lar

LAR Defined

- The lar framework was designed to create metadata that complies with the principals of *Learning Application Readiness.* An educational resource might be classroom-ready, but unless the metadata describes it in a useful way, the resource will not be discoverable.
- More fields are required in lar than in nsdl_dc (for example, education level, format, language, etc.). There are also more fields that use controlled vocabularies instead of free-text. This helps to ensure metadata is of the highest quality, which in turns allows us to build user-centered search services on top of the metadata.

XML Schema Information

NOTE: This information is required to make this metadata format work in the jOAI application:

- Schema: http://ns.nsdl.org/ncs/lar/1.00/schemas/lar.xsd
- Namespace: http://ns.nsdl.org/ncs/lar/
- Format name: lar
- Elements should not be qualified with the namespace (i.e. <title>, not <lar:title>)

NOTE: Schema information is always the most accurate information; it supersedes any documentation

Sample Records in XML

- http://ns.nsdl.org/ncs/lar/1.00/records/test.xml
- http://ns.nsdl.org/ncs/lar/1.00/records/all-fields.xml (sample record showing all possible fields utilized)

Creating a LAR metadata record

The LAR Best Practices contain detailed instruction for each lar metadata field, however here is a brief overview of the required fields (field names in *italics*):

NOTE: To find definitions of the controlled vocabulary terms listed below, please refer to the LAR Best Practices.

- Know the URL of the resource---this will be the resource *identifier*. Identifiers must be the actual URL on which the resource is located. If you would like to provide a landing page or supplemental information page, there is an optional field for that (*partnerURL*).
- The date of the metadata record's creation is *recordDate*. The date of the resource, on the other hand, is *date*, and must specify *dateType* ('Created', 'Published', or 'Modified').
- Choose the appropriate *title* for the resource and give a brief, informative *description*. Keep in mind that search results for user search terms will be ordered depending on the text in these fields.
- Select one or more *subject* terms from the controlled vocabulary list at http://ns.nsdl.org/ncs/lar/1.00/schemas/vocabs/subject.xsd.
- Choose *language* from the controlled vocabulary list at http://ns.nsdl.org/ncs/lar/1.00/schemas/vocabs/language.xsd.
- As all NSDL resources must be internet-based, determine what applications are necessary to use the resource. Then choose a *format* from the controlled vocabulary: http://ns.nsdl.org/ncs/lar/1.00/schemas/vocabs/format.xsd.
- Education Level is a very important search criteria. Choose which _educationLevel_ the resource is intended for from the controlled vocabulary: http://ns.nsdl.org/ncs/lar/1.00/schemas/vocabs/educationLevel.xsd.
- For *audienceRefinement*, choose whether your resource is intended for an 'Educator' (i.e. a teacher's guide or professional development information) or a 'Learner' (i.e. a game or animation). In many cases it might be appropriate for both, in which case select 'Educator and learner'.
- The type of resource should be chosen from a controlled vocabulary at http://ns.nsdl.org/ncs/lar/1.00/schemas/vocabs/typeResource.xsd.
- The entity responsible for the resource's creation (as opposed to the metadata record) should be listed as *contributor*. Choose from Collection Developer, Creator, Editor, Funder, or Publisher as *contributor role*.
- Use the *accessRestrictions* field to indicate whether the resource is available for free, or by subsription or purchase using the controlled vocabulary: http://ns.nsdl.org/ncs/lar/1.00/schemas/vocabs/accessRestrictions.xsd
- Use the *license* field to describe the type of licensing for the resource's intellectual property rights. For its attribute *license name*, choose either from the controlled vocabulary at http://ns.nsdl.org/ncs/lar/1.00/schemas/vocabs/typeLicense.xsd or enter another value free-text. Choose from one or more of the controlled vocabulary for the other attribute, *license property*: http://ns.nsdl.org/ncs/lar/1.00/schemas/vocabs/property.xsd