

1st Face to Face Meeting, DL.org Policy Working Group 1-2 July 2009, Tirrenia, Italy

DL.org - Interoperability, Best Practices and Modelling Foundations

The first face to face DL.org Policy Working Group Meeting was held on the 1st and 2nd July 2009 in Tirrenia, Italia.

This successful meeting brought together the following Policy Working Group¹ participants: Kevin Ashley (University of London Computer Centre), John Faundeen (US Geological Survey), Perla Innocenti (HATII at the University of Glasgow and Working Group Leader), Steve Knight (National Library of New Zealand), Hans Pfeiffenberger Alfred Wegener Institute, Seamus Ross (Faculty of Information at the University of Toronto), Mackenzie Smith (MIT Libraries). Giuseppina Vullo (HATII at the University of Glasgow) also joined the meeting in the quality of DL.org Quality Working Group Leader.



Figure 1 Participants of the DL.org Policy and Quality Working Groups, in front of Keith Haring's mural at the Convent of S. Antonio, Pisa

¹ [https://workinggroups.wiki.dlorg.eu/index.php/Policy Working Group](https://workinggroups.wiki.dlorg.eu/index.php/Policy_Working_Group)

The goals of the meeting were to exchange experiences and best practices on digital libraries interoperability and policy issues, with particular reference to the DELOS Reference Model, and to develop recommendations to be addressed during the first DL.org workshop at ECDL2009. During the two days, presentations alternated with brainstorming sessions on scheduled discussion points.

The first day was opened by project coordinator, Donatella Castelli, with an overview of DL.org goals, activities, expected outputs and engaged communities. Perla Innocenti followed up presenting in details the Policy Working Group outline, tasks, outputs and contributions, workplan and initial discussion points on interoperability and policy issues.

The Working Group activities then moved on with presentation and discussions lead by each of the participants, who actively intervened sharing their experiences and examples of best practices. Steve Knight commented on the definition and **classification of policy** in relation to the **DELOS Reference Model** and to other exemplar projects. Hans Pfeiffenberger gave insight into the interconnections of **policy and quality**, with particular attention to the **Open Access** domain. John Faundeen on the other hand, lead discussion on **policy management** and **applicability** within the US Geological Survey organisation.

Kevin Ashley and Mackenzie Smith lead discussion on **policy management**, focussing on different types of Service Level Agreements of European and American organisations, and on a particularly useful analysis of the policies identified within the **PLEDGE** project. These policies were mapped against the policies currently indicated in the **DELOS Reference Model**. During this activity, it was noted that the contextual information is not indicated in the Reference Model, because its edges are drawn at the systems themselves and the users running the systems, rather than at the organisations.

Throughout the meeting Seamus Ross ensured that ongoing group discussions to were closely related to the **DELOS Reference Model**, and areas where improved understanding would facilitate the design of better-informed and more effective strategies to support interoperable policies in digital libraries. The debate continued throughout the Policy Working Group social dinner, and further exchange of ideas took was possible thanks to the presence of some of the DL.org Quality Working Group participants.

Key outputs of the meeting:

1. Agreement on adopting the DELOS Reference Model as a reference conceptual framework and its revised version of its definition of Policy. The Policy WG however agrees that the policy domain is broader than how it is currently represented in the Reference Model, as policy is conceptually positioned above content, functionality and user. Therefore the Policy WG will focus more on the policy organisational context.
2. Comments and suggestions drafted for improvements to the DELOS Reference Model were proposed for the Policy section.
3. Definition of policy interoperability for DLs as “business level interoperability”, because with a policy framework it is possible to compare and trust values and purposes of each organisation. This type of interoperability is about peer-to-peer interoperability, but also about third-party service providers interoperable policies (i.e. data archives and the policies exchange with cloud providers)
4. Identification of research priorities for policy and interoperability strategies: policy classification; manual vs. automated policies (and in particular how to encode those policies for machine

- discovery, and which languages can be used to represent policies and make them functional, with particular attention to semantic web technologies); policy management (in particular how policies are appraised and enforced); policies evolution over time; interconnectedness of policy and quality.
5. Identification of relevant policy domains outside the traditional DLs domain (i.e. the W3C Policy Working Group, policies from the medical domain and the Open Access initiative).
 6. Agreement on producing brief descriptive user scenarios to support the collection and definition of best practices for the use of policies and interoperability in the DL domain, which will also be the basis for the Policy session at the DL.org workshop within ECDL2009.
 7. Initial suggestions made for a standard terminology vocabulary for policy interoperability to take place.

Steve Knight was declared Scientific Coordinator of the Group, and the following actions points were planned:

1. Workplan to be developed for creating the user scenarios on policy and interoperability for the Policy session at the DL.org workshop within ECDL2009.
2. Feedback to be collated on the Interoperability State of the Art Survey.
3. Finalisation of the Working Group Charter.

Policy WG wiki: https://workinggroups.wiki.dlorg.eu/index.php/Policy_Working_Group