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SPECIAL ISSUE: ENHANCED JOURNAL ARTICLES

ARTICLE-LEVEL
ENHANCEMENTS IN
THE HUMANITIES
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

HOSTING
SUPPLEMENTARY
MATERIAL

ARCHIVING
SUPPLEMENTAL
MATERIALS

DOIS FOR JOURNALS:
LINKING AND BEYOND



KBART Recommended Practice Endorsed by Content Providers

Following the January 2010 release of the joint NISO and UKSG recommended practice on Knowledge Bases And Related Tools (KBART), a number of major organizations in the scholarly information supply chain have publicly endorsed the recommendations by confirming that their systems can process KBART formatted files.

The KBART Recommended Practice (NISO RP-9-2010) contains practical recommendations for the timely exchange of accurate metadata between content providers and knowledge base developers. All content providers, from major databases to small publishers, are encouraged to publicly endorse the KBART Recommended Practice by submitting a sample file to the KBART working group. Once the file's format and content has been reviewed and approved, and the provider has made it publicly available (in line with the recommendations), the provider will be added to a public list of endorsing providers.

The organizations currently endorsing KBART are Alexander Street Press, American Institute of Physics, Annual Reviews, EBSCO, Ex Libris, Innovative Interfaces, Inc., Serials Solutions, and OCLC. Further information on endorsement is available from the KBART Information Hub.

The KBART working group is now undertaking Phase II, with a largely new set of volunteers. Sarah Pearson (University of Birmingham) the UKSG co-chair has been joined by Andreas Biedenbach (Springer Science+Business Media) as the NISO co-chair. Whereas the Phase I report provided minimum recommendations to improve knowledgebases, the Phase II recommendations will focus on the more advanced, complex issues that cause problems in this area, as defined in the "Next Steps" portion of the Phase I report. ■

RELEVANT LINKS

KBART Recommended Practice
www.uksg.org/kbart/s1/summary
www.niso.org/publications/rp/RP-2010-09.pdf

KBART Working Group
www.niso.org/workrooms/kbart/

KBART Information Hub
www.uksg.org/kbart/hub





W3C Launches Library Linked Data Incubator Group

The World Wide Web Consortium has announced the creation of a Library Linked Data Incubator Group, whose mission is to help increase global interoperability of library data on the Web, by bringing together people in the library community and beyond who are involved in Semantic Web activities focused on Linked Data. The group will explore how existing building blocks of librarianship, such as metadata models, metadata schemas, standards and protocols for building interoperability and library systems and networked environments, encourage libraries to bring their content, and generally re-orient their approaches to data interoperability towards the Web.

The group's charter was sponsored by Helsinki University of Technology, DERI Galway, Competence Centre for Interoperable Metadata (KIM), Library of Congress, Los Alamos National Laboratory, MIMOS, OCLC, Talis, University of Applied Sciences Potsdam, and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam in recognition of the need for a shared standardization effort within the library community around Semantic Web standards and with the intent of involving stakeholders beyond libraries including cultural heritage institutions, partners from the publishing industry, and other relevant domains.

The group's chairs are Tom Baker (Dublin Core Metadata Initiative), Emmanuelle Bermes (Bibliothèque Nationale de France), and Antoine Isaac (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam). A report presenting the landscape of Linked Data development in the library domain and related sectors and proposing a way forward is targeted for May 2011. ■

For more information, visit:
www.w3.org/2005/Incubator/lld/workrooms/i2

International DOI Foundation Launches shortDOI™ Service

A shortDOI™ service has been made publicly available by the International DOI Foundation to create shortcuts for long DOI® names. A valid DOI string can be input to the online form at <http://shortdoi.org/> and, upon submittal, a shortDOI will be assigned (or displayed if one had already been assigned). The shortDOI can then be used in e-mail, blogs, tweets, etc. to provide links that will resolve exactly the same as the full DOI string. ■

Example:

Full DOI string: 10.3789/isqv21n1

shortDOI: 10/afy

Shortcut URL: <http://doi.org/afy>

ISO International Standard Name Identifier Approved for Publication

Members of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Technical Committee 46 on Information and documentation, Subcommittee 9 on Identification and description have approved the publication of a new standard for an International Standard Name Identifier (ISNI).

ISO 27729:2010 specifies an identifier for the public identities of parties to disambiguate their identities in a digital environment and to support the management and exchange of media content. The ISNI, which consists of 15 digits and a check character displayed in blocks of four numbers, has no meaning built into the number.

TC46/SC9 has asked the ISO Technical Management Board to negotiate a contract with the newly created International ISNI Agency to be the Registration Authority (RA) for ISO 27729. The ISNI RA will be responsible for allocating unique ISNIs for a public identity, as requested, and maintaining a database of the registrant data, metadata, and administrative data associated with each ISNI.

