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## New VRA Embedded Metadata Panel Released

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### **Abstract**

The VRA Embedded Metadata working group (EMwg) has released a new custom XMP info panel for Adobe CS4 and CS5 which allows VRA Core 4.0 display metadata to be embedded in digital image files.

### **Keywords**

association news; cataloging; embedded metadata; Adobe Extensible Metadata Platform (XMP); Adobe Photoshop; Adobe Bridge; VRA Core 4.0

On June 7, 2011, the Embedded Metadata working group of the Visual Resources Association (EMwg) released the new and improved VRA custom info (XMP) panels for embedding descriptive metadata into digital image files.<sup>1</sup>

A working group of the Data Standards Committee of the Visual Resources Association, the Embedded Metadata Working Group (EMwg), has been investigating metadata standards and develops tools for embedding descriptive metadata into image files since 2008. Members include:

Greg Reser, University of California, San Diego  
Marta Bustillo, National College of Art and Design (Ireland)  
Jen Cwiok, American Museum of Natural History  
Heidi Eyestone, Carleton College  
Sheryl Frisch, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo  
Jesse Henderson, Colgate University  
Joshua Lynn, Minneapolis Institute of Arts  
Heidi Raatz, Minneapolis Institute of Arts  
Steve Tatum, Virginia Tech

This latest release is a major overhaul of the first beta version (0.9.7.1). Enhancements were based on lessons learned through testing both data input and data extraction during the previous release.<sup>2</sup>

Major changes to the custom panels are listed as follows:

1. Adobe™ Bridge Metadata Panel (side panel in the Bridge workspace) is now supported.
2. Adobe™ Photoshop CS2, CS3, Elements 8, and Acrobat are now supported.
3. Customizable panels - choose which fields are displayed, and how they display in either: “accordion view” - view one section at a time or “side-by-side” view - see the entire panel without scrolling.
4. Custom fields – it is now possible to define custom field labels.
5. Work data is stored in a flat version of VRA Core 4.0 display elements (free text).

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<sup>1</sup> The basics of embedded metadata are outlined in an article authored by committee members Greg Reser and Johanna Baumann which the association’s *Images* newsletter in 2009: <http://www.vraweb.org/publications/imagestuff/vol6no6.html>

<sup>2</sup> VRA member Case Studies are described in article by Reser and Baumann in the April 2010 issue of *Images*: [http://www.vraweb.org/publications/imagestuff/vol7no2\\_2.html](http://www.vraweb.org/publications/imagestuff/vol7no2_2.html)

The panels, along with updated installation and user guides, may be downloaded from the Embedded Metadata working group wiki, “Metadata Deluxe”:  
<http://metadatadeluxe.pbworks.com>. The wiki also includes a list of XMP panels in use throughout the larger image community (e.g. IPTC, ARTstor), information about XMP metadata schemes, and lists new developments, applications, and services in the area of embedded metadata.

The EMwg welcomes feedback from users in order to make continued improvements.