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Paving the way for Interoperability in Digital Libraries: The DL.org project

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Abstract: While Digital Libraries are working towards making universally accessible collections of human knowledge a reality, considerable advances are needed in Digital Libraries methodologies and technologies to make this happen. Achieving interoperability between Digital Libraries is a crucial requirement for reaching this goal.

Interoperability is a multi-layered and context-specific concept. It encompasses different levels along a multidimensional spectrum ranging from organisational to technological aspects. Addressing the interoperability challenges is the prime goal of the DL.org project. DL.org is advancing the state of the art in this area, and is proposing solutions for interoperability in addition to best practices and shared standards, bringing together knowledge from the DELOS project and expertise of Digital Library stakeholders. To achieve its objectives, the project is looking at the DELOS Digital Library Reference Model and investigating interoperability from the viewpoint of the six fundamental Digital Library concepts: Content, User, Functionality, Quality, Policy, and Architecture.

Our paper describes the results of DL.org research, and how the project is addressing the interoperability challenge from the perspectives of the six domains. Relevant Digital Library interoperability aspects will be described, from conceptualisation at a high organisational level to instantiation at process level, and modelling techniques for representing and enabling interoperability between heterogeneous digital library mediation approaches, methods, and systems. By pursuing the interoperability goal, DL.org is paving the way forward for embedding new research achievements into real-world systems, and is supporting the advancement of research and the creation of a European Information Space for the knowledge-based economy.

Keywords: Digital Libraries, Interoperability, Delos Digital Library Reference Model, Content, User, Functionality, Quality, Policy, Architecture

Policy and Quality Interoperability of Digital Libraries: an organisational perspective

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Abstract: Interoperability is a property referring to the ability of diverse systems and organisations to work together. Today interoperability is considered a key step to move from isolated digital archives and digital libraries towards a common information space that allow users to browse through different resources within a single integrated environment.

Approaches to policy and quality within digital information system are often ad hoc and based on a single institution focus. They frequently fail to take into consideration the interoperability requirements needed to allow digital repositories to cooperate and to exchange their digital objects. Here we propose an organisational perspective to policy and quality interoperability, and present an overview of how the EU-funded DL.org (<http://www.dlorg.eu/>) and international experts are investigating a shared policy and quality framework between diverse digital libraries.

The interim outcomes of this research are described, including how external parties may also benefit from the findings.

DL.org is identifying interoperability issues preventing digital libraries from working together and addressing the most immediate challenges to interoperability.

Keywords: DL.org, Interoperability, Digital Libraries, Digital Archives, Policy, Quality, Information Systems Modelling