Although the final required metadata will be determined by the ISNI RA, the standard cites as a minimum: name of public identity, type of party, and at least one of external data link, creation class, or role.

An informative annex to the standard describes the relationship of the ISNI to other identifiers and describes ISNI as a “bridge” identifier that will allow industry partners “to exchange information related to a party without the need to disclose confidential information.”

The ISNI standard is expected to be published by the end of 2010. ■

Mellon Grant Awarded to IU and NISO for MESUR Sustainability

A \$349,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to Indiana University Bloomington will fund research to develop a sustainable initiative to create metrics for assessing scholarly impact from large-scale usage data.

Indiana University Bloomington School of Informatics and Computing associate professor Johan Bollen and NISO will share the Mellon Foundation grant designed to build upon the MEmetrics from Scholarly Usage of Resources (MESUR) project that Bollen began in 2006 with earlier support from the foundation.


The new funding for *Developing a Generalized and Sustainable Framework for a Public, Open, Scholarly Assessment Service Based on Aggregated Large-scale Usage Data* will support the evolution of the MESUR project to a community-supported, sustainable scholarly assessment framework.

MESUR has already created a database of more than 1 billion usage events with related bibliographic, citation, and usage data for scholarly content.

The project will focus on four areas in developing the sustainability model—financial sustainability, legal frameworks for protecting data privacy, technical infrastructure and data exchange, and scholarly impact—and then integrate the four areas to provide the MESUR project with a framework upon which to build a sustainable structure for deriving valid metrics for assessing scholarly impact based on usage data. Simultaneously, MESUR's ongoing operations will be continued with the grant funding and expanded to ingest additional data and update its present set of scholarly impact indicators.

Data from more than 110,000 journals, newspapers, and magazines, along with publisher-provided usage

reports covering more than 2,000 institutions, is being ingested and normalized in MESUR's databases, resulting in large-scale, longitudinal maps of the scholarly community and a survey of more than 40 different metrics of scholarly impact. ■

 For information on MESUR, visit: www.mesur.org/


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NFAIS and ASIDIC Announce Merger

The National Federation of Advanced Information Services (NFAIS) and ASIDIC (formerly the Association of Information and Dissemination Centers) announced on June 30, 2010 the assimilation of ASIDIC members into the NFAIS Community as a result of the dissolution of ASIDIC.

“Since its founding in 1968 ASIDIC has been true to its mission and has served its members well,” said ASIDIC President, Tim Ingoldsby. “But as the Board of Directors looked forward in these changing times, we determined that it was in the best interest of our members to recommend the dissolution of ASIDIC and to identify an organization with a similar mission that could not only serve our members, but also continue the spirit that has sustained ASIDIC throughout its history. After a call for proposals and several months of discussions with interested parties, I am pleased to announce that the Board, supported by a majority vote of its member organizations, has partnered with NFAIS to reach our objective.”

According to NFAIS Executive Director, Bonnie Lawlor, the agreement will provide ASIDIC members in good standing with all NFAIS member benefits through June 30, 2011, after which they will have the option to continue their NFAIS membership through a three-year transition period. Any ASIDIC assets remaining after the merger will be used as requested by the ASIDIC Board and that is to attract conference speakers to NFAIS events that are in keeping with the mission and spirit of ASIDIC. In addition, a member of an ASIDIC Member organization will be invited to serve as a non-voting NFAIS Board member from the close of the merger through June 30, 2011 in order to assist the NFAIS Board in a successful membership transition and to ensure the preservation of the ASIDIC spirit and mission within NFAIS. ■

 For more information, visit the NFAIS website: www.nfaais.org

Editor's Note: NFAIS and ASIDIC are both NISO voting members.

Institutional Identifiers Working Group Releases Midterm Report

NISO's Institutional Identifier (I²) Working Group released a midterm report summarizing the findings and assumptions from the first phase of their work.

Charged with developing a robust, scalable, and interoperable standard for identifying the institution, a core entity in any information management or sharing transaction, the I² working group focused the first phase of their work in creating workflow scenarios. Over 300 stakeholders in the commercial supply chain, libraries, and institutional repositories were interviewed, confirming the need for the standard and providing feedback on draft metadata.

The initial investigative work done by the I² Working Group validated that a global institutional identifier is critical to enable information supply chain business scenarios. The environment envisioned by this working group is similar to what is being planned for the International Standard Name Identifier (ISNI) standard (ISO 27729) that will be published shortly by ISO (the International Organization for Standardization). As with ISNI, the I² identifier is proposed to be managed through a central registry that would assign identifiers to institutions, store core metadata about those institutions, and provide look-up services. A decentralized series of business-specific registries relying on the central core registry would be expected to provide expanded information about an institution as required by their business; for example, a registry that is supporting the access services for an institution may choose to add IP addresses as well as information about link resolvers.

