The Library of Congress' Network Development and MARC Standards Office, with interested experts, has developed a schema for a bibliographic element set that may be used for a variety of purposes, and particularly for library applications. As an XML schema, the "Metadata Object Description Schema" (MODS) is intended to be able to carry selected data from existing MARC 21 records as well as to enable the creation of original resource description records. It includes a subset of MARC fields and uses language-based tags rather than numeric ones, in some cases regrouping elements from the MARC 21 bibliographic format. MODS is expressed using the XML schema language of the World Wide Web Consortium. The standard is maintained by the Network Development and MARC Standards Office of the Library of Congress with input from users.

MODS schema version 3.0 is now available. A list of changes from version 2.0 that were applied is available.

MODS Schema, & Documentation

- MODS Version 3
  - MODS Schema
  - Outline of Elements and Attributes in MODS
  - MODS: Uses and Features
  - MODS Mappings
    - MARC to MODS
    - MODS to MARC
    - Dublin Core (simple) to MODS
    - MODS to Dublin Core (simple)
  - MODS Stylesheets
    - MARCXML to MODS
    - MODS to MARCXML
    - MODS Version 2.0 to MODS Version 3.0
    - MODS 3.0 to simple HTML display
  - MODS User Guidelines
  - MODS Note Types
- MODS Version 2.0

MODS Example Documents

- Sample MODS Version 3 XML Documents
Metadata Object Description Schema (MODS)

- Book (XML | HTML)
- Book chapter (XML | HTML)
- Serial (XML | HTML)
- Article in a serial (XML | HTML)
- Serial special issue (XML | HTML)
- Serial supplement (XML | HTML)
- Electronic serial (XML | HTML)
- Computer file (Web document) (XML | HTML)
- Conference Publication (XML | HTML)
- Map (XML | HTML)
- Motion Picture (XML | HTML)
- Music (XML | HTML)
- Sound Recording (XML | HTML)
- Mixed Material (XML | HTML)

Tools & Utilities

Lists for use with MODS:

Sources
- Authority File
- Classification
- Form
- Genre
- Subject
- Organizations
- Target Audience
- Relators and Roles

Value lists
- Relators and Roles (MARC)
- Form (MARC)
- Genre (MARC)
- Target Audience (MARC)
- Organization (MARC)

MODS Implementation Registry

The MODS Implementation Registry contains descriptions of MODS projects planned, in progress, and fully implemented. To have your projects added to the list, please submit the requisite information directly to the MODS list or to the Network Development and MARC Standards Office.

MODS Listserv

The MODS Forum (MODS@LOC.GOV) is an unmoderated computer forum open to members of the
MODS development community. The MODS list is operated by the Library of Congress Network Development and MARC Standards Office. Users may subscribe to this list by filling out the subscription form at the MODS Listserv site.

MODS Presentations

- ALA Annual 2005: "Rich descriptive metadata in XML: MODS as a metadata scheme" (R. Guenther)
- NISO Metadata Workshop (May 2004): "The Metadata Object Description Schema" (R. Guenther)

News & Announcements

- Announcement: Metadata Object Description Schema (MODS) available for trial use. (June 2002)

Related XML Formats

- MADS (Metadata Authority Description Standard)
- MARCXML