After returning home to KBOO-FM radio (Portland, Oregon) from the PBCore workshop in Boston, I felt slightly overwhelmed at everything I learned, but also a sense of relief, quickly realizing that KBOO is ahead of the game when it comes to setting metadata practices in place.

This is partly due to the previous archivist, Selena Chau, and her implementation of a PBCore focused database at KBOO. Selena assisted KBOO going from XML within ResourceSpace to using strictly PBCore within ResourceSpace.

Taking over the archivist position, it was refreshing to learn that Selena and the team at WGBH helped define the metadata fields necessary to track our extensive historic audio. As the head archivist here, and with only a few volunteers, entering metadata is something that I do on a daily basis. It is necessary to keep items on track as they are shipped to and from our outside vendors for digitization. One thing I learned at the workshop is that these fields can be changed and structured to fit our system as we move forward. It was really informative to see the backend of PBCore at the workshop, even though initially I found the html slightly confusing to wrap my head around. Learning how the backend works, and knowing these fields can be altered to how the staff and programmers visualize it, is what I have brought back to KBOO.

Recently, ResourceSpace has been used more and more by our news programmers looking for historic audio relating to local police + deadly force issues; an issue that still reflects our modern society. The programmers and I have discussed ways in which these items can easily be found for certain users who are new to ResourceSpace and/or have trouble finding what they are looking for. With PBCore metadata standards set in place and with the knowledge that some of these fields can be altered to fit what KBOO desires, accessing this type of audio will be easier for programmers or everyday users. I plan on teaching a class regarding metadata fields and how we can utilize these fields to the best of our ability for easier access and research.

Every audio archive is similar yet different in many ways. It is helpful to know that PBCore fields can be altered to fit KBOOs needs. Even today as I write this, I came up with another field that should be implemented to inform the user that a certain 7 inch reel included a program item within the box. This program will be pulled from the box and filed into an archival folder. However, the program has a significant amount of information that might be useful to future users. The only way they might know this exists is if a field is made in ResourceSpace. This is only one example.

I’m looking forward to watching our database grow and change, yet remain consistent in tracking metadata for our historic and important audio as it becomes digitized.