Report of UK DCMI Affiliate July 2006 - June 2007

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Summary

This is a summary of the activity of the UK Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI) Affiliate during the period July 2006 - June 2007.

Report of UK DCMI Affiliate, July 2006-June 2007

1 Introduction

The UK DCMI Affiliate was established in 2004 and is jointly funded by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) and the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) of the UK further and higher education funding bodies. The UK was the second country to join the Affiliate programme, following Finland. Other DCMI Affiliates have now been set up in Singapore, New Zealand and Korea; further countries are planning to join.

The UK DCMI Affiliate appointed UKOLN as managing agent to plan and co-ordinate UK DCMI Affiliate activity jointly with JISC and MLA.

The primary aims of the Affiliate are to promote the use of Dublin Core metadata standards in the UK and to feed back UK requirements to DCMI.

2 JISC and MLA

JISC and MLA continue to recommend the use of Dublin Core metadata standards and specifications where appropriate within the services and development programmes that they fund and administer.

JISC and MLA co-fund UKOLN, and a number of UKOLN staff participate actively in DCMI activity, including membership of the DCMI Advisory Board, moderation of the DCMI Registry Community, active contribution to several other Communities, and work promoting DC metadata uptake in the UK e.g. JISC IE Metadata Schema Registry, work with MLA.

3 Managing Agent

UKOLN seeks to promote the work of DCMI and the use of the Dublin Core metadata standards and specifications to the JISC and MLA communities and to a broader constituency within the UK through its core-funded activity, and through various JISC and EC funded projects.

UKOLN has provided support and guidance on the use of Dublin Core to JISC and MLA in their activities described above, as well as responding to requests for advice from individual JISC and MLA projects and service providers.

Rosemary Russell and Ann Chapman have responsibility for co-ordinating the Affiliate work.

4 Representation on the Board of Trustees

David Dawson of MLA is the UK Affiliate representative on the DCMI Board of Trustees. During the past year David has attended x face-to-face meetings and participated in x virtual meetings.

5   DCMI-related activities carried out by UKOLN staff

A major focus of activity in the past year has been the scholarly works application profile (SWAP), initially known as the eprints application profile.

5.1   Scholarly Works/ Eprints Application Profile

Between May and August 2006 Julie Allinson worked with Andy Powell (Eduserv Foundation) and a working group of experts to develop a Dublin Core metadata application profile for describing eprints (alternatively referred to as scholarly works, research papers or scholarly research texts). This work was funded by JISC to support the richer metadata requirements of the Intute repository search project. The resulting application profile, now primarily known as the scholarly works application profile (SWAP)[1], makes use of the Dublin Core Abstract Model to describe scholarly works in a richer way than is possible with 'Simple' Dublin Core, by enabling multiple descriptions of the various entities that are part of a 'scholarly work' to be grouped together in a description set.

During the past year, work has continued on 'community acceptance', by disseminating the application profile to the wider repositories and metadata communities, encouraging implementation by repository software developers and creating an XML format to allow sharing of eprints records over OAI-PMH. Notably, the profile was presented at the Dublin Core conference 2006, at Open Repositories 2007 and has featured as a main article in Ariadne. There is also ongoing work to express the application profile in the new description set profile being developed by the Dublin Core Architecture forum - this was due to be presented at the Dublin Core Conference in Singapore in August.

The profile has attracted a lot of interest in the communities where it has been presented, both nationally and internationally, and generated ongoing enquiries about its use. Discussion of SWAP at DC 2007 was very positive.

5.2   DCMI Scholarly Communications Community

A proposal was submitted to the DCMI Advisory Board to establish a DCMI Scholarly Communications Community. This is aimed to be a forum for individuals and organisations to exchange information, knowledge and general discussion on issues relating to using Dublin Core for describing research papers, scholarly texts, data objects and other resources created and used within scholarly communications. It is planned to provide a forum for discussion around the Scholarly Works/Eprints Application Profile (SWAP) and for other existing and future application profiles created to describe items of scholarly communication. [The proposal was accepted by DCMI in September 2007, with a slightly extended remit to cover wider scholarly communication such as scientific data and data objects.]

