



# AI4LAM Metadata Working Group Charter

September 15, 2020

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## Purpose of the Working Group

The Metadata Working Group will explore and share the ways in which AI technologies can be applied to the creation and enhancement of metadata for cultural heritage resources. It will also address the role of metadata in collecting, curating, and describing the resources needed for AI, machine learning, and data science more broadly.

Over the years, libraries, archives, and museums have invested significant resources into creating metadata to describe and manage their collections. AI technologies may provide opportunities to enrich the collective metadata of LAM institutions and foster enhanced functionality, including discovery of these institutions' collections and services. AI also has the potential to facilitate the creation and generation of new metadata, making workflows more efficient and enabling novel forms of access to content. Conversely, metadata professionals can bring their expertise in resource description to bear on the AI domain itself, describing and documenting ML models and datasets and identifying areas of bias that could harm already marginalized groups.

## Organizational Structure and Communication

The working group will have two co-chairs, Jeremy Nelson (Stanford University) and Tim Thompson (Yale University). Invitations for members will be made to the specific and general Slack channels and the AI4LAM e-mail list.

## Principles for Work/Collaboration within the Working Group

To build a community of practice, the working group will encourage participation from a diverse range of metadata professionals and AI practitioners and will provide a welcoming space for collaboration and experimentation. As such, the precise structure of the group's activities will depend on the interests and expertise of its participants. We will begin by brainstorming and



gathering feedback to identify our problem space and potential stakeholders, but we anticipate that our work will fall into four broad categories:<sup>1</sup>

1. Enhancement, generation, or reconciliation of descriptive and technical metadata in the broader contexts of resource discovery, user experience, and collections management.
2. Facilitation of cataloger workflows using AI-driven tools.
3. Interoperability of metadata across standards and communities of practice (libraries, archives, museums).
4. Critically and ethically informed documentation and description of ML models and datasets.

## Expected Outcomes

The primary outcome of the working group will be the development of a community of practice around use cases for metadata in the context of AI4LAM. Specific deliverables may include:

- Reports, white papers, or literature reviews.
- Development and testing of new tools and workflows.
- Creation of new training sets for metadata-focused ML algorithms.
- Schemas or ontologies for describing and documenting ML models and datasets.

## Communication and Dissemination

The group will use the same channels for communication and dissemination of information as AI4LAM, including the AI4LAM website. Virtual meetings will be held on a monthly basis.

## Code of Conduct

The group and its members will abide by the community norms and expectations described in the [AI4LAM Code of Conduct](#).

## Funding

The work done by the group's members will be voluntary or paid by their respective institutions, with no need for additional funding.

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<sup>1</sup> Some of which were identified during a 2019 Fantastic Futures [unconference session](#).



## Members and Affiliations

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- Tim Thompson, Yale University ([timothy.thompson@yale.edu](mailto:timothy.thompson@yale.edu))
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