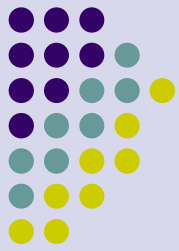


MODS: Metadata Object Description Schema

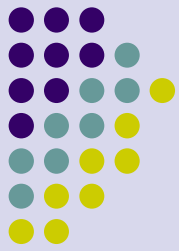
*Using MODS to enhance resource discovery
& distribution within a digital book repository*

Mary Alice Ball
BiblioVault Manager
University of Chicago Press
November 5, 2002



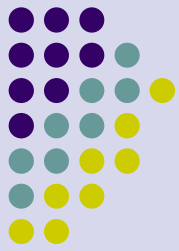
Background

- The University of Chicago Press
 - Chicago Distribution Center
 - Traditional distributor for 26 scholarly presses
 - 19,000 titles, 10,000,000+ books
- Problem: Economics of scholarly publishing
 - Printing
 - Small print runs of a few thousand copies
 - Per unit costs high
 - Distribution
 - Small, erratic demand
 - Many titles sell under 100 copies a year



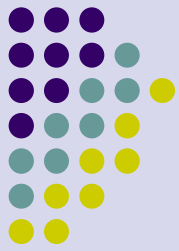
Background

- Solution: Short-run digital printing
- Created Chicago Digital Distribution Center
 - In-warehouse facility paid for by UCP
 - Equipment and staffing paid by Edwards Brothers
- Funding from Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
 - Supports digitization and processing of backlist titles and processing of frontlist titles
 - Subsidizes creation of a repository for these files called the BiblioVault



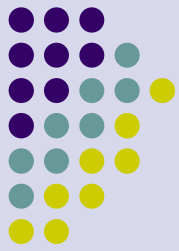
What's a BiblioVault?

- Digital book repository
 - 2500 backlist titles
 - 2500 frontlist titles
- Contains text and cover files
 - PDF, PostScript, TIFF
 - No application files (Quark for pass-through)
- Contains ASCII files of backlist titles (DLPS)
- Contains metadata files



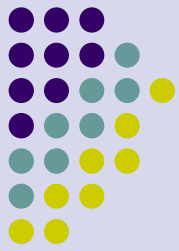
BiblioVault Purpose

- Facilitate SRDP processing
- Ensure proper management of digital files
- Improve resource discovery
 - Make university press books more available
 - Enrich searching for public and scholars
 - Balance library and commercial descriptions
- Increase sales of client presses



Organizational Context

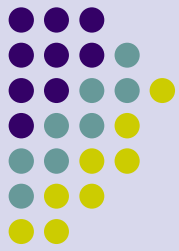
- Realities at UCP & CDDC
 - UCP is a client press plus...
 - Data used for distribution, production & marketing
 - No system interoperability
 - No central database
 - One librarian (non-cataloger)
 - Limited staffing
 - Understanding of the value of standards



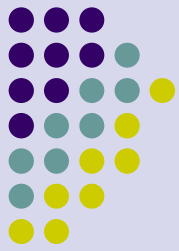
Assessment of Standards

- Objectives
 - Populate our database with minimum of effort
 - Organize our content clearly
- Onix – too cumbersome
- Dublin Core – too general
- USMARC – too library-centric
 - MARC records identified as ideal source
- MODS – seemed just right

MODS



- Advantages of MODS
 - Authoritativeness of MARC cataloging
 - Slimmed down version of MARC
 - Academic libraries are our primary customer
 - Accessibility of language-based tags
 - XML expertise in-house
 - Availability of MARC mappings & crosswalks
 - Support from LC and other users



