

Taxonomy Design for Breakaway Academy's Moving Image Action Stunt Archive

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Introduction

As an archivist and DAM system manager for Breakaway Academy's Moving Image Action Stunt Archive, I have developed a comprehensive taxonomy model to address the diverse needs of the archive's targeted user group (our students) which include future stunt designers, stunt coordinators, 2nd unit directors, and stunt persons (California Film Commission, n.d.). Drawing from the fifteen Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI) elements as well as identified user needs, I have carefully curated a set of fields that provide thorough documentation, organization, and discoverability for each of the eighteen video clips in our database (Dublin Core, 1998). Through the process of drafting metadata, taxonomy solutions surfaced, allowing me to determine a need for a faceted collection utilizing drop down menus and controlled vocabularies but not replacing the ability to search keywords. Because the collection is small and I am a former employee of the film and television industry, I believe my knowledge is enough to draft the first iteration of the collection (Hedden, 2017). The completed draft is a "straw man" for criticism, testing, and evaluation amongst Breakaway Academy faculty and students (Horodyski, 2024).

Metadata Model and Justification

The development of the metadata model began by charting DCMI elements and identifying new and unique fields that were deemed important to archive users. DCMI fields were also appropriated and renamed for archive specific information. For instance, the DCMI element "contributor" became "# of Stunt Persons" better defining what a contributor is to the archive and its user. Charting these fields also highlighted the need for a faceted taxonomy, different query types, and controlled vocabularies- which will be discussed later. The finalized

fields, outlined and defined, are highlighted in the chart below:

Field name	DC map	Format	Drop down	Manual	Hidden	Required	Controlled Vocabulary	Definition
Title	Title	text		x	no	no		Clip #
Stunt type	Subject		x		no	no	Yes (see taxonomy)	type of stunt
Scene Description	Description	text		x	no	no		# of stunt persons, stunt type, special effects, location
Camera Shots	None	text	x		no	no	numerical	# of camera angles to complete stunt
Duration	None	text		x	no	no	0:00:00	total length of clip
# of Stunt Persons	Contributors	text	x		no		numerical	number of actors to complete stunt
Date	Date	date			no	yes	00/00/0000	date image was uploaded to catalog
Type	Type	text		x	no	yes		moving image
Format	Format	text		x	no	yes		video
Identifier /Clip ID	Identifier	text		x	no	yes	numerical	# of clip
Audio	Language	text		x	no	yes	yes/no- eng	yes/no - eng, esp, etc.
Rights	Rights	text		x limited	no	yes		Statement of Fair Use
Digitization Specifications	None	text	x		no	yes		File format

The [completed metadata model](#) for this collection consists of the following key elements:

Descriptive Metadata:

- Clip Title
- Stunt Types (e.g., high fall, car flip, pyrotechnics)
- Scene Description
- Audio(yes/no)/ Language(s) Spoken
- Stunt-Specific Metadata:
- Stunt Type (e.g., martial arts, explosion, gunfight, car chase)

- Stunt Performer(s) (number of actors or CGI characters)
- Number of Camera Angles Used
- Location (indoor, outdoor)

Technical Metadata:

- File Format
- Duration

Administrative Metadata:

- Copyright Information
- Date Added to DAM
- Unique Identifier

- Last Modified Date

- Admin responsible

Taxonomy Related Metadata:

- Stunt Categories (e.g., fight, chase, martial arts)
- Number of stunt persons/ characters
- Number camera shots/angles
- Special effects
- Stunt executed indoors or outdoors

The descriptive metadata, including scene descriptions, keywords related to the stunts, location, and number of camera shots, provides valuable contextual information that enhances the users' understanding of the action sequences and the findability of the clip. Stunt coordinators and 2nd unit directors for example, can quickly assess the type of stunt and number of camera angles it was executed in, informing their planning, choreography and decision-making processes. Furthermore, the stunt specific descriptive metadata began to identify, define, and implement the metadata that would help shape the taxonomy for this digital archive.

Administrative metadata, such as date added or modified, admin responsible, unique identifier, and rights are essential for basic management, use, and preservation of the video assets. The technical metadata also supports the practical needs of our administrators while informing our patrons of the file format and duration of the clip in the event this is useful knowledge to their query. Both the administrative and technical metadata can be generated automatically. When a file is added or modified, the DAM system can record the date and administrator. Also, the unique identifier can be generated from the title of the clip. And finally, the file format and rights will always remain the same across the archive, allowing format and the drafted rights statement to be reproduced automatically.

