I’m here today to talk about the recently released Music Discovery Requirements 2. As part of the Cataloging and Metadata Committee Town Hall.
http://conferences.blog.musiclibraryassoc.org/thursday-sessions/cataloging-and-metadata-town-hall/
Music Discovery Requirements 2

- Completed August 2017
- Endorsed by MLA Board October 2017
- Released January 2018

Work begun in earnest August 2016
I’ll focus today on what’s new with the MDR2, but first: the scope and audience are unchanged from MDR1. The MDR focuses on the unique needs of music materials, namely scores and recordings, in discovery interfaces of all types. The audience is not just music librarians, but also systems librarians, vendors, and everyone configuring or designing discovery interfaces that will include music.
The task force comprehensively reviewed and extensively edited the MDR1. I highlight here the largest changes.

Since MDR1: RDA, LCGFT, and LCMPT have all been released and/or entered general use, necessitating major updates. As we worked, there was an ever-present tension between taking advantage of the newest, most exciting standards, and being aware that large bodies of legacy data exist and the data points currently encoded but often woefully underutilized in discovery interfaces.

We updated the metadata schemas used, including adding section V with a high-level discussion of each schema and its plusses and challenges for music materials. (Details on upcoming slide.)

We also made some changes to the appendices. (Details on upcoming slide.)
We:
• added PBCore and EBUCore, plus discussion of BIBFRAME, to the MDR.
• dropped VRA Core due to low utilization for music materials, and EAD after extensive discussions with MLA Archives & Special Collections Committee members. (“The focus of archival description tends to be at the level of collections and file series, not items, making it essentially different from other schemas represented in MDR. Even when applied to items, archival description is presented in such a wide variety of methods that general guidelines for harvesting metadata at the item level are not useful. Therefore, EAD has been excluded from this edition of MDR.”)
In the MDR1, Appendixes A and B were essentially the same content organized differently, so for simplicity we went to a single appendix. They are Excel spreadsheets, so you can sort them as needed. We added a new appendix C outlining history of the coding and definition of Format of Notated Music, to be used in conjunction with III.D Format of Notated Music.

To highlight these appendices: if you ever need to determine or review mappings for a discovery where, these spreadsheets give you an enormous leg up on starting. My personal experience is that default mappings are often very bad, with music fields either ignored or wrong. Often whoever did the mappings simply had no music expertise and did the best they could, but please, please, get these appendices into the hands of vendors and systems librarians whenever you can.
On the technical side: The MDR now has a plan in place for ongoing maintenance, overseen together by the ETSC and CMC. We also added an easy to navigate HTML version in addition to the PDF version.
And again, all this is freely available online at
http://www.musiclibraryassoc.org/mpage/mdr_es
I’d like to thank each of the dedicated task force members, as well as numerous others in MLA for making the MDR update happen. Thank you!

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**Appointed by MLA Board of Directors at the joint request of:**  
Emerging Technologies and Services Committee  
Cataloging and Metadata Committee

*Special thanks to Katie Beuhner, MLA webmaster*