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NISO and NFAIS, with support from the American Psychological Association, hosted a roundtable meeting on January 22, 2010 with 46 invited participants representing journal publishers, scholarly organizations, and libraries to discuss the need for standardized bibliographic and publishing policies for journal supplemental material.

Discussion focused on how to define supplemental material; responsibilities for supplying and formatting the materials; how to ensure “findability” of the supplemental materials with respect to identifiers, metadata, and citations; and issues of long-term access and archiving.

Agreement was reached on delivering a proposal for a NISO/NFAIS initiative to develop best practices issued under the NISO Recommended Practice series. Three levels of involvement with the initiative were defined: 1) a Technical Working Group that would look at the syntactic and structural issues related to supplemental materials such as syntax, linking, interoperability, markup, and metadata; 2) a Business Working Group that would draft recommendations related to the semantic aspects, such as definitions, roles and responsibilities, and best business practices; and 3) a Stakeholders Interest Group who would serve as a source of feedback on document drafts, and they would provide community vetting of a final document.

Contact NISO (www.niso.org/contact/) if you are interested in joining any of the three groups. The report from the roundtable is available online at: www.niso.org/topics/tl/supplementary/
ICEDIS Focusing on Claims Management and Price List Messaging

The results of a roadmap survey summarized at the October 12, 2009 Frankfurt meeting of the International Committee for EDI in Serials (ICEDIS) identified claims management—which “continues to be a difficult and resource-hungry area for both printed and online journals”—as the highest priority for ICEDIS to pursue as its next project. Particular claiming issues that need to be addressed include the importance of scheduling and dispatch information, agreement on delivery lead times, and whether a separate format should be developed for online resources.

As a first step, volumetric data from ICEDIS members will be collected and aggregated to determine the magnitude of the claiming issues. NISO and EDItEUR will assist in obtaining views from ILS and systems vendors. A Claims & Claims Responses working group was established following the Frankfurt meeting. Several publishers and agents have agreed to work in pairs to prepare potential use cases and define the information exchanges prior to the Spring 2010 ICEDIS meeting in Edinburgh.

Also agreed on as an ICEDIS priority is the rollout of the price message format developed in 2009. This specification defines an XML format that can be used to transmit a list of subscription products and associated pricing information, using a variety of pricing models and packaging combinations. Much of the format’s structure is inherited from the Product List Priced message included in the EDItEUR ONIX for Serials SPS (Serials Products and Subscriptions) standard. Pilot implementations are expected in early 2010 in time for a summer roll-out for the 2011 subscription renewals.

PREMIS in METS Toolbox

The Florida Center for Library Automation has created a set of open source tools to support the implementation of PREMIS preservation metadata in a METS (Metadata Encoding and Transmission Standard) format. The tools were developed at the request of the Library of Congress, who maintains both standards.

The toolbox contains three applications:

1. Validate – Confirms whether the document conforms to the standards and returns a list of errors.
2. Convert – Will cross-convert between PREMIS and METS. A document in one format will be converted to the other format.
3. Describe – Creates a PREMIS schema description of the file.

Use of the toolbox is free. Files can be sent to the toolbox site via URI or file upload for all three tools. The validate and convert tools will also accept direct input.

RELEVANT LINKS

- PREMIS
  - www.loc.gov/standards/premis/
- METS
  - www.loc.gov/standards/mets/
- PREMIS in METS Toolbox
  - pim.fcla.edu/
- Using PREMIS with METS
  - www.loc.gov/standards/premis/premis-mets.html

DCMI/NKOS Task Group Established

The Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI) and the Networked Knowledge Organization Systems/Services (NKOS) Group have established a joint task group to develop a Dublin Core Application Profile for Knowledge Organization Systems. Marcia Zeng (School of Information and Library Science, Kent State University) and Gail Hodge (Information International Associates, Inc.) will lead the task group.

