**The History of Metadata**

1876: **BOOK IT**

Melville Dewey's **DDC** system was introduced in 1876. It uses a decimal system to classify books and other library materials. Dewey's classification system is still widely used in libraries today.

1960s: **GOING DIGITAL**

With the advent of computers and digital storage, metadata becomes increasingly important. Metadata attributes are applied to electronic documents to help organize and retrieve information.

1980s: **SOFTWARE (HARD)**

Document management software becomes widely available. These systems are designed to manage paper-based documents, but they also include digital document management features.

1990s: **LEARNING TO CRAWL**

The World Wide Web is created, and search engines like AltaVista and HotBot start to appear. These early search engines rely on metadata to organize and retrieve web pages.

2000s: **MUSIC TO OUR EARS**

The **Music Genome Project** is launched, using metadata to analyze and organize music. This project helps to create personalized music recommendations for listeners.

2010s: **CALL TO CONGRESS**

The **FISA court's authority** is revealed to be misused, collecting millions of metadata records. This leads to calls for Congress to end bulk collection and storage of data.

2014: **BIG BROTHER**

The **NSA** is revealed to be collecting domestic metadata in excess of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) court's authority. The **metadata records of millions of U.S. citizens** are collected indiscriminately.

**Key Dates**

- **280BC:** Metadata concepts are already in use.
- **1876:** Melville Dewey introduces DDC system.
- **1968:** The term “metadata” is coined.
- **1960s:** Development of MARC standards.
- **1979:** The International Press Telecommunications Council (IPTC) is established.
- **1990s:** The **Music Genome Project** launches.
- **2000s:** The **FISA court's authority** is revealed.
- **2014:** The **NSA** is revealed to be collecting domestic metadata.

**Key Concepts**

- **Metadata:** Information about information.
- **MARC (MAchine-Readable Cataloging):** A set of digital standards for the description of items catalogued by libraries.
- **IPTC:** The International Press Telecommunications Council.
- **Netflix:** Streaming video giant.
- **Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC):** A system of classification used by libraries.

**Sources:** Library of Congress, MARC (MAchine-Readable Cataloging), IPTC, SAA Photo Metadata Project, Project Gutenberg.