



University of California
CDL
California Digital Library

Organization: California Digital Library

Primary mentor: John Kunze, Identifier Systems Architect, University of California, Office of the President

Title:	Making a Metadata Meritocracy
Description	The yamz.net metadictionary is a crowdsourced tool that lets people publicize their own terms and find terms that others have proposed. It focuses on standalone terms (term string, definition, examples), each with a persistent identifier. A working group typically uses yamz to help reach consensus on individual terms, and then draft a separate ontology or standard that references them. At the same time, yamz is a platform for sharing and discovering prior art.
Problems	Some processes are not well-understood or well-tested: (a) best practices for building community consensus from different phases of term voting; (b) how yamz's reputation-based voting algorithm promotes Vernacular (evolving) terms to Canonical (static) terms; and (c) how much term adoption across domains is likely to happen (for example between the preservation and citizen science communities).
Techniques	Analytics, user testing, surveys.
Data	The yamz.net database of terms and the yamz source code.
Outcome	Refined workflows for gaining acceptance of proposed metadata terms.