The term knowledge organization system (KOS) is intended to encompass all types of schemes for organizing information and promoting knowledge management. Different families of knowledge organization systems, including thesauri, classification schemes, subject heading systems, and taxonomies are widely recognized and applied in both modern and traditional information systems. Currently there is no protocol for describing KOS resources.

The DCMI/NKOS Task Group plans to develop the Dublin Core Application Profile for KOS resources based on the work the NKOS group members have already done during the last decade. The goal is to have the draft specification ready for review at the Dublin Core 2010 conference in October 2010. The draft specification will include the application profile, a KOS Type Vocabulary, and related best practice guides. Testing and community review of the draft specification will take place in 2011 with a goal of having the final specification issued by the Dublin Core 2011 meeting.

For more information, visit www.dublincore.org/groups/nkos/

For more information, visit: www.icedis.org
The Vocabulary Mapping Framework (VMF) project has released the alpha version of the matrix tool to automatically compute the “best fit” mappings between terms in controlled vocabularies in different metadata schemes and messages. This initial release includes selected controlled vocabularies and parts of vocabularies from CIDOC Conceptual Reference Model, Dublin Core, Digital Data Exchange, Digital Object Identifier, Functional Requirements for Authority Data, Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records, Learning Object Metadata, MARC 21, MPEG21 Rights Data Dictionary, ONIX, and Resource Description and Access as well as the complete RDA-ONIX Framework from which VMF is in part derived.

The approach in this first stage has been “proof of concept,” so groups of terms with quite diverse semantics from a variety of different schemes have been added to the matrix to test the methodology. The matrix is a hierarchical class ontology of concepts grouped methodically using an event-based data model. Terms from vocabularies are mapped into the matrix, not mapped directly to one another. Once a term is mapped onto the matrix, the internal links of the matrix establish computable relationships with every other mapped term in the matrix.

Testing and updating of the matrix will be ongoing and changes will be incorporated in new numbered versions as needed. As an ontology, the VMF matrix should be viewed as data rather than software and so subject to routine updating.

The matrix and a VMF Introduction are available from: cdlr.strath.ac.uk/VMF/documents.htm

PARSE.Insight Project Publishes Survey Report on Digital Preservation

The European Union’s PARSE.Insight (Permanent Access to the Records of Science in Europe) project has published a survey report: Insight into Digital Preservation of Research Output in Europe. The report is one of the deliverables for the two-year project, which is charged to develop a roadmap for an e-science infrastructure that will ensure accessibility and preservation of digital information in science, from primary data through analysis to the final publications.

Close to 2,000 individuals from research, publishing, and data management (e.g., libraries and archives) responded to the survey, providing information on the current state of digital research data preservation, the future outlook, and the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders.

Some key findings from the survey were:

» Only 25% of the research respondents make their data openly available for everyone and just 20% submit data to a digital archive. The major problems researchers have in sharing their data through digital archives are legal issues (41%), misuse of data (41%), and incompatible data types (33%).

» Of the respondents to the publishers’ survey, 55% of the small publishers stated they have a preservation policy in place compared to 84% of the large publishers. (This represents roughly 93% of the journals covered by the survey.) However, 69% of both large and small publishers stated that they have no preservation arrangement in place for underlying research data. (This represents roughly 88% of the journals.)

» The majority of the respondents to the publishers’ survey stated that publishers are responsible for the preservation of publications (73% of the small publishers, 69% of the large publishers), but more than half feel the author or author’s institute is responsible for the underlying data.

» 78% of the small publishers fear the sustainability of data when the current custodian of the data ceases to exist in the future. For large publishers this percentage is 80%.

» Data managers think that more resources (86%) and more knowledge (82%) is necessary to guarantee long-term access and usability of research data. In addition training is also considered to be important (68%).

» A majority (59%) of the respondents to the data management survey don’t think that the tools and infrastructure available to them suffice for the digital preservation objectives they have to achieve.

The PARSE.Insight project is scheduled to conclude around March/ April 2010 and will hold a final workshop open to the public, likely in Geneva in conjunction with the CERN meeting.

For more information including the survey report, visit: www.parse-insight.eu/