

Digital Scriptorium data structure

The architecture of a DS record structures its bibliographic metadata in a 4-level hierarchy, in which each parent may in theory produce zero, one or many children:

1) Manuscript = Context, or the history of the manuscript. This data includes provenance, names of original patrons and/or previous owners, sales, coats-of-arms or insignia, sister leaves, as well as the binding, which is usually made separately from the carrier and often of a later date.

2) Part = Carrier, or the physical artifact. This data includes the physical description including date, localization, script, measurements, layout, decoration, illustration, and the names of artists, scribes, or anyone responsible for the physical creation of the manuscript as an object.

3) Text = Content, or textual information. This data includes the description of the text including title, generic title, language, incipits, explicits, as well as the names of authors, translators, commentators, or anyone responsible for the information or contents.

4) Image(s) = Digital photos of the manuscript, usually sample images to give the user an idea of the manuscript's appearance and scale, which is why we ask for images that include a color ruler.

In practice the upper two levels (Manuscript; Part) almost always have at least one child; the third level (Text) occasionally has no children, i.e. Images, which constitute the fourth level. Images have no children but are the last level in the hierarchy. An example might be:

