



RLG Programs

# Introduction to METS

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# Overview of presentation

- What is METS and what is it good for?
- Who is METS?
- A walkthrough of the standard and profiles

But first, a little history and background

# Background and history

- Digital Library Federation in United States
- Digital Library projects needed a way of handling “complex digital objects” in digital library projects
- MOA2 project (1998-2000)
- Invitational meeting at New York University in 2001
- Birth of METS

# What is METS

- XML schema
- NISO “registered” standard
- Can support a broad range of metadata for digital objects
- Provides a way of expressing structural information for digital objects
- Helps with management and/or exchange of digital objects in or between repositories
- Helps with tools and services

# What METS is not

- Does not require you to do things “the METS way”
- Does not dictate what data fields, data content, or even what data format should be used
- Is intended to support and compliment existing practices and standards

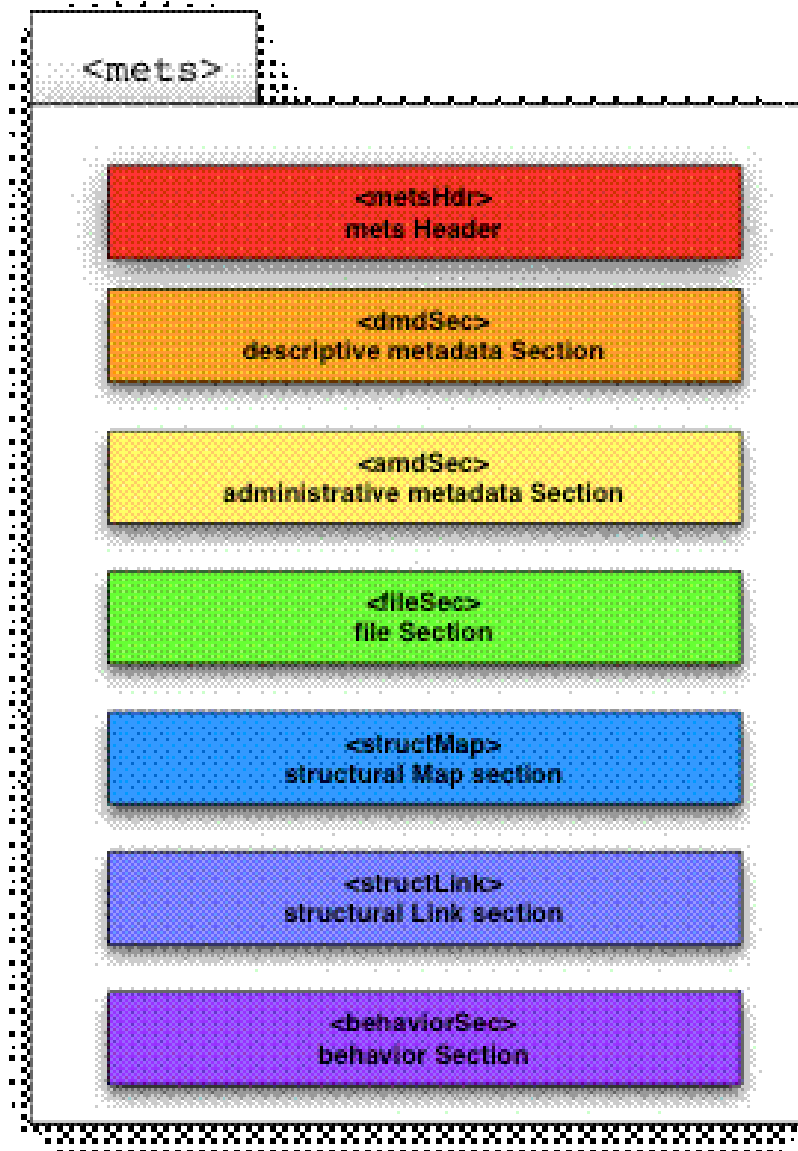
# Who is METS

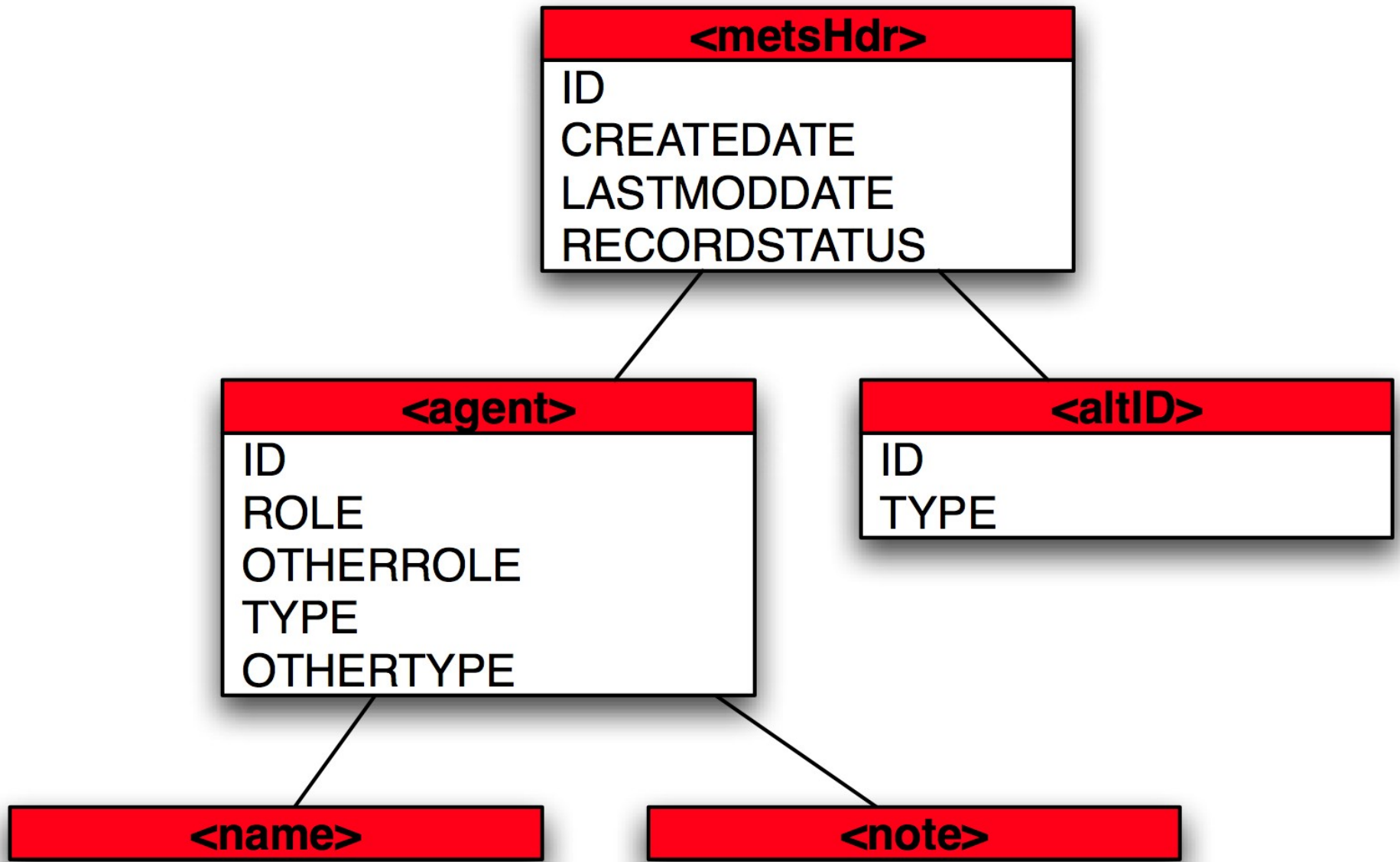
- Library of Congress (US) as maintenance agency
  - Listserv and web space
- Digital Library Federation
  - Original sponsor
- International Editorial Board
  - Institutions contribute expertise and personnel

