LOST SOUNDS MONTANA: TAKING THE BANDS OUT OF THE BASEMENT
TAXONOMY AND METADATA DESIGN FOR A REGIONAL MUSIC ARCHIVE

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THE COLLECTION:
Lost Sounds Montana is a growing collection that includes hundreds of **audio recordings, posters, articles, and ephemera** from Montana bands active during the 60s and 70s.

THE PROBLEM:
• Lack of cataloging or archival standards
• Items not prepared for digital environments
• Descriptive metadata does not exist
• Collection does not allow, nor encourage, audience interaction

METHODOLOGY:
• Physically assess and categorize the contents of the collection
• Research and implement universally accepted metadata standards
• Create an interoperable, descriptive metadata schema based on the **Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (ISO15836, NISOZ3985, RFC5013)**
• Establish associations between artists, roles, recordings, and regional activity

SOLUTIONS:
A **scalable, descriptive metadata schema** that accurately and efficiently describes all items in the collection, and prepares the collection for:
• Lost Sounds Montana website (under development)
• Inclusion in the Montana Historical Society archives (pending)
• The creation of a **topic map (ISO/IEC13250)** that allows for targeted finding and encourages serendipitous discovery

IMPACT:
The Lost Sounds Montana Taxonomy & Metadata project will benefit **the people of Montana, cultural historians, and music fans** alike. By facilitating the inclusion of the collection in multiple digital environments, as well as a dedicated Lost Sounds Montana website, the potential audience grows exponentially.