should do this?

I don't hold an opinion on this

Yes, the collection owner or metadata provider should do this

Yes, the aggregator should do this

Yes, the service provider should do this

No, but the aggregator should hold the metadata description (schema) and the data for each collection

No, there should not be an aggregation of metadata for images and time-based media

Other (please specify yes or no and your reasons)

8. Minimal metadata profile for a common standard

For those who selected that there should be a common standard, please let us know which standard you think would be most appropriate and why.

1. What is the minimal profile for metadata that you think is essential for an aggregation and/or service provider to have value? For example, title, description/abstract, file format, etc. If you know a schema that you think is appropriate please give a link to the schema, or a clear description that we may be able to find it.

2. Are there any fields in addition to those above that you think would be desirable to give additional value to an aggregation of metadata for images, films/videos and sounds?

9. Thank you!

Thank you very much for your time and thought in completing this survey.

Please do pass on the survey link (<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YHT8JNR>) to others that you think have an interest in use or management of images, films/videos or sounds, or work with metadata.

1. Please share any other comments, suggestions or links in the field below. For example, preferred protocols (e.g. OAI-PMH, RSS, ATOM, etc.), other aggregations that are doing similar work, or suggestions for the project team to follow up.

2. If you would be willing to take part in a follow-up phone interview between 17th and 26th August please enter your email address in the field below. This will only be used in relation to your survey responses and to share the link to the final report. You can expect to receive a follow-up email to arrange this around 16th August.

Our draft final report will be available in early September for review and comment. We will publish the link for this from our project homepage at [Aggregations of Metadata for Images and Time-based Media](#) and would very much appreciate your contribution.

Thanks again from the project team.