

1. Title of the proposal: Five years of EN 15907 at the BFI: how we learned to stop worrying and love the CWS

2. Author(s): Stephen McConnachie

3. Institution: BFI

4. E-Mail address: stephen.mcconnachie@bfi.org.uk

5. Preferred session (1, 2, or 3): 1

6. Abstract (300-500 words)

1. Transformative data projects are change management projects: how we implemented EN 15907

a. Data and systems: legacies, mapping, migration

b. Humans: roles, responsibilities, organizational structures, consensus-building, the change curve

Describes the BFI's journey from a traditional, internal-facing, informal documentation model to a standards-facing, centrally governed, formalized model. Outlines the challenges experienced in shifting the systems and the organization, and some practical ideas for facing them.

2. The perfect is the enemy of the good: what we learned from implementing EN 15907

a. Data and systems: get the plumbing right before installing the bathroom, accept imperfect data

b. Humans: cataloguing practices, standards policing, the data cleaning mountain - YAGNI or the 'good enough' principle

Describes a pragmatic approach to standards-compliance, accepting that real collections data at scale will progress towards standardisation slowly, with obstacles and resistance. Embrace imperfection and don't let it block you from acting. Standardisation is a never-ending process, an institutional behaviour, not a finished state.

3. How EN 15907 might be optimized (a BFI perspective)

a. The Manifestation is key: Works and Items are straightforward, the Manifestation is complex. Make friends with it

b. Controlled vocabularies / term lists / thesauri: towards a Linked Open Data ontology for the film archive cataloguing community

c. Persistent unique identifiers: Works, Manifestations, Agents – solved problems, unsolved problems, next steps

Highlights some of the major challenges for EN 15907 and film metadata practice, and signposts some paths toward solutions.