When I was hired full time at the radio station where I work, I could not figure out how to make sense of a catalog that was created by six different people, with only two of them having library credentials! This was a new position for the station, and I wanted not only to honor the legacy I was tasked with preserving but to also future proof its metadata for more robust access. Seeing as this was built from the ground up, I began to dive into different metadata schemas. Remembering my archival colleagues from WGBH and the American Archive of Public Broadcasting (AAPB), I turned to the AAPB site for guidance. Using their PBCore templates, I began to massage my data hoping that I was doing it correctly. Spoiler alert: I wasn’t!

When the call came that the American Archive of Public Broadcasting was doing a PBCore workshop, I was very excited. I was looking forward to gaining new insights and learning my way around so that I could make better use of my data and how it can facilitate use. I was also looking forward to bringing back what I was learning to our sister station, with the intent of having both stations using PBCore. We are working with so many metadata silos here at both stations, having them at the very least on the same schema would assist all here in the building.

The workshop allowed us to ask questions and dive a little deeper into applying PBCore. One of the best exercises found us collaborating on creating a PBCore record, really testing our abilities! We were reassured to find that the whole group had similar issues and concerns, creating their record. It was great to learn about tools that can assist one in grabbing metadata. For instance, as I make my way into working with the TV side’s metadata, knowing that there is a PBCore ProTrack resource makes the task of extracting metadata from that silo much less daunting. Without attending the workshop, I would not have been aware of all different offerings of the pbcore.org. I typically would go right to the schema to answer my questions, never really taking the time to explore.

I definitely learned a lot over the two days and know that I have a lot more work to do to expand my knowledge and application of PBCore. That the schema is a little bit demystified now, but I feel a bit more a part of the community and ready to tackle the metadata mess ahead of me!