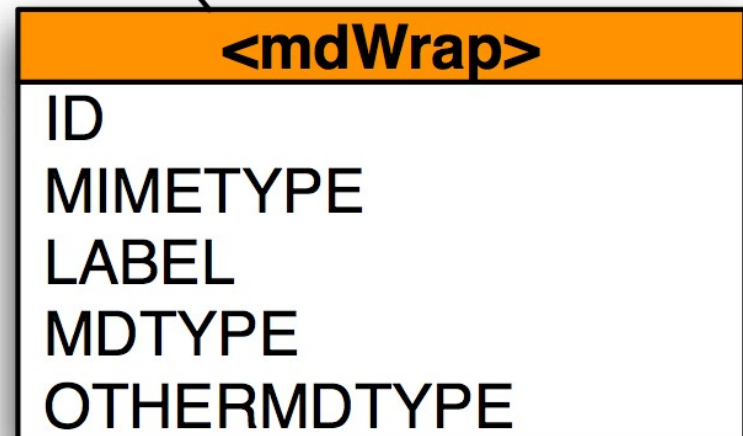
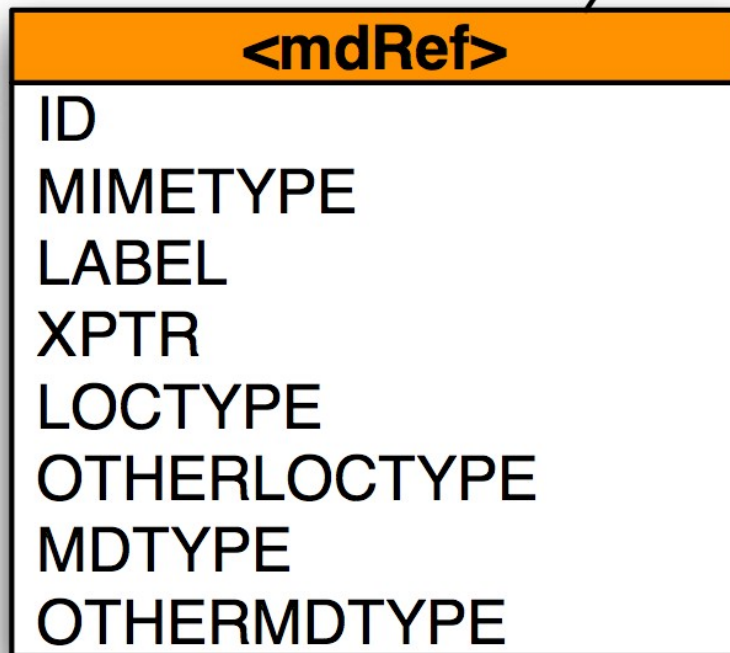
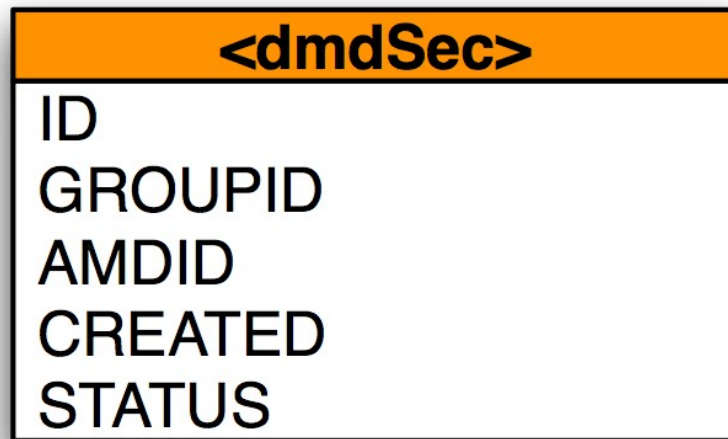
# METS editorial board

