

Position Statements from the DL.org Community

DL.org would like to thank participants for their views and perspectives emerging from presentations and interactive debates at our events. All these views are collected here in this document.



Position Statements from participants at the DL.org Workshop on Digital Libraries & Open Access. Interoperability – February 2011 in London, UK.

Librarian, UK

"I thoroughly enjoyed the workshop."

Assistant Librarian, India

"I would like to thank and congratulate to the DL.org staff for the efforts in organising such an important and useful event on Digital Libraries. Many experts shared their technological experience on digital libraries in the workshop. Thanks to all the experts for sharing their expertise in the workshop and through documents. The Reference model and Cookbook are excellent tools for all the people associated in the field of digital library. These tools will be useful for both digital library developers as well as Digital Library System/software developers. Almost all the DL areas are covered in these tools. The workshop was very useful and covered most of the aspects of Digital Library development."

Systems Analyst, Latvia

“Very useful information for institutions that consider OAR implementation, especially SONEX Workgroup results. Useful information about existing Open Access projects and programs as well as success stories. The Reference Model is a potential Open Access system standard.”

Chief Technology Officer at national health institute, Italy

“Very productive workshop, great opportunity for networking.”

Director of IT department at academic institution, Latvia

“The seminar provided in-depth perspectives of current and future Open Access developments. The Reference Model is a very good foundation for DL development.”

Student, Latvia

“Wonderful and inspiring event, useful documents. Probably the most useful part of the event was some in-depth information how the ideas of Reference Model can be applied in real life.”

Repository Manager, Latvia

“All presentations were very useful and I gained a lot of information which could be used when creating the Open Access repository at my institution.”

Librarian, Spain

“Interesting meeting and careful organisation.”

Repository Manager, UK

“Excellent workshop.”

Researcher, Czech Republic

“Thank you for organising such an interesting workshop. I liked the workshop organisation, presentations were really interesting and the discussion was quite nice. Lunch was extraordinary as well as the service. Maybe a few more examples of usage might be introduced, but that is the decision of the presenters.”

Chief Librarian, Italy

“The meeting was interesting. I suggest for the future meetings to accept theoretical papers (models, standardisation etc) and papers on the state of art of the evolution of the Digital Libraries in the world with some interesting samples on metadata standardisation, interoperability and other similar topic. This part was less focused during this event but may be very important in order to put the theory into practice. Also the role of Libraries in building, disseminating, maintaining and preserving knowledge should be better explored.”

Position Statements from participants at the DL.org Workshop on Theory and Practice in Digital Libraries: A European Approach – December 2010 in Athens, Greece

Librarian, Bank of Greece

“A pure scientific, compact and comprehensive workshop. I really liked the interactive nature of the seminar, as most of the presentations led to fruitful discussions on interesting topics e.g. “What is Digital a Library” or “Education on Digital Libraries”. These sessions underlined the need for future educational activities for DLs and also the importance of DL in collecting, preserving and disseminating cultural heritage among different countries of Europe.”

Librarian, TEI Piraeus

“In future I would like to see more tutorials and educating videos about DL, as I believe this would motivate and inspire DL students. Copyright versus Open Access, issues related to organisational aspects such as government or institutional support, financial coverage and continuous education of librarians are some of the hot topics that I would like to see in future workshop agendas. Finally, cross-country collaboration of Librarians and organisations within Europe is very important in building the “know - how” and exchanging knowledge and ideas.”

Librarian Public Central European of Eleftheroupolis

“Very interesting presentations, as they focused on the state of the art in the DL domain. I hope to see more similar collaborative workshops in future, which bring together different organisations of the DL community.”

Computer Scientist BSc, Department of Informatics and Telecommunications, University of Athen

“I would prefer a more detailed analysis of the technical part. Thank you for letting me to participate.”

Librarian, School of Philosophy, Department of Linguistics, University of Athens

“A remarkable workshop! I’ve also attended the workshop of EuropeanaLocal (Athens October 2010) and really liked the connection between these events. As a Librarian, I express the need for more events of this kind, as I find them really useful important for our continuous education process. Interesting talks presented by competent speakers, with different backgrounds from Technical focused to more Conceptual/Organisational oriented.”