The report identifies and describes the following six key attributes of the I²:

- 1 Identify organizations
- 2 Be opaque
- 3 Support the creation of a core metadata set that describes an institution

- 4 Support registration of institutions in a decentralized manner
- 5 Address community-specific registry needs
- 6 Allow URI(s) from 3rd-party registries to be submitted and stored

A number of existing identifiers were examined as part of this committee's work. These included: the International Standard Name Identifier (ISO 27729), the MARC Code List for Organizations, the Standard Address Number (ANSI/NISO Z39.43), and the Dun & Bradstreet DUNS number. Each of these was analyzed with respect to the key attributes required for the I², with ISNI being the only standard that met all six attributes.

A set of metadata elements and subelements was proposed with [institution] name, location (country and city), contact information, and type [of institution] proposed as mandatory metadata.

Six workflows were depicted in the report to illustrate the purpose of the institutional identifier and provide a compelling rationale for its development and use:

- 1 Library wants to be a member of a consortium
- 2 Library subscribes to an electronic journal
- 3 Library A places ILL requests with Library B
- 4 Library places an ILL request via consortium
- 5 Library places an ILL request that has special circumstances
- 6 A regional electronic theses and dissertations repository harvests metadata from a participant repository

Public comments were solicited on the midterm report and the feedback is currently being compiled. The next release by the working group will be a draft standard for comment that will build on the feedback received to the mid-term report. ■

🔗 Visit the I² working group webpage at: www.niso.org/workrooms/i2

E-Science and Data Support Services: A Study of ARL Member Institutions

The Association of Research Libraries (ARL) has published a report from a 2009 survey of their member institutions on how libraries can contribute to e-science activities in their organizations. ARL's E-Science Task Force, launched in 2006, defines the domain of e-science as "those new methods that are large-scale, data driven, computationally intense, and often engaging research teams across institutional boundaries." A working group of the Task Force, chartered to develop a better understanding of the changing requirements to support e-science-based research, conducted the survey.

Catherine Soehner, Catherine Steeves, and Jennifer Ward, the authors of *E-Science and Data Support Services*, selected six respondents to highlight as case studies: Purdue University; University of California, San Diego; University of Illinois at Chicago; and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

AMONG THE FINDINGS ARE:

45% of respondents have some type of designated unit for data curation and support for scientific research data.

A third of respondents have conducted an assessment about what types of services their researchers need.

73% of respondents' libraries are involved in e-science support with 48% reporting a team or committee leadership approach.

Library services provided include consultation services, reference, managing technology such as servers for data storage, and finding or developing tools to assist researchers.

The top three pressure points in providing e-science support are lack of resources, difficulty in acquiring appropriate staff and expertise, and a lack of unifying direction in the organization.

When reassigning staff, the MLIS degree was held by a majority of the position-holders, with science degrees or expertise also highly valued.

Collaboration was a key to success and took place on many levels: "between libraries of different institutions, between libraries and the departments they serve, between various departments to address interdisciplinary subject areas, and between institutions."

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Massachusetts Institute
of Technology.

The authors conclude that "engagement by research libraries in e-science has been developing rapidly in the past few years," that "institutions are quickly rising to meet the challenge of managing data," and they are exhibiting a "great diversity in the strategies employed."

ⓧ The report is available for free download from: www.arl.org/bm~doc/escience_report2010.pdf

Library of Congress Launches National Digital Stewardship Alliance

The Library of Congress announced on August 3, 2010 the formation of the National Digital Stewardship Alliance (NDSA), a partnership of institutions and organizations dedicated to preserving and providing access to selected databases, web pages, video, audio, and other digital content with enduring value.

The alliance is an outgrowth of the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program (NDIIPP), which the Library has administered since 2000. In establishing the program, Congress directed the Library to work with other federal agencies and a variety of additional communities to develop a national approach to digital preservation. NDIIPP has achieved substantial success through partnering with more than 170 institutions to provide access to a diverse national collection of digital content.

The NDSA will build on this accomplishment by focusing on several goals. It will develop improved preservation standards and practices; work with experts to identify categories of digital information that are most worthy of preservation; and take steps to incorporate content into a national collection. It will provide national leadership for digital-preservation education and training. The new organization will also provide communication and outreach for all aspects of digital preservation.

The NDSA will launch with a core set of founding members drawn from current NDIIPP project partners. Those members will develop a roadmap for immediate action, including a process for expanding membership. | NW |

For more information, visit www.digitalpreservation.gov/ndsas/

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