5.3 Collection description

Ann Chapman is an active member of the DCMI Collection Description Community, which was formed in December 2006 following DCMI's decision at the DC-2006 conference to restructure its activities. She is also a member of the DC Collections Application Profile Task Group.

The Task Group completed phase 1 of its activities when the March 2007 DCMI Usage Board agreed that the DC Collections Application Profile (DCCAP) is conformant (i.e. it conforms to the DC Abstract Model, is internally consistent and is documented according to guidelines). Phase 2 activities focus on ensuring alignment of the DCCAP with the NISO Collection Description Standard and the current version of the DC Abstract Model and ongoing work with Description Set Profiles.

5.4 DC Registries

Emma Tonkin took over from Rachel Heery as Moderator of the DCMI Registry Community (together with Jon Phipps, Cornell University); Emma is also a member of the DCMI Advisory Board.

Moderator work during 2007 included putting together a Registry session to take place during the DC 2007 conference, this is planned to springboard further discussion and collaboration between community members.

Work continues on the JISC Information Environment Metadata Schema Registry (IEMSR)[2], one of several closely linked registry developments worldwide designed to provide information about DC (and IEEE LOM) metadata schemas and APs.

Presentations have been given on DC-registry related work at XTech in Spring 2007 and at the Metadata Open Forum in July in New York.

5.5 DC-2006 Conference, Mexico

Rachel Heery and Julie Allinson attended DC-2006 and satellite meetings in Mexico in October 2006. Work included Rachel Heery chairing the Registry Working Group and attending an Advisory Board meeting; Julie Allinson presenting a DC Eprints Application profile tutorial and presenting a plenary paper (*Signed metadata: method and application*, by Emma Tonkin and Julie Allinson).

5.6 CETIS Metadata and Digital Repository SIG meeting, Manchester

UKOLN helped to organise a CETIS Metadata and Digital Repository Special Interest Group (MDR SIG) meeting in Manchester on 16 April. The group is a forum for members to share experience of how relevant specifications and common practice can be used within the UK Higher and Further Education sectors. The April meeting focused on promoting Dublin Core work. Rosemary Russell introduced the work of the UK DCMI Affiliate and Julie Allinson presented the Scholarly Works/ePrints Application Profile. Other presentations included an introduction to the Dublin Core Abstract Model, a framework for the construction of

sets of resource descriptions; the DC-Ed application profile being taken forward by the DCMI Education Community; and the Becta Vocabulary Management Services.

5.7 Liaison with other DCMI Affiliates

A 'German-speaking countries' DCMI Affiliate is planned, to cover Germany, Switzerland and Austria; some informal discussion about working together has already taken place with the coordinator, including work based on the scholarly works application profile. This will continue when the affiliation is confirmed.

5.8 UK Affiliate web pages

The UK Affiliate single web page was replaced with a set of pages in February. The restructuring was designed to better reflect current work, and the pages will continue to be further populated.

5.9 DCMI Mirror

The DCMI Mirror was removed in January for the following reasons: (1) since bandwidth is no longer an issue (as it was some years ago) the need for a mirror is not as important (2) there are resource costs in maintaining the mirror. Redirects to the DCMI website have been set up.

5.10 UK DCMI Forum

A suggestion was made to a group of UK Dublin Core implementers to set up a forum for sharing information on their activities (via a JISCMAIL list). However the response was negative. The likely reason is because there are already so many DCMI lists. The DCMI Scholarly Communications Community (see 5.2) will partly address this need, given its initial focus on the scholarly works application profile.

5.11 Presentations

Eprints Application Profile, for the UK repositories search meeting, 27 July 2006.

Eprints Special Session (with Andy Powell, Eduserv Foundation). Special session at International Conference on Dublin Core and Metadata Applications, 4 October 2006, Mexico.

Signed metadata: method and application. Paper presented at International Conference on Dublin Core and Metadata Applications, Mexico, 6 October 2006.

