



Introduction

- Who are UKOLN, and so forth

Charter

- The DCMI Registry Community Group is a forum for service providers and developers of both metadata schema registries and controlled vocabulary registries to exchange information and experience.

Goals

- To foster a common approach to
- Use of data models and standards
- Handling multi-lingual vocabularies
- Sharing and exchanging registry data
- Vocabulary mapping
- To promote interaction between affiliated registries

Shifting status

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- Goodbye Registry WG ...
- hello Registry Community!
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- Co-chairs: Jon Phipps, NSDL
- Emma Tonkin, UKOLN

DC Registry Focus

- Managing metadata vocabularies and semantics
- Acts as a reference for DC metadata terms
- Core concepts:
 - Elements
 - Element refinements
 - Encoding schemes
 - Vocabulary terms

DC Registry, cont.

- Relation to ISO/IEC 11179: □□ Similar mission □ differing approach... □□ Aim to maintain close links with the community □
- To use the DC Registry:
<http://dublincore.org/dcregistry/navigateServlet> □
- For more on the DC Registry: □
<http://jodi.tamu.edu/Articles/v06/i02/Wagner/DCMI-Registry-final.pdf>

Present Developments

- Cornell NSDL Registry
- The ISO 11179 XMDR (eXtended Metadata Registry) initiative
- The European Library Metadata Registry
- The Dataset Acquisition, Accessibility and Annotations e-Research Technologies (DART) registry (Australia)□
- Information Environment Metadata Schema Registry (UK)□

Sampling current topics

- Defining/scoping the metadata schema registry
- Metadata vocabulary management
- Modelling change: recognising and handling evolution
- Making use of related work
- Sharing data between registries
- Approaching the user:
- Developing use cases and requirements
- Real-world testing

Defining the Registry

- Functional definition:
- ...designed to provide humans and machines with the means to discover, create, access and manage metadata schemes, schemas, application profiles, crosswalks and concept mappings. □ A Metadata Registry from Vocabularies UP: The NSDL Registry Project □ Authors: Diane I. Hillmann, Stuart A. Sutton, Jon Phipps, Ryan Laundry

Defining the Registry (2) □

- A centralised repository/registry of metadata schemas and ontologies □ DART
- Designed to promote the discovery and reuse of existing metadata definitions. It provides users, and applications, with an authoritative source of information[...]
simplifies the discovery of terms and related definitions, and illustrates the relationship between terms. - DC Registry

Defining the Registry (3) □

- In general, schema registries
- provide a central storage for terms
- provide means of discovering terms
- store/provide descriptions of terms
- provide methods of contributing terms
- may provide examples of term use
- facilitate reuse of metadata vocabulary elements
- operate via a top-down (prescriptive) process

Scope

- Between infrastructure and community -
- The many functions of the registry:
 - Authority
 - Promoting best practice
 - Promoting reuse
 - Supporting standards

Vocabulary management

- □ Taxonomies are reflections of human thought; they express our most fundamental concepts about the objects of our universe. Each taxonomy is a theory about the creatures [the objects] that it classifies. □
- □ Stephen Jay Gould

Spherical cow problem

- Having called in vets, chemists and biologists to no effect, a physicist is hired by the Dairy Board to help optimize milk production. She travels around the nation taking measurements, assessing transport networks and so forth. Finally, she is ready to present what she has learned. She goes to the blackboard and draws a large circle, points at it and says: "First, assume a spherical cow"...

Vocabulary management (2) □

- Controlled vocabularies tend to be volatile and change is part of the management process - NSDL.
- Words on their own generally do not refer to particular concrete things in this world except when in certain combinations or contexts that determine this link - Frege

What makes a usable abstraction?

- Lots of related research, much of it from the SW domain
- Validation, analysis and assessment: □How can you tell when there's a problem?□Or when a change has occurred?□
- What role could (or do) registries play in this process?

Keeping up with the Jones'

- Working with related efforts:
- SKOS - Simple Knowledge Organisation Systems <http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/>
- W3C Consortium work on metadata vocabulary management WG on Semantic Web Deployment issues
- NSDL application of SKOS

Sharing data between registries

- Publishing data for reuse
- Query interfaces
- Identifying appropriate formats for transfer -
- BECTA vocabulary management toolkit exports Zthes (as described in ISO 2788 and ANSI/NISO Z39.19)□
- Publishing as RDF is a common approach (but...)□

Working with the user

Aims...

- Examining existing use cases for Registries
- How do Registries fit in with real-world metadata vocabulary development, management and use?
- How do Registries fit in with the read-write Web?
- Authority, consensus, operational sufficiency?
- Reporting back from Registry deployments

Upcoming event

- Registry session, DC 2007 in Singapore:
- 27-31st August
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- Even if you can't attend:
- We'll keep you posted ☐ and please feel free to suggest points for discussion!
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- Why not join the mailing list?
- <http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/dc-registry.html>

Links

- The NSDL Registry Blog:
- <http://www.metadataregistry.org/blog/>
- The DC-Registry web page:
- <http://dublincore.org/groups/registry/>
- The DC-Registry mailing list:
- <http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/archives/dc-registry.html>













































