JISC Metadata Schema Registry

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1. INTRODUCTION
This poster will present work carried out over the last year on the UK Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) funded Metadata Schema Registry [1]. The Registry is being developed as a shared service within the JISC Information Environment (JISC IE) to provide access to information on metadata vocabularies and application profiles used for resource description in the UK learning, teaching & research communities. The Schema Registry will act as the primary source for authoritative information about metadata schemas recommended by the JISC IE Standards Framework. The Registry is targeted at the spectrum of education communities, aiming to provide a service that handles schema based on both the Dublin Core (DC) and IEEE Learning Object Metadata (LOM) formats. The project has as associated partners CETIS and Becta as representatives of user communities.

The JISC Metadata Schema Registry will build on previous work in the DESIRE, MEG and CORES projects that explored provision of information about metadata at the level of data elements, element sets or application profiles. The MEG Registry project, funded by JISC and Becta in 2002, developed RDF-based registry and schema creation tools. These tools were readily usable with Dublin Core but less so with the hierarchical model of IEEE LOM.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES
The Registry will provide the JISC IE with a single point of referral for recommended schemas. It will allow initiatives within the JISC IE to publish application profiles [2] in a common registry, making them available to others. This provides a concrete way of encouraging sensible uniformity alongside necessary divergence. It helps avoid unnecessary duplication of effort, and supports sharing of common approaches. The registry aggregates and indexes schemas and supports navigation and query providing both Web based human-readable and API access.

Future work will complete development of the demonstrator tools, seek user feedback, and develop a policy and guidance framework.

4. REFERENCES