

# METS

## Metadata Encoding & Transmission Standard (METS)

METS is an XML schema allowing users to "wrap" existing descriptive metadata in any format with structural, technical, administrative, preservation, and meta-metadata to create a single metadata object for a resource. METS provides extension schemas with recommended technical metadata for still images, audio, and video.

METS is designed specifically for digital library objects, emphasizing the inclusion of appropriate structural and administrative/technical metadata, which would not ordinarily be needed for description of a physical item.

Descriptive metadata may be stored in the METS document, but it can also just be a reference to records in other formats (MARC, EAD, etc.)

Likewise, administrative metadata can be internal or external.

METS is a very detailed format, and can contain an incredible amount of information. It can include information about copyrights. It can also include a description of the master file and all files that were derived from it.

If you're familiar with [Variations2](#), the format is roughly equivalent to the combination of a [Variations2](#) Container concatenated with its associated Instantiations and Media Objects. However, it separates information about the physical order of the media from the logical structure, so it contains something like the Work Structure and Bindings as well.