

Metadata Evaluation and Preservation Policies in a EU Consortium of European Research Open Repository

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Problem Specification

Problem Description

The French academic libraries and archives are joining a European consortium.

Motivation

Enable European research materials to be fully retrievable and accessible in an international open access repository.

Goal

The French academic libraries and archives become fully compliant with the *policies* and *procedures* of the consortium and make its *infrastructure* available to all partners.

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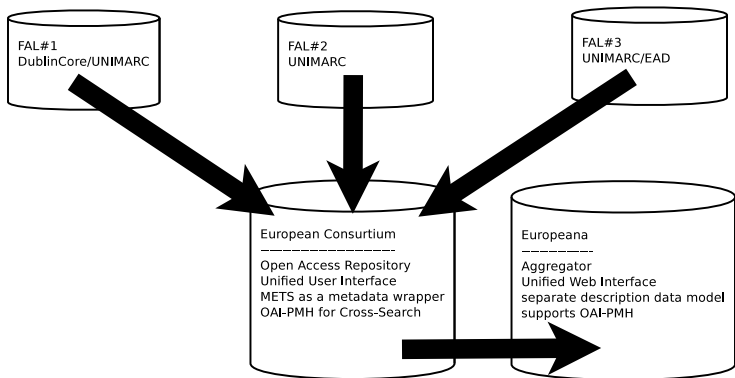
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Our Goal

"one picture is worth a thousand words"



Metadata Evaluation

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- No less than... certain mandatory fields.
- Exploit design patterns that enhance interoperability, eg., adapters, wrappers, proxies.
- Emphasize on provenance, validation.
- Empower bi-, tri-lingual search methods. For example, Unesco material and metadata available in many languages.
- Adhere to profiling policies, eg., language, interests.

Organizational Aspects

- International Open Access Repository
- A unifying user-friendly interface hides technical details.
- DLs are responsible for their own material.
- The consortium undertakes preservation and curation.
- DLs should frequently update the repository and commit all recent changes.
- Cost policy: a fee model ensures organization independence and high quality services.
- In return provides technical support, resources, software, ...
- An appointed coordinator serves as a representative of France to the consortium.

Quality

We assess quality at different levels:

Compliance with the standards.

Provenance content origin, how the material was derived.

Availability accessibility through time.

Functionality efficient search methods, exploiting contemporary technology for representation/encoding.

Preservation separates the pros from the amateurs (OAIS).

Interoperability with remote DLs.

Copyright Licences, Patents.

Technical Details

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Requirements

The consortium is going to adopt OAI-PMH for cross-search and METS standard metadata wrapper.

Another parameter...

Libraries and archives are also participating in Europeana, which uses OAI-PMH to harvest records, but has its own data model.

French Academic Libraries and Archives Policy

Regarding Metadata and Preservation

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In a nutshell:

- DLs stores metadata and content locally.
- UNIMARC and DublinCore.
- Certain mandatory fields.
- EU Commision directives concerning licensing.

The European consortium assumes all preservation and conservation procedures!

Metadata Encoding and Transmission Standard

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METS

A schema for encoding descriptive, administrative, and structural metadata regarding objects within a DL.

METS framework enhances policy interoperability at two levels:

Schema level supports the encoding of the metadata schema, crosswalks, application profiles and element registries.

Repository level supports cross-collection searching on harvested components from various sources, and packaging for interactions with DLs.

Protocol Metadata Harvesting

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OAI-PMH

An application-independent interoperability framework for metadata sharing and exchange.

An overview of OAI-PMH:

- A lightweight protocol for metadata harvesting.
- Ideal for agreement based approaches.
- A conspicuous interoperability approach in the domain.

Technical Details

OAI-PMH operates at three different levels:

Organizational The *provider* exposes metadata records and other information on its service.

Semantic The *provider* and the *consumer* share a common understanding of the protocol model. It includes:

- 1 Information on the service.
- 2 The available metadata formats.
- 3 The groups of items offered.
- 4 The records offered.
- 5 The identifiers of the records offered.

Technical The *provider* exposes metadata records and service related information through HTTP and according to a XML serialisation that complies with a metadata schema.

Assessment

Implementation Cost

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The *Provider* Side

- 1 Implementation of the six verbs of the protocol: Identify, ListMetadataFormats, ListSets, ListRecords, ListIdentifiers, GetRecord.
- 2 Production of metadata compliant with Dublin Core.

The *Consumer* Side

- 1 The client side of the six verbs of the protocol.
- 2 Processing the gathered information.

Conclusions

Enthralled by the power of art

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- The users are the major beneficiaries of our scheme.
- Enable user collaboration in a large scale.
- Instant access to numerous DLs through rigorous methods.
- Interoperation amid geographically dispersed DLs.

Questions?

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