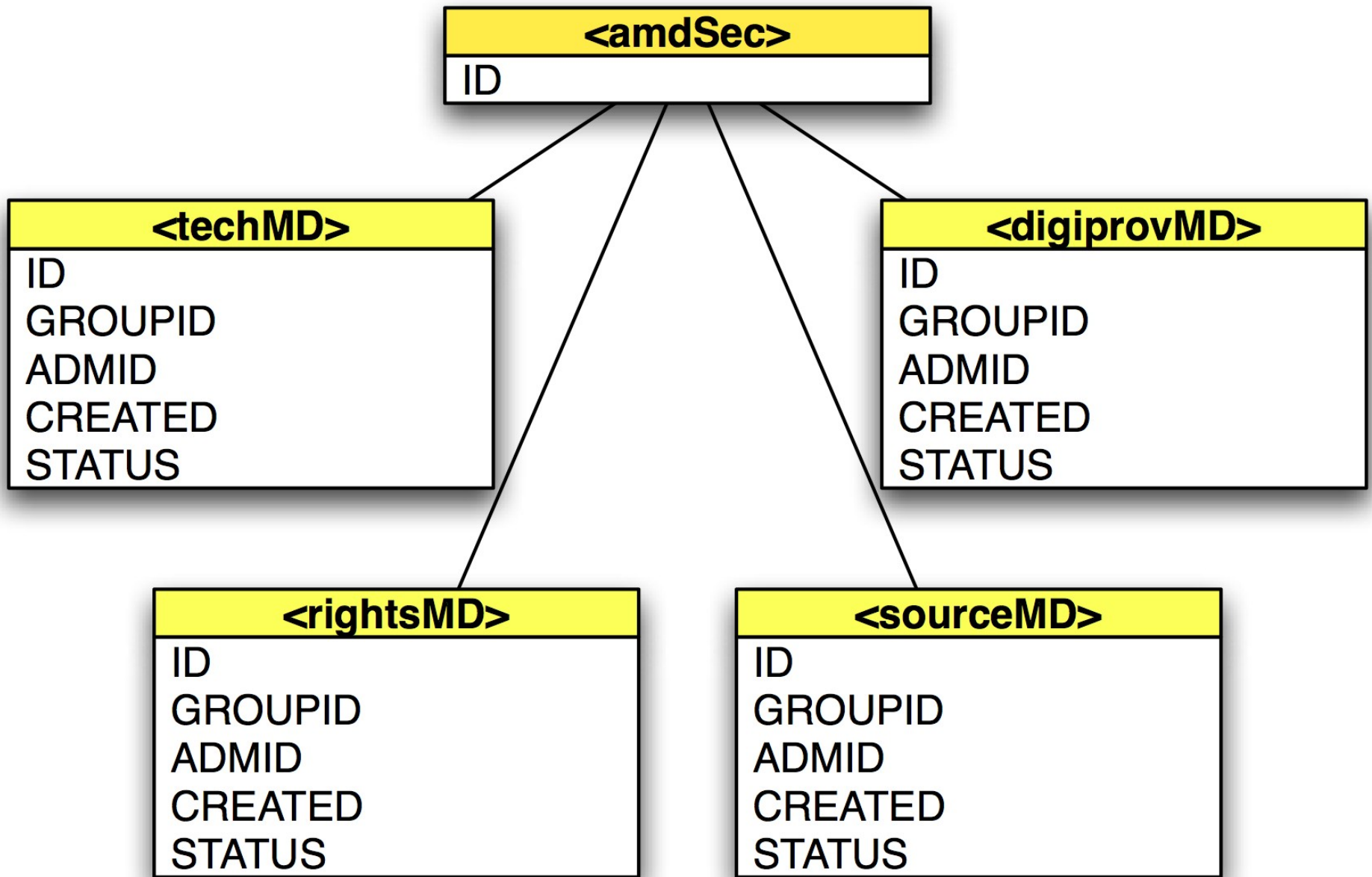
- **Nancy Hoebelheinrich** (Administrative Chair)  
Stanford University
- **Brian Tingle** (Technical Chair)  
California Digital Library
- **Adam Farquhar**  
British Library
- **Rick Beaubien**  
University of California
- **Morgan Cundiff**  
Library of Congress
- **Susan Dahl**  
University of Alberta
- **Markus Enders**  
State and University Library  
in Göttingen
- **Richard Gartner**  
Bodleian Library at Oxford
- **Jerome McDonough** (Ex-officio)  
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
- **Cecilia Preston**  
Preston & Lynch
- **Merrilee Proffitt**  
OCLC, Programs and Research
- **Jenn Riley**  
Indiana University Digital  
Library Program
- **Tobias Steinke**  
Project Kopal, German  
National Library
- **Robin Wendler**  
Harvard University
- **Robert Wolfe**  
Massachusetts Institute of  
Technology  
Libraries/OpenCourseWare