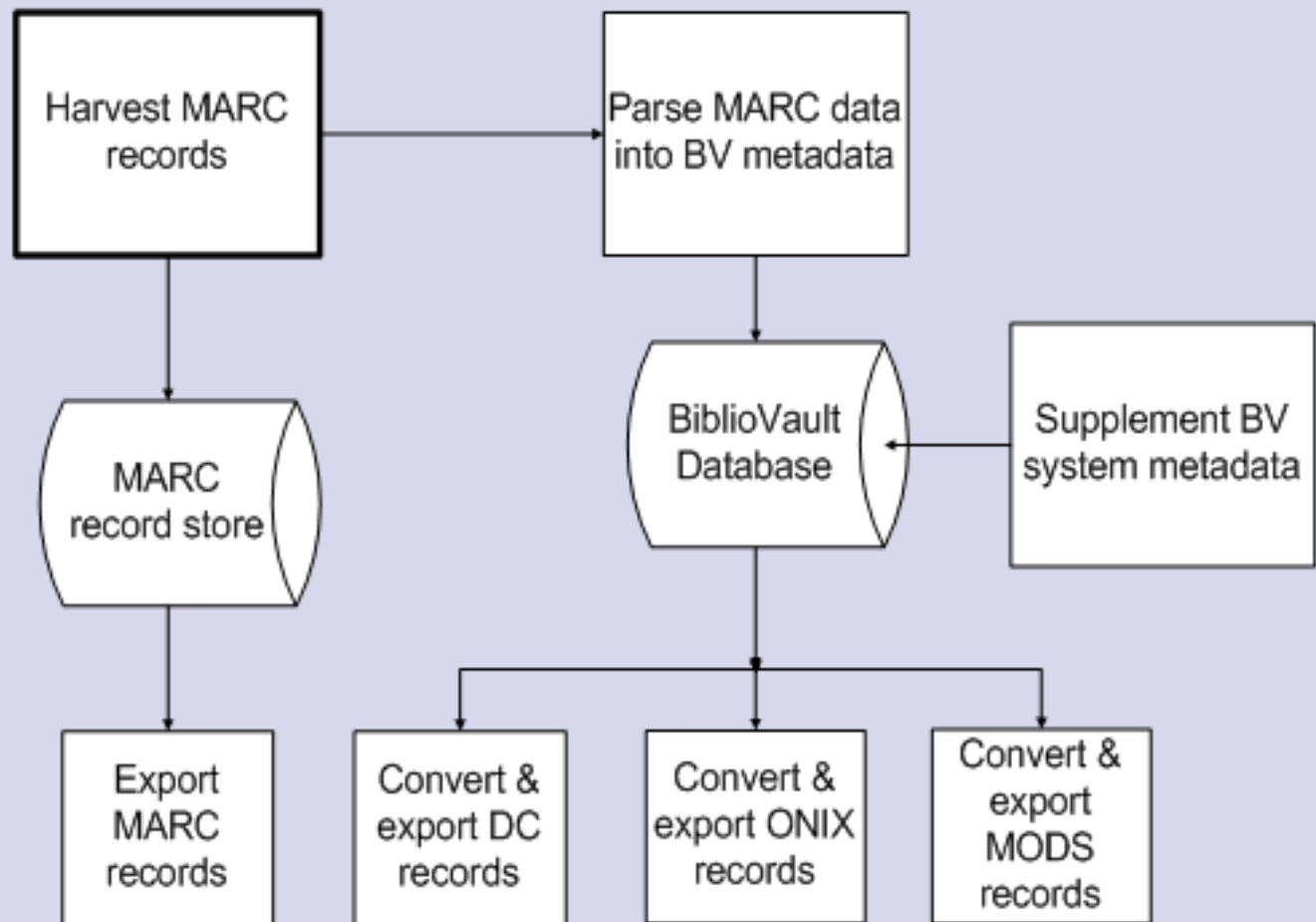
How BiblioVault Uses MODS

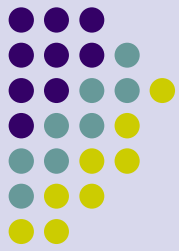
- MODS hierarchical: good in theory not practice
- BV is a relational database
- Internal data structures derived from MODS
- MODS data elements serve as guideline for definition of metadata types
- MODS helps clarify MARC data
- MODS facilitates metadata interchange & interoperability



Metadata Processing

- 1) MARC
- 2) MARCXML
- 3) MODS





Next Steps

- Test processes in production
 - Paperback ISBNs and impact on harvesting
 - Page count and extent
- Move into full production
 - Formalize processes
 - Address interoperability
 - Expand access
- Explore future directions