Librarian, MSc, Music Library of Greece Lilian Voudouri

“Interesting and compact presentation of the DL.org project and its parts. The real time demo session was extremely useful. Excellent presentation the educational role of the DL Reference Model and its usage as a guidance in future DL and Repositories applications. The one-day workshop was perfectly organised.”

Librarian National School of Public Health

"This workshop gave me the opportunity to see in real time how the theory and concepts which I've been studying as a Librarian, are implemented in practice. Especially for people who have finished their studies, but still didn't have the chance to practice their profession, such workshops provide them the opportunity to remain up-to-date. Thank you!"

Librarian, Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation

"Congratulations! Thank you very much for the wonderful organisation and constructive presentations."

Librarian, MSc

"Very useful event, not many opportunities to discuss about these things."

Librarian

"It was not only an event but an interactive seminar, where you had the opportunity to learn more than expected. The educational aspect should be further strengthened."

Position Statements from participants at the 2nd DL.org Workshop on Making Digital Libraries Interoperable -September 2010 in Glasgow, Scotland

Pablo de Castro – Carlos III University Madrid, Spain

"Interesting discussion on linked data! Suggested ORE-OAI would be worth taking a look at as precedent specification for digital object linking (and particularly research datasets). If this standard was widely-enough implemented, it might make up for a good starting point for further work. Great workshop! Looking forward to having future opportunities for co-operation with DL.org from the Sonex Workgroup! Thank you!"

Geneva Henry – Rice University, U.S.

"The discussions throughout the workshop were interesting but sometimes seemed to focus on concepts tangential to the key topic of interoperability. It would be good to continually tie the discussions to the main theme so that the workshop is more coherent."

Perla Innocenti – University of Glasgow, UK

On Digital Libraries and Linked Data Session

"I think it is useful that we address linked data from a digital library perspective, in particular regarding the ever increasing importance of Unique Resource Identifiers (URIs) and the implications for their reference and accessibility; the formalisms that will inform a new generic metadata-driven structure and interfaces for linked data; responsibilities and validation in a web-centric environment; the possibilities opened by e.g. the open annotation framework and memento for persistent web centric annotations and analysis of time series referencing a single URI; and finally sustainability of linked data."

Sarantos Kapidakis – Ionian University, Greece

“Interoperability has many aspects, the data and controlled vocabularies interoperability is attached with linked-data. Linked-data is crucial for all next generation Digital Libraries. There is a debate on simplicity vs. functionality and linked data serves the functionality perspective. The linking is not simple, as the context has to be considered.”

Jonathan Leidig – Virginia Tech, U.S

“The work in functionality descriptions should be leveraged to produce a collection/repository/registry of DL functions for developer discovery and reuse. The topic of linked data internal and external to a Digital Library is worth perusing in the community.”

Lukasz Mesek – Jagiellonian University, Poland

“The issue of linked data should be discussed in the context of practical solutions. It would be useful to try to apply the linked data model to some of existing and working digital libraries and find out how the model works in reality.”

Edwin Montoya – EAFIT University, Colombia

*“Discussions about the relation between interoperability and lack of standards!
What about standardisation in Digital Libraries?
How to build best practices in Digital libraries in order to apply those?”*

Stephanie Parker – Trust-IT Services, UK

“Many of the challenges around Linked Data are context specific and thus hard to define. Linked Data is both a friend and foe of data provenance with the risk of losing it on the one hand but also with the potential to start to describe it on the other. There are a number of horizontal challenges also at play here that are not just related to Linked Data: access, authority and ownership, search and search filtering, and the evolution of schema across distributed resources in the future. Horizontal actions addressing these issues might prove to be a valuable asset. Some important next steps are defining different types of data, investigating areas such as modelling data and ontologies, as well as the role of standards groups (e.g. W3C and Dublin Core) coupled with use cases, policy and roadmaps for broader uptake. It will be interesting to see how this field evolves in general and the digital library and repository space in particular.”

Giuseppina Vullo – University of Glasgow, UK

“I really trust the feedback Digital Library research community can have from the community of practice to face the interoperability challenges. As for the linked data issue, I think Digital Libraries can benefit from the advances of Semantic Web without forgetting the active role of users and society and the values implicit in open access to information.”

