

HathiTrust Policy on Metadata Sharing and Use

Recommended by Metadata Policy, Strategy, Use and Sharing Advisory Group, March 2019

Approved by Program Steering Committee, April 4, 2019

Approved by Board of Governors, June 3, 2019

POLICY STATEMENT

To encourage discovery of materials, research, and for a variety of current and future uses, HathiTrust provides open access to HathiTrust-collected, -managed and -generated metadata (“HathiTrust metadata”, hereafter) where it has been determined that legal, contractual, policy, ethical, practical, and strategic considerations allow.

For specific types of metadata, HathiTrust considers relevant factors in making policy determinations about metadata sharing. A list of these types of metadata appears at the end of this document.

For those types of HathiTrust metadata which HathiTrust openly shares, HathiTrust:

- Asserts no additional intellectual property rights and expressly waives rights that it may have with respect to the metadata, including rights arising from its own actions with and upon the metadata. To the extent that HathiTrust’s own contributions in selecting, modifying, correcting, enhancing, and arranging the metadata may be protected by copyright, HathiTrust dedicates such contributions to the public domain pursuant to a Creative Commons 0 (CC0) Public Domain Dedication;
- To the extent that members’ and contributors’ contributions in selecting, modifying, correcting, enhancing, and arranging the metadata may be protected by copyright, HathiTrust requires that the members and contributors dedicate such contributions to the public domain pursuant to a Creative Commons 0 (CC0) Public Domain Dedication;
- Allows HathiTrust users to access, download, collect, modify, and/or otherwise use it, noting that any use of HathiTrust metadata must conform to all applicable laws and regulations in a given jurisdiction and applicable contractual restrictions; and
- Requests, as a matter of courtesy and scholarship, that metadata openly provided by HathiTrust be given attribution when feasible and in accord with community norms.

Further, it is noted that:

- HathiTrust exerts responsible stewardship over the metadata it receives and manages.
- HathiTrust does not intend nor claim to be the repository of record for all metadata it manages and shares;

- HathiTrust will apply a principle of openness as part of future calls for metadata contributions for ongoing operations and for special collaborative programs, and communicate that principle clearly to contributors and members;
- Metadata obtained from HathiTrust through this policy is not static and is subject to change. The metadata may be updated at any time in accordance with HathiTrust policies on metadata maintenance;
- HathiTrust makes no representations or warranties of any kind concerning the metadata.
- HathiTrust offers the metadata as-is. Users use the metadata provided at their own risk; and
- HathiTrust communicates the terms of the Policy on its website, in its Agreements, and in additional policies and other contexts where HathiTrust has a relationship with metadata contributors and metadata users.

REASON FOR POLICY

The HathiTrust mission is to contribute to the common good by collecting, organizing, preserving, communicating, and sharing the record of human knowledge. HathiTrust metadata, in its many types, are valuable and instrumental assets for the membership and the larger public as a common good. This policy provides a framework for sharing and using HathiTrust metadata in alignment with this mission.

This policy is grounded in the beliefs that:

- The direct sharing of metadata by HathiTrust members and contributors in collaboration with HathiTrust supports the HathiTrust mission and is undertaken for the common good;
- The vast majority of metadata contributed to and managed by HathiTrust is not subject to copyright protection because it either expresses only objective facts, or constitutes expression so limited by the number of ways the underlying ideas can be expressed that such expression has merged with those ideas. Facts and ideas may not be copyrighted; and, therefore,
- Wherever legal, contractual, policy, ethical, practical, strategic considerations and adherence to copyright laws allow, HathiTrust endeavors to make its metadata openly available for sharing in human-understandable and machine-processable forms suitable for unfettered use.

RELATED POLICIES

- HathiTrust Privacy Policy [<https://www.hathitrust.org/privacy>]
- HathiTrust Bibliographic Data Correction Policy
[https://www.hathitrust.org/bib_metadata_correction]

SUB-POLICIES REGARDING THE SHARING OF SPECIFIC TYPES OF METADATA

The list below is indicative of the types of metadata that are collected and/or managed by HathiTrust. Each metadata type may have specific legal, contractual, policy, ethical, practical, and/or strategic considerations in regard to sharing which must be addressed. As sub-policy

statements regarding the sharing of specific metadata types are developed, documented, and adopted, they will be publicly communicated on the HathiTrust website alongside this document.

HATHITRUST METADATA TYPES (SUBJECT TO EXTENSION AND/OR REFINEMENT)

- Bibliographic Metadata
- Bibliographic Metadata for U.S. Federal Government Documents
- Rights Metadata
- Copyright Review Program Rights Investigation Data
- Print Holdings Data
- Shared Print (Retention) Data
- METS Data
- Collection Builder Data
- HathiTrust Research Center Workset Builder Data
- HathiTrust Research Center Extracted Features Metadata
- Market Availability Data