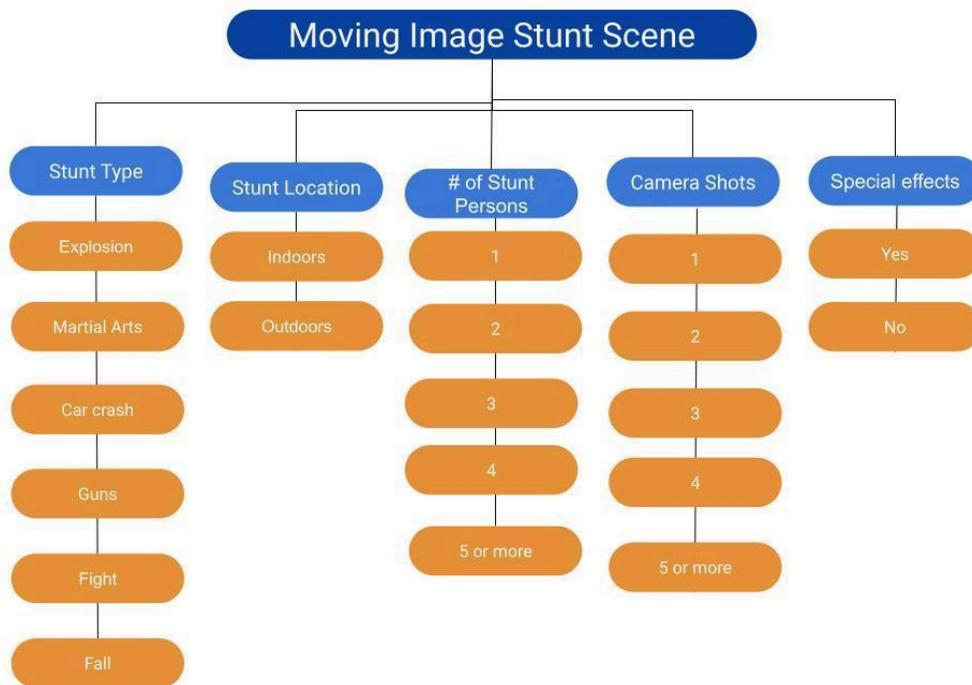
In terms of copyright and licensing considerations found in the administrative metadata, the archive shares this content under United States Copyright Act [Title 17, US Code § 107](#). The use of this collection is intended for internal use only, within Breakaway Academy, for educational and informational purposes. Access to the collection will be restricted to Breakaway Academy's students and faculty. To further protect the sharing of this content under fair use copyright law, the audio has been removed from the clips and a small portion of the original content can only be viewed thus changing the work to serve a new purpose (Cornell, 2021). The following rights statement is attached to each file to protect the archive and the use of the content:

Breakaway Academy Archives (BAA) exhibits this collection under fair use defined by [United States Copyright Act Title 17 Section 107](#). The images are intended solely for scholarly or noncommercial research. BAA does not control rights to these materials and no copyright infringement is intended. Persons seeking to publish, distribute, or utilize images in this collection in ways not protected under fair use must obtain written permission from all copyright holders.

This information is essential for maintaining the integrity and security of the collection, as well as for navigating any potential legal or contractual considerations.

Taxonomy Development

As the metadata model took form, the stunt-specific metadata identified was deemed the crucial component of this collection, as it enables users to filter, compare, and analyze the artistic and technical aspects of the action sequences with the absence of movie title and information. Fields like stunt type, number of stunt performers, location, special effects, and number of camera angles allow student stunt designers, stunt persons and 2nd unit directors to delve into the nuances of the various techniques employed. Organizing this metadata also identified the need for a faceted taxonomy to search, browse, and discover the content efficiently. The taxonomy design illustrated below is structured around five primary facets and it illustrates the taxonomy structure and the taxonomy view (Morrison, 2004).



Within each of these main categories, there are numerous sub-categories to capture the nuances and interconnections between the various stunt techniques and approaches. Furthermore, the faceted structure of the taxonomy allows metadata designers to quickly respond to growing trends in the stunt community, it allows multiple paths to the final clip, and the ability to combine terms to narrow searches (Horodyski, 2016). This user-centric design will incorporate dropdown menus while also allowing for keyword searches. This ensures that Breakaway Academy archive users can quickly locate the relevant video clips based on their areas of expertise and the specific information they require. Alongside the DAM system's capacity to browse with drop down menus and keyword searches it will also provide advanced search functionalities by creating results that cross-reference similar clips enabling users to discover related video assets. This interconnectivity will further enhance the educational and informational value of the resource.

Conclusion

The comprehensive metadata model and faceted taxonomy I have developed for Breakaway Academy's Moving Image Action Stunt Archive are designed to meet the diverse needs of our target user group- stunt designers, stunt coordinators, 2nd unit directors, and stunt persons. By capturing detailed descriptive, administrative, and technical metadata coupled with a stunt-specific taxonomy the academy has a robust and adaptable system that supports efficient search, retrieval, and analysis of the video content. As Breakaway Academy continues to expand its stunt video resources, this metadata design and taxonomy framework will provide a solid foundation for managing, organizing, sharing, updating, and growing this specialized content with our users. In under three clicks it is the archive's hope to foster a deeper understanding of the craft, and ultimately elevate the quality and innovation of our student's action sequences.

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