Position Statements from participants at the 1st DL.org Workshop on Digital Libraries: Interoperability, Best Practices & Modeling Foundations - October 2009, Corfu, Greece

Geneva Henry, Rice University, U.S.

- *The 6 domains need to define their interdependencies and impacts to the other domains. They cannot be researched and developed as silos in the framework.*
- *Need to meet with groups who have already done significant work on information systems frameworks. The e-framework has invested significant resources in this. DL.org can both borrow from this work and contribute to it to develop a rich interoperable framework that will support interoperability with more than just digital libraries.*
- *What about mass digitization? Is that effort being considered in the DL.org activities?*
- *Preservation and sustainability are other factors that are critical. Where do these fit in the proposed framework?*
- *User interoperability is really a need to define user/use case scenarios that feed into functional interoperability.*

Paolo Manghi – National Research Council of Italy

Separation between “generic framework” (any IS) and specific instantiations in the DL world for that frameworks.

Maarten Steenhuis – Leiden University Libraries (Netherlands)

- *Extend Reference Model Architecture with explicit layers that permit Content Modeling, Quality Modeling, and Policy Modeling.*
- *Build dynamics (creation, scenarios) into the Reference Model.*
- *Focus on relevance for interoperability.*

Ronald Larsen – University of Pittsburgh, School of Information Sciences (U.S.)

Good Workshop! Well done!

1. *Consider whether Leigh Star’s concept of “boundary object” may have a role in understanding issues of interoperability.*
2. *Peter Brusilovsky’s work on adaptive user modeling may also inform the development of the user modeling component.*
3. *A challenge-based framework along the lines of TREC may draw in other participants as well as communicate what we are trying to accomplish to a broader community.*
4. *The CFP is out for the 2010 iConference at UIUC. It would be good to engage the iSchools in the DL.org discussion, and the iConference provides a near term opportunity to do so.*

Rike Brecht

One of the results of the project is a DL Technology and Methodology Cookbook. The consortium should have in mind 2 things:

*Who should use the Cookbook? What kind of requirements do they have? → User of the Cookbook
Discussing about patterns and scenarios consortium should try to find out what are the common, recurring issues faced when developing DLs? → Content of Cookbook.*

Stefan Gradmann – Humbolt University (Germany)

Suggestions:

- *Produce a DL.org primer document for the non-initiated (e.g. librarians).*
- *Develop on DL-specific issues a new version of the Reference Architecture document*

Radoslav Pavlov (representative – Desislava Paneva-Marinova) – Institute of Mathematics and Informatics at Bas (Bulgaria)

Very interesting and useful session!

Suggestion: To be organized training session/tutorial or online e-learning/training on DL interoperability, Best Practices and DL Foundations in front of DL developers, DL end-users, administrators or other actors in order to be appreciated the project approach or to be promoted. We are interested of a participation in such forum. Please contact us (dessi@cc.bas.bg, radko@cc.bas.bg).

Julie Verleyen – Europeana (Netherlands)

Keep going and especially in the following direction: develop guidelines, “cookbook” (you name it) that would support someone asking himself/herself the relevant questions to develop/maintain solutions meeting certain interoperability requirements. The WGs’ documents would combine the right level of abstraction + use (uses, examples etc.) that would allow that someone to easily make analogies with his/her needs and that would avoid him/her not to miss anything important to reach interoperability.

One remark: interoperability regarding policies seemed the less easy to grasp.

Ghislain Sillaume – CVCE

- *Seems to be similarities between the work being conducted here and the objectives of Web Science initiative (but applied to DL rather the Web):*
 - Need to cooperate with other disciplines.*
 - Need to deal with a very complex and evolving information system.*
 - Need to engineer things and evaluating impact.*
 - Commons interests like identity, trustability, privacy...*
- *May be useful to involve User Experience Specialist (mean psychologists). There are already publications from their side that exist about DL.*

Giuseppina Vullo – University of Glasgow (UK)