EPrints Application Profile (with Andy Powell, Eduserv Foundation). Tutorial at Open Scholarship 2006, University of Glasgow, 18 October 2006,

Dublin Core Application Profile for Scholarly Works (ePrints). Presentation at the JISC Repositories and Preservation Programme Meeting, Interoperability parallel session, London, 25 October 2006.

Dublin Core Application Profile for Scholarly Works (ePrints). Presentation at the Slainte Metadata issues for Scottish institutional repositories meeting, National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh, 4 December 2006.

Dublin Core Application Profile for Scholarly Works. Presentation at Knowledge Exchange IR Workshop, Research Paper Metadata strand, Utrecht, NL, 16 January 2007.

The Eprints Application Profile: a FRBR approach to modelling repository metadata (with Pete Johnston and Andy Powell). Presented by Julie Allinson at Open Repositories 2007, San Antonio, Texas, 23-26 January 2007.

A Dublin Core Application Profile for Scholarly Works (eprints). Presentation at the JISC CETIS Metadata and Digital Repositories SIG meeting, Manchester, 16 April 2007.

The UK DCMI Affiliate. Presentation at the JISC CETIS Metadata and Digital Repositories SIG meeting, Manchester, 16 April 2007.

Object models and object representation (with Herbert Van de Sompel, Los Alamos National Laboratory). Tutorial at CERN workshop on Innovations in Scholarly Communication (OAI5), CERN, Geneva, 18-20 April 2007. Included Dublin Core in the section on exploring options for metadata modelling.

Real-world metadata registries: sharing concepts, schemas and semantics. XTech 2007, Paris, 15-18 May 2007.

A Dublin Core application profile for describing scholarly works. Presentation at the JISC Repositories and Preservation Programme Meeting, 5 July 2007, London.

Dublin Core Registry Community. Presentation at Metadata Open Forum, New York, 9-11 July 2007.

5.12 Publications

Allinson, Julie, Heery, Rachel, Johnston, Pete and Russell, Rosemary 'DC 2006: Metadata for Knowledge and Learning' report on DC 2006, the sixth international conference on Dublin Core and Metadata Applications, held 3 - 6 October 2006, Ariadne, At the Event, Issue 49, October 2006. `http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue49/dc-2006-rpt/`

Allinson, Julie, Johnston, Pete and Powell, Andy. 'A Dublin Core Application Profile for scholarly works'. Ariadne, vol. 50, January 2007. `http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue50/allinson-et-al/`

Allinson, Julie. 'For the love of metadata? : a functional approach to describing scholarly works', ALISS Quarterly, vol 2, no. 3, April 2007

6 Some examples of DCMI activities carried by other UK organisations

The following section contains some examples of the range of DCMI activities undertaken by staff in other UK organisations apart from UKOLN.

6.1 MIMAS (Ann Apps)

- Member of the DCMI Advisory Board

- Moderator of DCMI Collection Description Community (eg agenda setting for meeting at DC 2007) and active contributor to DC Collections Application Profile Task Group

- Member of DCMI Tools Community (contributed comments about the proposed Application Profile in June 2007)

- Use DC in the JISC Information Environment Service Registry (IESR[3]) project which is based on the DC Collections Application Profile. Presented IESR at DCMI Collection Description Working Group meeting at DC 2006.

- Attended UK Strategic eContent Alliance meeting to discuss registries in June 2007

- Contributed to Eprints/Scholarly Works Application Profile (provided DC bibliographicCitation example)

- Updated recommendations for Dublin Core on Mimas web pages (August 2006)

- JISC Information Governance Gateway project (JIGG[4]) - developed Dublin Core Application Profile to describe Freedom of Information request disclosure log entries, using DC properties where possible[5]

- Attended DC 2006 and presented paper on COinS and RSS in Zetoc (Apps, Ann and MacIntyre, Ross. Customising Location of Knowledge.)

- Paper accepted at DC 2007 (Apps, Ann. (2007). Using an Application Profile Based Service Registry[6].

6.2 DCMI Education

The DCMI Education Community (co-moderated by Sarah Currier, Intrallect) is developing an application profile describing usage of DCMI properties specifically relevant to education including best practice within the context of education and training. Sarah presented the profile at the CETIS Metadata SIG Meeting in Manchester in April..

