

Minutes of the DC government workshop

DC-2006 Wednesday October 4, 2006

Chair Hans Overbeek, Netherlands

Secretary Nancy Brodie, Canada

10 attendees from Canada, Mexico, Netherlands, United Kingdom

The Charter of the Working Group was quickly reviewed.

Work Items:

1. Service Description – lead: John Roberts, New Zealand – will report during the year.
2. Controlled Vocabularies – no progress since Madrid meeting. Work item closed.
3. Government Application Profile – lead: Hans Overbeek

Advisory Board Report

Hans Overbeek reported from the Advisory Board Meeting and described the new concepts of Community and Task Forces to replace Working Groups. There will be a Government Community and the Government Application Profile Editorial Board will become a Task Force. Those in attendance agreed. Two discussion lists could be used but the general feeling was that the current DC Gov list would serve both purposes.

Government Application Profile (DCGAP)

The work for 2005-2006 was to revise the AP to be a reference model which could serve as a good practice example dealing with issues relevant to government and review the draft AP. Hans described the consultation process using a Wiki.

Need a link from the Government Working Group (Community) Web page to the DCGAP Wiki.. ACTION Hans Overbeek

In fact only 3 members contributed to the Wiki. Hans asked for input on the process. No one attending, other than Hans and Linda Humphries had used this Wiki nor any Wiki. There is a learning curve to using the Wiki, especially the table, but it is an effective tool for consultation. However, if it is a barrier to participation, use of the discussion list for comments is encouraged, even on an ongoing basis. But stable drafts should be issued to the discussion list in Word or PDF.

It was decided to continue to use the Wiki ACTION: Hans Overbeek

One objective for the work plan was to have broad input. We have not yet had enough input to finalize the Profile. It was decided to continue review and discussion using the Wiki and notifying the discussion list of significant additions. Email messages should be limited to one issue. ACTION: WORKING GROUP

Hans and Linda input additional elements and information from the Dutch and UK Government Application Profiles into the Wiki as issues. Zhang Zhengqiang raised several categories of issues which will clarify the GCAP e.g. comments on encoding schemes should be made in that part of the document.

All DC elements should be included. How much information should be included for each element? Definitions should be included but comments should not replicate “Using Dublin Core”. However the document must have sufficient detail to be useful for government readers, especially those new to DC or APs. We should not proceed at this time to add examples or extensive usage guidance. That could be a future separate document and work item e.g. like the Government of Canada Metadata Implementation Guide for Metadata for Web Resources.

The group looked at one element as an example: Creator. The DC Gov draft definition varies slightly from the DC definition. The Dutch definition which constrains use of creator was added as an issue. One attendee suggested using refinements rather than constraining the DC definition.

It was agreed it would be useful to add additional definitions and comments from other governments and from members to the issues currently in the Wiki.

90% of the draft DCGAP is DC. There was a question about criteria for additional elements. The additional elements included on the Wiki are from Holland, the UK and Ontario, Canada. No criteria have been established. The elements are there for discussion.

How will we know when we are done? When discussion ceases?

DCMI will facilitate maintenance of the DCGAP but a steward or custodian is needed when the Task Force is disbanded. This agency would make an institutional commitment to handle queries and make decisions about the need for revision. The Task Force should consider this need.

Membership in the Task Force is open. Anyone interested in joining should email Hans. Current members who have not been active will be contacted to see if they wish to continue as members.

Controlled Vocabularies:

Linda Humphries reported that her predecessor had defined a project to inventory all controlled vocabularies used in European Governments with a goal of encouraging reuse and possible amalgamations. Funding was not received so the project was not initiated.

Collaboration and Standardization among levels of Government

A general discussion proceeded in Spanish and then in English. It was agreed that good examples in one government may be adopted by others. But an overall coordinated approach is difficult.