

Reflect on the Week Two readings and answer the following questions: What definitions of metadata do the writers give? What do they have in common with each other? How would you define metadata in a few sentences if you had to explain it to a colleague, a fellow student, a friend, or a family member?

The term *METADATA* consists of the Greek prefix *meta* and the Latin word *data*. *Meta* means *about*, *data* – piece of information. Thus, *Metadata* is information about information. Different authors give different definitions of metadata such as:

“... structured information that describes, explains, locates... an information resource” (Miller p. 4);

“... describes the content, format, or attribute of an information resource” (p. 4);

“... extra baggage associated with any resource to find that resource; (p. 4).”

Karen Coyle identifies metadata as something *constructed* that was not found in nature; as something *constructive* that was invented for solving several problems; and as something *actionable*, that should be useful for satisfying some needs.

Common in these definitions is that metadata is an important information that we had to invent to facilitate discovery of relevant information, to organize electronic resources, to ease interoperability, to provide digital identification, as well as to support preservation.

I would identify metadata as an information about a resource with a number of sets of properties and corresponding them values, existing apart from the information resource, structured and grouped together creating records. A record is a set of statements about an information resource. Each statement is made up of a property-value pair. For example, *Creator* is the property, a corresponding *value* is Miller, Steven J. The library catalog that keeps the information about different resources but not resources themselves could serve a good example of metadata.

Excellent blog post and response. 10 points (Grade A)