

PBCore Meeting Notes

Participants (in no particular order):

- Rebecca Fraimow (GBH)
- David Elmore (ARPBS)
- Peter Higgins (GBH)
- Deb Eschwiler (independent videographer)
- Marci Behm (Iowa PBS)
- Karen Cariani (GBH)
- Matthew Wilcox
- Owen King (GBH)
- Karen Gracy (educator)
- Jimi Jones (Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning, Univ. of Illinois)
- Marjorie Cromb
- Alexis Scargill (Nebraska Public Media)
- Layne Carpenter (student)
- Frances Hernandez (South Florida PBS)
- Andrea McCarty (Yale Library)
- Vince Jones (PBS North Carolina)
- Jack Brighton (Illinois Public Media/University of Illinois)
- Molly Tighe (WQED)
- MMistry (Wellcome Collection, UK)
- Sylvia Mauro (Kennedy Museum of History)
- Marcos Sueiro (WNYC)
- Kristin MacDonough (Video DataBank)
- Miranda Villevik (GBH)

Notes:

-Update on PBCore developments

Education and Training Grant

- The grant funded webinars and workshops, both of which are on the PBCore website
- Translated the whole website into Spanish
- Hosted webinar series in Spanish; a translator did an independent webinar to educate folks on PBCore in Puerto Rico

-Hosted two workshops (one in Boston, one at AMIA conference in Tulsa, OK); funded 15 people per workshop (plus some locals)

-Discussion and request for feedback on user needs for PBCore

-Updates for cataloging tool

- We often find out that folks are using the tool when it's broken
- Plans to incorporate an ingest spreadsheet and update spreadsheets
- Jack Brighton: Hasn't used PBCore in a while; would be great if the tool is integrated with MedialInfo (would have to add descriptive metadata by hand, but could easily integrate technical metadata); Jimi Jones seconds it over chat

-Reviving the archives space plugin

- This was developed in past phase(s) of PBCore development, but haven't been able to update to match Archives Space recent updates that make ours inoperable
- Potential to partner with institutions that use Archives Space to test implementation
- Rebecca to go back to folks who said they had immediate use and will ask them individually

-Filemaker PBCore templates

- Sort of already have this at GBH but haven't made them public
- Person who asked for these is at RISD, unsure what wider need looks like (or whether there is wider need for this)
- Alexis Scargill: FileMaker is a good candidate for her as a database; if PBCore templates were made possible in FileMaker, it would make her use FileMaker (rather than Microsoft Access)
- Rebecca: If we pursue this, we would likely make it for both FileMaker and Access
- Molly Tighe: FileMaker template would be helpful, a plug-in to Filemaker would help make it a low-barrier tool for smaller stations
- Kristin McDonough: uses FileMaker in her work, says it would be helpful
- Rebecca: Reminds folks about possible testing in the future (Molly Tighe volunteers herself)

-Revising the schema and controlled vocabularies

- PBCore as schema was last updated in 2015; some formats missing
- Could go through terms and lists to see what's missing or should be updated (Rebecca sees this as a community project, not a WGBH choice)
- Could also go through the schema itself to see the ways that it's broken or limiting or even make simpler version of schema so that there can be simpler versions for different use cases

-Marcos Sueiro: Often talks with colleagues about how there's no authoritative list of physical assets; structured data would be especially useful; usually has to create his own or patch from various sources

-Rebecca: Kept controlled vocabulary lists in PBCore since nobody else was maintaining lists about audiovisual content; would be great to make it more relevant to 2024

-Peter: Would Marcos imagine a vocabulary that's more hyper-specific? List right now groups things by general format but not brand, etc.

-Marcos: Not sure, could do it by patent? (He's talking specifically about audio); EBU had a list where you could request additions to the list; Marcos made request to EBU to update their list but never heard back from them

-Rebecca: Would be good to not have to go through a whole rigmarole/workflow to approve new additions to controlled vocabulary; currently encourages folks to use the general term from the controlled vocabulary, then add specifics deeper in the metadata

-Alexis Scargill: Unsure of workflow for submitting new terms for the vocabulary lists

-Peter: substitute term "Master" in vocabulary?

