Through the looking glass: does our metadata make sense?
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Liisan seikkailut ihmemaassa

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Ways of searching

- Quick, Google-style search
- Guided search, using facets and suggested words
- Browse and explore
- Precise search with several criteria
Users’ expectations

- Search once, in their own words
- Refine the search results and focus in
- Make sense of the metadata displayed
- Move easily around the website
- Find the information required or understand why it is not there
Archival metadata (1)

ISAD(G)-based archival hierarchy

Collection/fonds

Series

Item
Example of ISAD(G) catalogue

Mullion School, Cornwall (fonds)

School admission registers (series)

Admission register, 1882-1897 (item)
Archival metadata (2)

Technical language

- journal
- day book
- cost book
- final concord
- stem book
Archival metadata (3)

Sotalapset?
Evacuees?
Evacuation?
Archival metadata (4)

Sveaborg, Viapori or Suomenlinna?
Ministry of Roads or Ministry of Transport?
National Children’s Home or Action for Children?
John & Rodd Ltd or Rodd & Darke LLP?
Bridging the divide

- Ontologies, vocabularies and controlled terms
- Descriptive rules
- Standardisation among partner organisations
- Clarify unclear metadata
- Review methodologies
Managing the hierarchy

Search on **Navy Board** and **Thomas Ley**

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**Context of this record**

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All departments

- ADM - Records of the Admiralty, Naval Forces, Royal Marines, Coastguard, and related bodies
  - Records of the Navy Board and the Board of Admiralty
    - ADM 106 - **Navy Board**: Records
      - IN-LETTERS
    - Miscellaneous
      - ADM 106/491 - L. (Described at item level).
  - ADM 106/491/113 - **Captain Thomas Ley**, the Duchess in Torbay. On Sir Cloudesley Shovell’s orders he has...
Alternative routes

National Archives of Finland Portti website
Alternative routes

The National Archives of England & Wales
Finna: searching by period

By narrowing your search by year, you can find images, books, objects, documents and other material from the past to the present.
Map-based access

Bristol City Council Know Your Place project
How to progress?

- Tools need created
- Lack of time and resources
- Scale of task
Creating success

- Work together across cultural sector
- Share knowledge, resources and expertise
- Avoid duplicating tasks
- Work with users
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