Storing Metadata Separate from Content

Thomas Edvardsen and Johannes Karlsen

• Nasjonalbiblioteket • National Library of Norway

Benefits of Storing Metadata Separately

- Enhanced discoverability: Separating metadata from the content can make it easier to search and find specific digital objects within the DPS.
- Efficient retrieval: A separate metadata store allows for faster retrieval of metadata, as it can be optimized for quick access and retrieval, independent of the content itself.
- Streamlined updates: Storing metadata separately enables efficient updates and modifications to metadata without altering the actual content, reducing potential risks and complexities.

Source for Digital Object Metadata Files

- Metadata standard compliance: A separate metadata store can serve as a source for generating digital object metadata files (METS/PREMIS) that adhere to recognized standards, ensuring interoperability and long-term preservation.
- Flexibility and extensibility: By decoupling metadata from the content, it becomes easier to extend or modify the metadata schema over time, adapting to evolving preservation requirements and technological advancements.
- Bundling Metadata with Content: By bundling metadata with the content, you create a self-contained package where both the content and its associated metadata are stored together. This ensures that the metadata remains closely linked to the content, making it easier to track, transfer, and preserve the entire digital object as a cohesive unit.

Our thoughts on metadata right now