-Rebecca: acknowledges that that's been a trend and that other folks have asked about it; could be good to discuss and take vote on it

-Molly Tighe and Jack Brighton agree that a change is a good idea

-Molly Tighe: might be good to look at other reparative terms/initiatives that are happening (SAA is doing something on that); could provide insight into which way we can go on those

-Marcos Sueiro: mentioned pronom of physical items, might be good to ask the folks at Promo (Rebecca agrees)

-David Elmore: might be good to track these terminology changes so that folks in the future understand the history of the terms

-Rebecca: make visible what the deprecated terms are; in line with our idea of backwards-compatibility

-Jack Brighton: No problem with the schema but could be helpful for newcomers to have some scenarios of PBCore adoption; more case study examples could be helpful

-Marci Behm: Agrees with Jack, no intermediate between simple PBCore and large spreadsheet; having some use cases for folks starting out in PBCore would be helpful, especially to encourage folks that it's not an all-or-nothing schema

-PBCore in JSON

- Originally raised by developers; PBCore is currently only exportable in XML, so JSON would make it more useful in other situations
- Got limited response when polling folks about whether this would be useful
- Marci Behm: Did run into some vendors that wouldn't be able to import xml records, could only do JSON
- Jack Brighton: A lot of web development platforms are JSON-specific so would be better for wider application and flexibility; XML is a little clunkier in some ways
- Rebecca: It's been asked for in the past, just needs someone to write it up
- Owen: Could do some kind of script/tool for folks to run a transformation from XML to JSON (?)
- Rebecca: Unsure if you can write a script like that, but it would be nice if it's possible
- Marcos: There's ways to do Xml to JSON transformation (<https://www.w3.org/TR/xpath-functions-31/#func-json-to-xml>) so could potentially use existing tools
- Peter: Is there an issue with nesting that keeps us from doing a JSON transformation?
- Rebecca: JSON allows for that kind of nesting but the structure is different than XML somehow (is not 100% certain, and nobody else on the call seems to know)

-Additional workshops

- Layne Carpenter: The workshop that was offered at AMIA would be helpful if it's run again (Layne wasn't able to attend) and would give folks another chance to learn more
- Alexis Scargill: Resources/webinar/workshop/something on the site about setting up a database in PBCore could be good, especially with a focus on small institutions
- Rebecca: Even an hour-long demo of that could be a good training to do

-Additional webinars

- Molly Tighe: If there's existing tools to do JSON transformation/export work (above), could be a good webinar to run
- Molly Tighe: Could be good to offer training webinars at regional conferences

-Featured case studies/user stories

- Marci Behm: It would be nice to hear how implementation has looked for other institutions

-Rebecca: Also wants more case studies; if anyone wants to put out their contact info to be reached out to by other folks who might have questions, could be good

-Other suggestions

-Vince Jones: Uses ProTrack at his institution, can take metadata and export into PBCore file, has been using that for his new shows and it's been working great — are we still supporting that?

-Rebecca: Was able to develop that with last grant from 2018, would love to go back to ProTrack to check about whether the tool should be updated, we like that tool a lot and see lots of value in it

-Frances Hernandez: Also using ProTrack, glad to hear that the exports to PBCore are possible (will let us know how it goes)

-Jack Brighton: ProTrack is the most commonly-used system in public broadcasting, could be value in trying to educate folks more about the export option and the ways that we might be able to do that

-Molly Tighe: Used ProTrack export, wasn't a ton of metadata in the system she was using, but would be good to see if anyone is building out ProTrack to have a facet that's just for collections management

-Marci Behm: Her ProTrack exports failed the PBCore validation test because it would export things in the wrong order; contacted ProTrack and they said that the developer who worked on that is gone so were unable to make changes for her

-David Elmore: Didn't know about ProTrack export capability, but will tell folks about it at his institution

-Rebecca: Publicizing that ProTrack export to PBCore functionality would be good idea and including case studies of that on the site would be great

-Marci Behm: Very much in favor of case studies

-Rebecca: Will be contacting everyone for case studies

-Jimi Jones: Says he's happy to contribute a case study