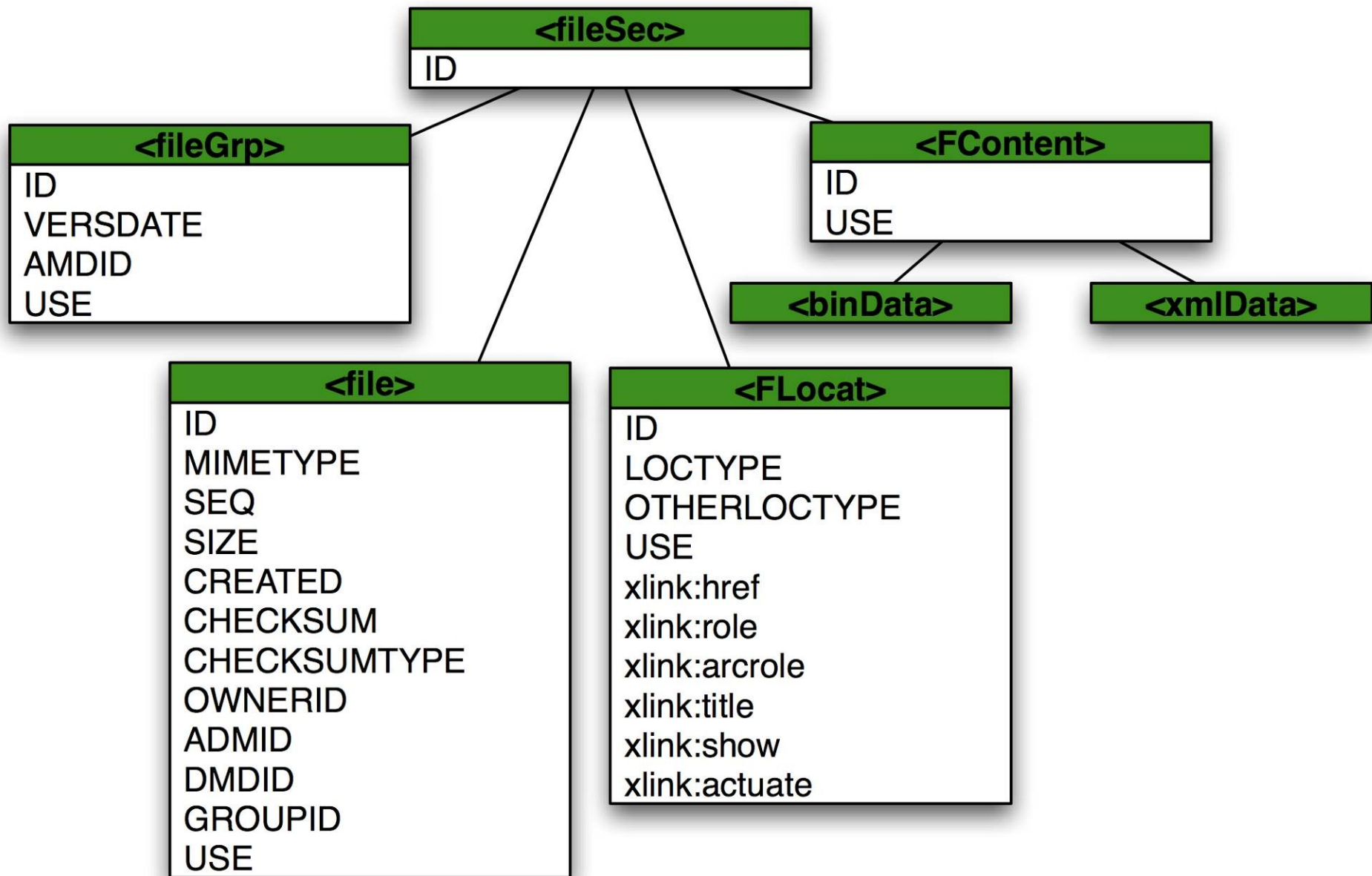
# Overview of METS

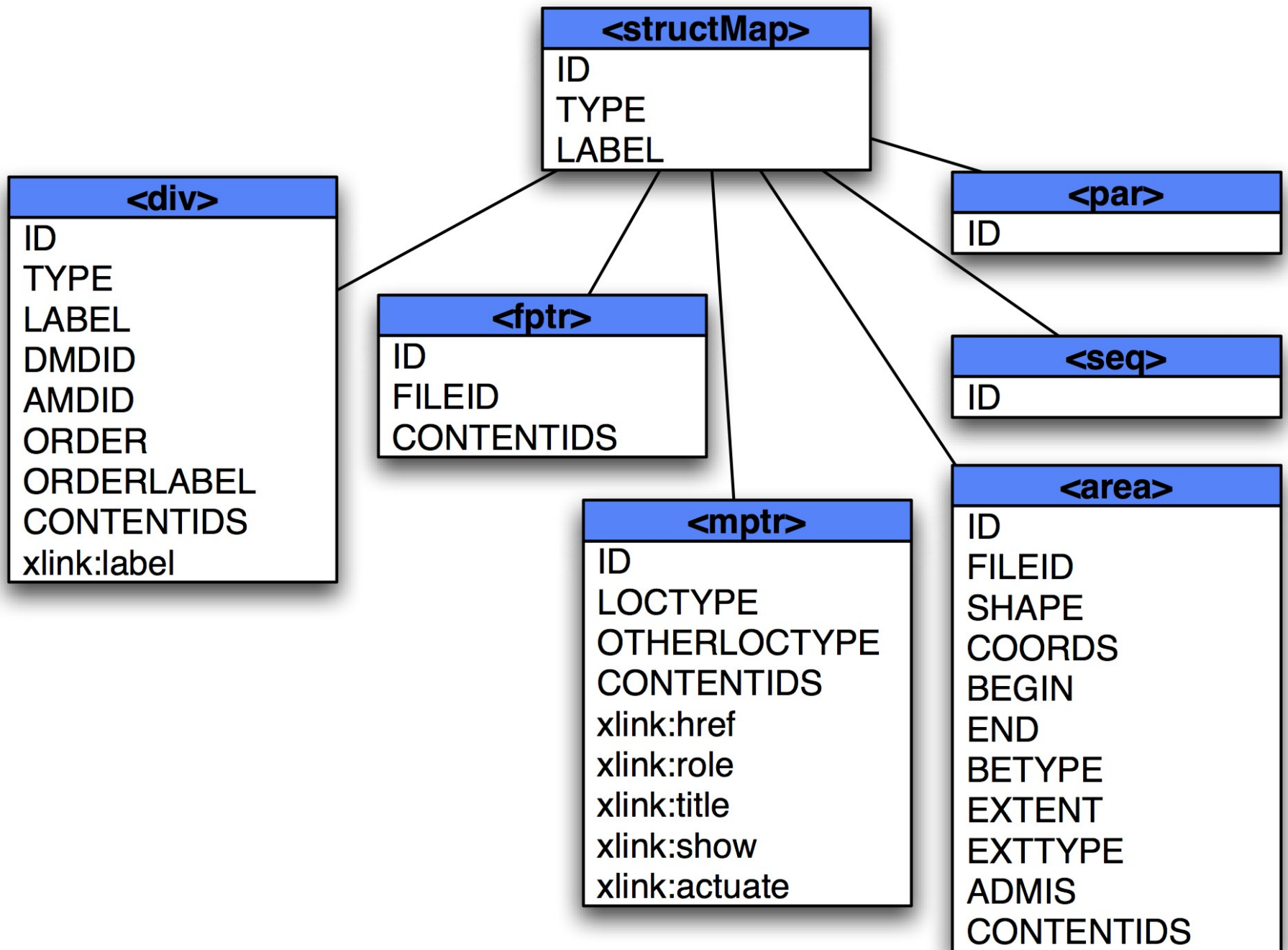












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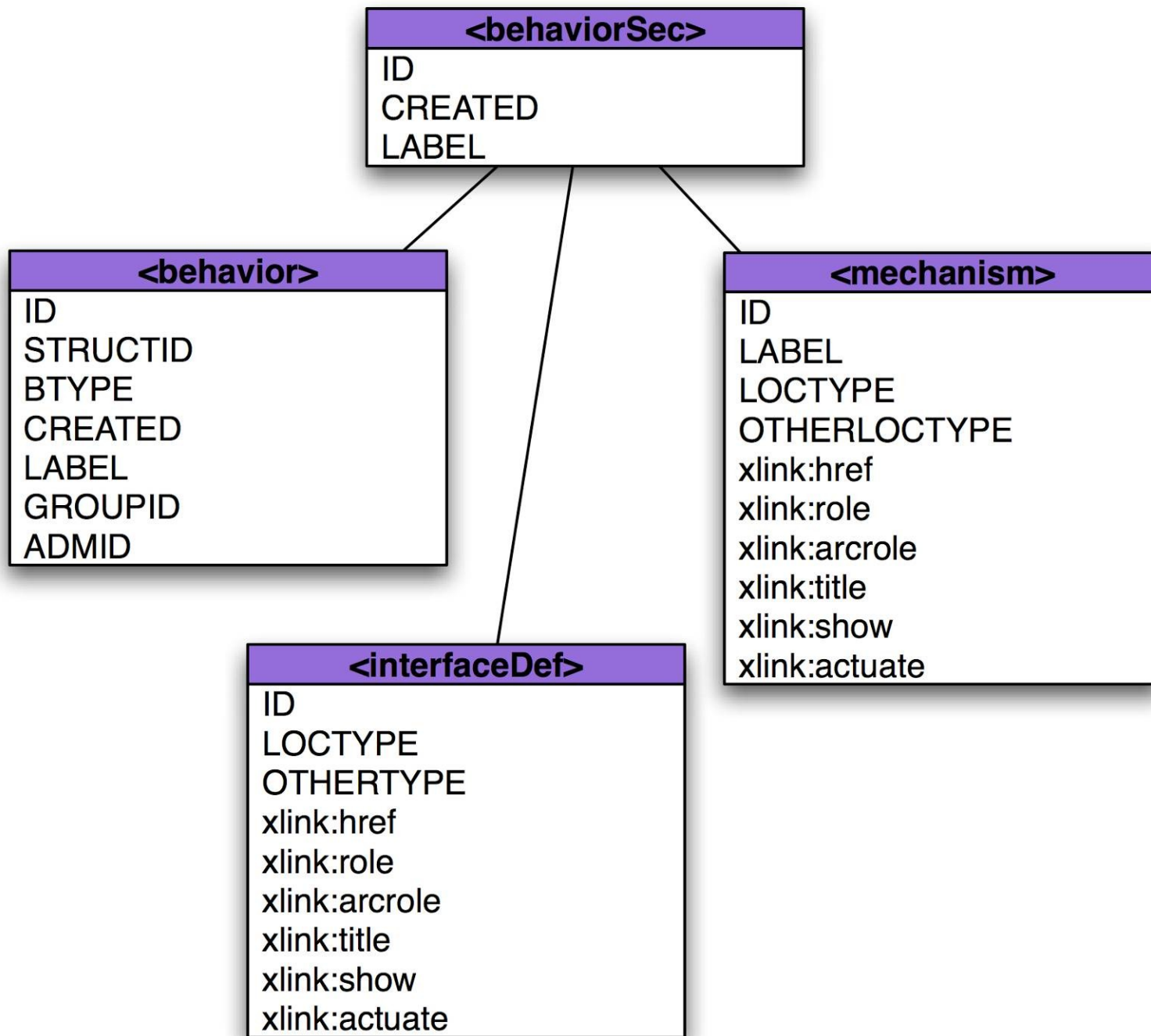
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# A word about profiles

- METS' flexibility: a blessing and a curse
- Profiles intended to promote interoperability, best practice
- Profiles encoded in schema
- Currently narrative rather than actionable
- METS Board encourages profile registration
- ...but also encourages playing in the sandbox

# For more information

- Website

[www.loc.gov/mets/](http://www.loc.gov/mets/)

- Documentation

On METS website

- Wiki

[www.socialtext.net/mim-2006/](http://www.socialtext.net/mim-2006/)

- German/European events

METS Opening Day and METS Implementors Meeting, Göttingen State and University Library, 7-8 May 2007