6.3 Eduserv

Pete Johnston and Andy Powell are members of the DCMI Advisory Board and active contributors to a range of other groups including the DCMI Architecture Forum, DCMI Education Community, DCMI Collection Description Community and the DCMI RDA Task Group.

6.4   Some examples of other UK involvement in brief

- DCMI Advisory Board: there are several other UK members of the DCMI Advisory Board: Robina Clayphan (British Library), Dan Brickley, Sarah Currier (Intrallect), Gordon Dunsire (University of Strathclyde)

- Robina Clayphan (British Library) is chair of the DCMI Libraries Working Group and also a member of the DCMI Collection Description Community

- Gordon Dunsire (Strathclyde University) is co-leader of the new DCMI RDA Task Group, and also a member of the DCMI Collection Description Community and the DCMI Collections Application Profile Task Group.

- The Cabinet Office, e-Government Unit published the e-Government Metadata Standard (e-GMS) version 3.1, in August 2006[7]. It lists the elements and refinements that will be used by the public sector to create metadata for information resources. It also gives guidance on the purpose and use of each element.

- A large number of JISC projects use Dublin Core metadata as part of their project supporting infrastructure, eg eBank UK, PerX, MIDESS, CLADDIER, StORe etc.

- A range of MLA communities use Dublin Core metadata, such as those involved in the People's Network Discovery Service.

7   Work plan 2007-2008

- Develop an implementation plan together with JISC for promoting the uptake of the scholarly works application profile

- Develop the new DCMI Scholarly Communications Community (see 5.2)

- Participate in DC-2008 and satellite meetings in Berlin

- Continue initial discussions with organisers of DC 2008 in Germany, to plan European input

- Liaise with the planned 'German-speaking countries' DCMI Affiliate; continue discussion about cooperating over future work

- Continue to develop the web site for the UK DCMI Affiliate[8]; contact other Affiliates for feedback

  - review results from the DCMI Web site and documentation survey (to close September 2007) and incorporate findings where possible

  - investigate the development of set of modular tutorial-style resources for DC implementers, based on the DC Abstract Model

- Investigate the likely support for a programme of small f2f meetings for DC implementers within the UK, along the lines of the JISC CETIS SIGs

- Undertake further work (with the University of Bath) on Tap into Bath; collection descriptions will be updated and UKOLN will work on developing new interfaces for various audiences and cross-searching (e.g. with Cornucopia).

- Undertake metadata mapping for the Creative Archive Licence project. This aims to develop a portal or search interface to access resources (moving images, audio and possibly still images) that are offered for non-commercial re-use by the project partners (BBC, ITN Source, C4, OU, BFI). A potential output is another application profile.

- Investigate with MLA the need for further supporting/promoting use of the DC Application Profile developed for Discover[9]

- Identify appropriate events where presentations could be made, to disseminate information on DCMI activities

- Continue consultation with the community about future priority activities.

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[1] http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/repositories/digirep/index/Eprints_Application_Profile

[2] http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/projects/iemsr/

[3] http://iesr.ac.uk

[4] http://www.jigg.ac.uk

[5] Paper and presentation about this work: Apps, Ann. (2007). Disclosing Freedom of Information Releases. In: ELPUB2007: Proceedings of the Eleventh International Conference on Electronic Publishing - Openness in Digital Publishing: Awareness, Discovery and Access, Vienna, Austria, 13-15 June 2007 (ÖKK-Editions, Vienna) pp 425-434, ISBN 978-3-85437-292-9. (http://epub.mimas.ac.uk/papers/2007/elpub2007/apps-elpub2007.html). This paper deposited in E-LIS (http://eprints.rclis.org/). Conference report: http://epub.mimas.ac.uk/reports/elpub200706.html (June 2007)

[6] http://epub.mimas.ac.uk/papers/2007/dc2007/apps-dc2007.html

[7] http://www.govtalk.gov.uk

[8] http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/metadata/dcmi/

[9] http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/metadata/pns/pndsdcap/