Lost Sounds Montana: Taking the Bands Out of the Basement
Taxonomy and Metadata Design for a Regional Music Archive

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.