
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Eva Méndez is an Assistant Professor in the Librarianship and Information Science Department of University Carlos III of Madrid, where she has been teaching and researching since March 1997. She holds a PhD (cum laude) in Information Science from the same university. She is a member of the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI) Advisory Board. Her research focuses on semantic web technologies applied to digital information systems and services, mainly all kinds of metadata standards and other vocabularies implied. Besides DCMI, she has served as Programme Committee Member of different conferences and workshops all around the world, especially in Latin American countries, where she has also undertaken several consultancy activities and projects. She was a Fulbright-EU Research Scholar at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill during the academic year 2005–2006.

Thomas Baker has worked since May 2005 in Goettingen State and University Library, before which he was Project Leader at the Birlinghoven Library of Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft in Bonn (Germany). He holds an MLS from Rutgers University and a PhD in Anthropology from Stanford University, and he taught for two years at the Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok. As a partner in the EU-funded projects SCHEMAS and CORES, an activity lead in the DELOS Network of Excellence, and founding head of the Usage Board of the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative, he is interested in the development of open standards for metadata and related registry infrastructures and has recently been appointed DCMI Director of Specifications and Documentation by the DCMI Board of Trustees.

This special issue of the *International Journal of Metadata, Semantics and Ontologies* features papers presented at the 2005 International Conference on Dublin Core and Metadata Applications (DC-2005) held in September 2005 at the University Carlos III in Madrid, Spain. The DC-2005 conference took place on the tenth anniversary of the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative, a grassroots workshop series, which since 1995 has evolved into a networked maintenance agency and global community of metadata implementers. DC-2005 was the 13th in a series of workshops that started in 1995 and fifth in a series of full conferences (Tokyo, 2001; Florence, 2002; Seattle, 2003; Shanghai, 2004).

In these, now 11 years, the Dublin Core has grown from a rough draft into an international standard (ISO 15836-2003) and a suite of related usage specifications. In a decade that has seen the rise of Yahoo, the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), and Google, the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI) qualifies as something of a veteran. From the outset, DCMI has focused on the idea that if interoperability is elusive at high levels of granularity and detail, it can be more practical to aim at achieving a workable interoperability through sharing

generic, core semantics. As we pointed out before, this simple idea allowed Dublin Core to become a standard ‘by seduction’.

What the DCMI is now and what it will be in the future is owing to the experience of the community that makes it up and their enthusiasm and commitment to improve the management and retrieval of digital resources for the benefit of all who comprise the great family, diverse and beyond definition, of the World Wide Web. DC-2005 and the papers presented there were the same spirit as the DCMI itself:

- *International.* Professionals and interested people from more than 40 countries in the five inhabited continents. Besides, the Dublin Core is translated and used in more than 25 different languages.
- *Independent.* The conference, like the DCMI, is not dependent on any commercial, governmental or even academic initiative, although all are invited and many have contributed. The papers included in this special issue are a sign of the variety of those different communities.

- *Global and multidisciplinary.* All sectors of the information management world are invited, from creators of scientific repositories to corporate intranet managers and from business models and publishers to those working in education or electronic administration.
- *Open.* Anyone can participate, present their work, their products, their ideas and their opinions, join working groups or simply attend and share with the community who develop and work with, not only DC but, at the same time, other metadata vocabularies and standards.

Making these ideas realisable in practice has been the continual focus of effort as a diversity of platforms and implementation technologies has emerged in the context of the web. The theme of DC-2005, Metadata Vocabularies in Practice, addressed itself to related standards-developing activities in this surrounding context: the e-learning community around the IEEE-LOM standard; users of Networked Knowledge Organisation Systems (NKOS); creators and implementers of taxonomies for corporate intranets; promoters of guidelines and standards for making the contents of web resources more accessible to users of varying abilities and developers of W3C standards for the semantic web.

This issue of the IJMSO features a cross-section of the 14 full papers and 22 short papers presented in Madrid.

In keeping with the theme of the conference, three of the papers focus on developing, using and linking descriptive vocabularies. The paper, 'Toward core subject vocabularies for community-oriented subject gateways', by Wonsook Lee and Shigeo Sugimoto, discusses lessons learned in the design of web portals usable by ordinary people to find information about their communities; the authors emphasise the importance of constraining subject vocabularies to a small core of topics, both for the sake simplicity and to contain development costs.

In 'Managing resource relationships with vocabularies: a case study', Martin Kurth, Greg Nehler and Rick Silterra describe a digital library of Kinematic Models for Design (KMODDL) in which supplementary materials are explicitly linked to a primary resource using a controlled taxonomy of relationships.

In 'Semantic interoperability based on Dublin Core hierarchical one-to-one mappings', Tolosana Calasanz et al. use generic Dublin Core semantics as a target for one-to-one mappings from a diversity of resources – in some cases converting complex metadata formats into an intermediate 'core' form before mapping to Dublin Core.

Five of the papers draw general lessons from implementation experience. In 'Orchestrating metadata enhancement services: introducing Lenny', Jon Phipps,

Diane Hillmann and Gordon Paynter describe an emerging landscape of distributed metadata-transformation services that must be harmoniously 'orchestrated' (in the manner of a conductor) in order to integrate a diversity of formats into a central metadata repository.

The paper, 'Dublin Core and museum information: metadata as cultural heritage data', by Liddy Neville and Sophie Lissonnet, puts into historical context early efforts to create complex-but-interoperable metadata for museum resources and describes the problems encountered. The more recent experience of building a virtual museum of indigenous culture in Australia underlines the advances made since then in semantic web technologies that support rich extensibility while retaining a basis for interoperability.

The authors of 'Retrieval of Italian legal literature: a case of semantic search using legal vocabulary' Enrico Francesconi and Ginevra Peruginelli describe the use of Dublin Core as a common basis for integrating access to structured legal databases with access to web documents in a portal to Italian legal doctrine developed by the Institute of Theory and Techniques of Legal Information (ITTIG) of the National Research Council of Italy.

The paper, 'Coding semantics of handwritten annotation', by Marcel Götz, describes how graphic annotations of digital documents – circles, underlining, symbols in the margin and the like – can be stored with an object in the form of scalable vector graphics and how metadata can capture the relationship between annotations and objects of reference.

In 'Accessibility via metadata in a semantic-web-driven content management system', Rocio García-Robles, Álvaro Cabrerizo, Juan Antonio Prieto, Fernando Díaz del Río and Antón Civit survey recent efforts to standardise the means by which the information content of web resources can be made accessible to people who may be impaired, even temporarily, from experiencing web content in its primary form. The authors argue that the integration of accessibility guidelines from the World Wide Web Consortium and IMS Global Learning Consortium into content management systems promotes the reusability of resources.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank Maks Dekkers, Managing Director of DCMI, for his help and support in organising DC-2005, all the members of the Programme Committee for their time and generosity in reviewing papers, the colleagues of the University Carlos III of Madrid for their help and professionalism in all the logistical arrangements of the event and of course the authors of the works you now hold in your hands for printing in their papers the spirit of the conference and accepting to share them with the IJMSO.