Freedom of information

Integration of competences

Open Information spaces

Equality

Participation

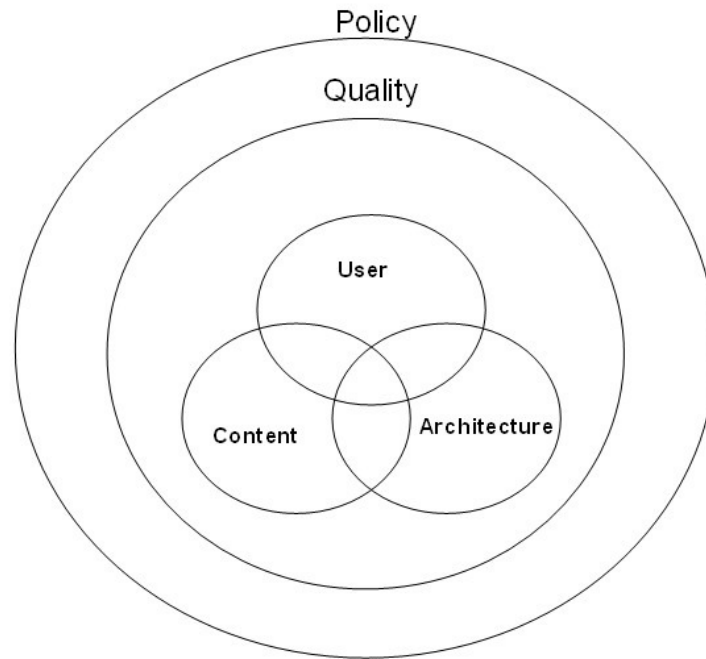
Exchange

I think these ethic values are behind the focus of the success of the charm of interoperability and the success of this workshop.

Petr Sojka – Masaryk University, Faculty of Informatics (Czech Republic)

We will soon need “instantiation” of DL Reference Model in the EUDML- European Digital Mathematical Library (EU Project) starting in 2/2010. It should serve as “pilot B” project to make existing DML’s interoperable (<http://dml.cz/>, <http://www.numdam.org/>, Polish, Spanish ...) petr.sojka@gmail.com
(In other words, I offer EUDML being an instantiation of DELOS)

Sarantos Kapidakis – Ionian University (Greece)



Functionality is the result of the combination of the other 5 issues, the one that we are mostly interested in achieving.

A different subject:

Possible roles for Librarians on the Reference Model:

Collection development (acquisitions) - Cataloguing Librarian - Classification Librarian - Reference Librarian - Reporting (statistics) Librarian

Dagobert Soergel – University of Buffalo (U.S.)

Determine overlap between WGs:

- *Functionality with Content: interoperability of functions with data, interoperability of functions based on data, detailed descriptions of functions that deal specifically with digital objects: ingest, format conversion, display of complex objects, annotation*
- *Functionality with Architecture: Software Component, component profile. Function and software component description has two parts: (1) Description of what the function does for whom as related to DL services and behind-the-scenes operation (Functionality WG) (2) API, how software modules work together, composition, syntax of such descriptions etc., Web services specification (Architecture WG). (1) and (2) together make a complete description / specification / profile.*

- *Functionality with User: (1) User requirements as related to function description (2) Detailed description of functions relating to users, such as authentication and user profile creation*
- *We may want to encourage all working groups to keep a log of quality parameters and policy problems as they encounter them.*

The Quality WG needs to cover quality at a higher level as it relates to services to users.

The cookbook should have a section for assessing the quality of a DL. In the future it would be useful to have toolkit for assessing DL quality (an expansion, in a way, of the DRAMBORA toolkit for assessing the preservation function) perhaps a follow-on project.

At least one person mentioned to me that a database of detailed function descriptions would be incredibly useful to designers, especially if it includes design patterns (user interface oriented) and software components (implementation oriented). There are many places where content for such a database is already available, it is a matter of making all of this available in on place.

Geneva Henry mentioned that we should look at the JISC eFramework and build on what they have done.

