Introduction

This best practices poster discusses approaches to teaching Metadata and Networked Information Organization and Retrieval (hereafter referred to as Metadata) course on the undergraduate and graduate levels at the Department of Library and Information Sciences (LIS), University of North Texas (UNT).

Course Offering

The Metadata course is one of the required for the Information Organization program of study in the Master of Science academic program and is an elective or a guided elective for other programs of study. This course was originally offered in a blended mode but is currently delivered in the completely online mode that allows for meeting the needs of the distance students.

The Metadata course is offered during Fall, Spring, and Summer terms with enrollment between 24 and 51 students in each term.

Course Delivery

The instructors use Blackboard Learn learning management system (see FIG. 1) for delivery of the course materials, grading, assignment submission, and asynchronous communication.

Instructors give lectures during the live online weekly meetings via the GoToTraining communication service. During these sessions students complete exercises, participate in discussions, and have time for questions and answers.

Course Topics

Main topics covered in this course are:
- components of a metadata scheme;
- data content and data value standards and rules;
- syntax for encoding metadata;
- DC, MODS, and VRA Core item-level metadata schemes;
- EAD and DCCAP collection-level metadata schemes.

Course Readings

- Recommended textbook is Metadata by Marcia Zeng (Zeng & Qin, 2008).
- Selected chapters from Metadata for digital collections (Miller, 2011)
- The learning modules (written lecture materials) on the main topics of metadata developed by the instructors.
- External readings, such as articles, standards documentation etc.

Assignments

Students answer one or more questions on each of the main topics and discuss these questions with other students in the discussion forum.

During the term each of the students researches a topic which is not among the main topics covered in the learning modules and make a presentation.

Students work on a major group project creating metadata records for digital objects using all metadata schemes covered in the learning modules of the course. Students have a chance to utilize both HTML and XML syntaxes for encoding the records and can use any text editor as well as specialized metadata creation tools that are added as plugins to the NoteTab Light editor.

Work with Real-Life Digital Libraries or Repositories

Instructors of Metadata course cooperate with UNT Libraries on providing student with a regular opportunity to contribute metadata records to The Portal to Texas History.

In the Fall 2012 semester, students in this course participated in creating metadata records for 213 submissions accepted for the iConference 2013. Students deposited the materials to the IDEALS iSchools repository (https://www.ideals.illinois.edu/handle/2142/34699) and created DC-based metadata records for the objects (FIG. 2).

References
