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Metadata and Minerals : A Library – Museum Pilot Project

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Metadata and Minerals : A Library – Museum Pilot Project

Presenter 1 Title

Special Formats Metadata Librarian

Session Type

45-minute concurrent session

Abstract

The Arthur Lakes Library and the Geology Museum at Colorado School of Mines (Mines) worked together to explore ways to promote the Museum's unique collections. A task force formed to conduct a pilot project that involved creating digital access, via Mines Institutional Repository, to a set of the Museum's mineral specimens from Creede Mining District. The Metadata Librarian collaborated with the Museum Collections Manager throughout this process to establish metadata requirements and workflows. This presentation explains how the pilot project came about and describes the preparation, metadata and workflow development, as well as the collaborative experience and evolution of this project.

Location

KIPJ Room D

Keywords

museum, metadata, collaboration, institutional repositories, workflows, pilot projects, mineral specimens

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Title: Metadata and Minerals : A Library – Museum Pilot Project

Christine Baker

45-minute concurrent session

Abstract: The Arthur Lakes Library and the Geology Museum at Colorado School of Mines teamed up to explore ways to promote the Museum's unique collections. A task force formed to conduct a pilot project that involved creating digital access, via Mines Institutional Repository, to a set of the Museum's mineral specimens from Creede Mining District. The Metadata Librarian collaborated with the Museum Collections Manager throughout this process to establish metadata requirements and workflows. This presentation explains how the pilot project came about and describes the preparation, metadata and workflow development, as well as the collaborative experience.

Description: The Arthur Lakes Library at Colorado School of Mines welcomed a new University Librarian in November, 2016. Soon after her arrival, she led the entire Library Staff and the Geology Museum in an intensive strategic planning process. One of the Plan's strategic initiatives included expanding representation of special and Geology Museum collections in Mines Institutional Repository (Mines IR). A joint Library-Museum Committee formed to explore ways to promote these unique collections.

The Special Formats Metadata Librarian, a member of this committee and also new to working with digital collections, was tasked with exploring best practices for museum and mineral metadata; evaluating metadata mapping requirements; and reviewing the Museum's internal mineral specimen database. After sharing a sample record of what a mineral specimen and its associated metadata might look like in Mines IR (a consortial repository that uses DSpace) with the Joint Committee, it was decided that a pilot project was in order and the Stone Temple Pilot Project was born in September 2017.

This presentation will touch on some of the sources consulted (e.g. Mindat.org, Denver Museum of Nature and Science's Bailey Library Image Archives, Mines Geology Museum mineral database) in order to learn more about mineral metadata requirements and will also describe the collaboration between the Metadata Librarian and the Museum Collections Manager, especially concerning metadata and workflow development. This collaboration included meetings, spreadsheets, digital image requirements, and metadata element decisions.

Additionally, the presenter will share an example of a mineral specimen image and its corresponding metadata record in Mines IR. Lessons learned and next steps will also be discussed.

Learning outcomes:

1. Attendees will learn about the implementation of a pilot project involving inter-departmental collaboration between Colorado School of Mines Library and the Geology Museum.
2. Attendees will gain an understanding of how the workflow for the Stone Temple Pilot Project developed and evolved over time.

Keywords: museum, metadata, collaboration, institutional repositories, workflows, pilot projects, mineral specimens

Technology requirements: laptop with power point, internet connection