Schubert Foo – Nanyang Technological University (Singapore)

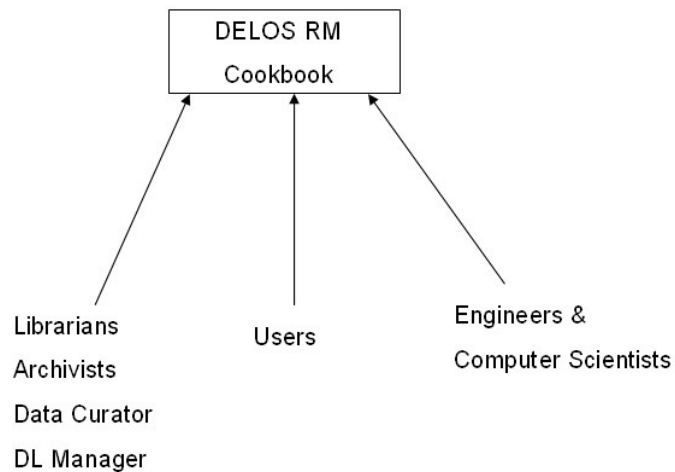
1. *Good work from all working groups. Congratulations. Due to the autonomous nature of each group, there is a need for communication to arrive at a “final” level of abstraction and interoperability guidelines formulation.*
2. *Some form of formal description of DL is useful as part of the outcome as DLs are conceived differently. The formal description will help identify areas of interoperability in between DLs.*
3. *The interoperability definition appears to be different among groups which makes item 1 more difficult to achieve. The Quality WG seems to have the highest challenge to define their boundaries/ parameters/criteria for defining their guidelines.*
4. *Useful to include Librarians but they might not be involved with all the areas. Some librarians (more specifically trained / inspired) can handle the whole Reference Model. I would expect the newer generation of librarians be equipped with digital librarians’ skills/knowledge.*
5. *I will give more feedback when I have the time to review the WGs’ documents.*

Oddrun Pauline Ohren – Norwegian Archive, Library and Museum Authority (Norway)

First I think the DL Reference Model (DLRM) is a great initiative and has come a far way to create a conceptualization for the DL domain. However, it is not perfect and is also “uneven” in the sense that the detailing and decomposition in the various domains are done very differently. QP WG has pointed out some important QP but has not really said much about the QP model itself. E.g. QP may be assigned to any object on any level of a DL. How should they be aggregated e.g. how will a QP value of a single object influence a QP value of the collection of which it is a part and the whole DL? At which component level should QP be assigned? Policies might be expressed with rules/constraints or goals, for which formal and/or modelling languages do exist.

QP WG suggested including the organisational context in the model. Is it also sensible to include environment as a general concept, modelling the society with its authorities. The rules and regulations will greatly influence the policies of the DL.

Perla Innocenti – University of Glasgow (UK)



Position Statements from participants at the DL.org Autumn School – October 2010, Athens, Greece



Librarian & Digital Reproduction Service

"The expertise of the speakers is what impressed me most. I take home general knowledge about the requirements needed."

Librarian

"I take away with me a method, a complete list of points to take in count, some sites or applications on which I'd like to find more information after the School."

DL Designer

"I most liked the user interactive study approach of Prof. Yannis Ioannidis. I take away with me the systematisation of DL research."

Software Developer

"I really liked the extensive and thorough presentation of all aspects of Digital Libraries, Digital Library Systems and Digital Library Management Systems. I take back with me new know-how on the DL.org Reference Model and the Cookbook."

Software Developer

"Perfect organisation, good lecturers, interesting topics, and team working exercises are the best things about the Autumn School. I take away some best practices about DLs and interoperability."

Software Developer

"Meeting nice people, the social dinner, and an informative well-structured series of lectures are what I liked best. A better understanding of DL interoperability issues and some general knowledge of the DL.org Reference Model is what I am taking away with me."

Librarian

"I liked the part of the practical hands-on exercises, as well as the part where various researchers presented the steps that they are undertaking such as the DRIVER project. The Autumn School was very helpful in understanding matters that are related to the implementation of a digital library, especially the ones that are related with the matter of interoperability."

Librarian

"Collaboration by working on problem solving solutions, the participation of the speakers during the lessons and presentations scenarios based on real-life cases is what I liked best. Additional practices solutions and best methods in order to organize or reorganize digital libraries and repositories is what I am taking away with me."

Technology Coordinator

"The organisation into the various fundamental "domains", how they have been treated and explained to us, so as to understand the essential importance and role of each of them to achieve interoperability is what I liked best. Useful theoretical as well as practical references to promote some Digital Libraries ideas for future projects in the Organisation is what I am take back with me."