Dear DCMI Members

Since the Annual DCMI Conference in Lisbon this fall, I, as your newly elected Chair of the Oversight Committee, have been working with Eric Childress (OC Chair-Elect), DCMI's Managing Director (Stuart Sutton), the new Chair and Chair-elect of the Advisory Board (Marcia Zeng and Joseph Busch) and the co-Chairs of the Usage Board (Tom Baker and Kai Eckert), to further refine and define a new governance structure for DCMI. The changes are based on the outcomes of discussions at the annual Advisory Board and Oversight Committee meetings.

The primary objective of this change in structure is to move the ownership and responsibility for DCMI's work and direction into the hands of the organization's members, concurrent with a reduced role for the Directorate. This is an opportunity for us to shift the locus of decision-making and policy-setting more efficiently and effectively to our active membership with the Directorate moving to a more ministerial/administrative role.

You can see the high-level depictions of the recommendations we have come up with for structure and reporting at [1] -- these have been reviewed and approved in principle by the Oversight Committee (now renamed the Governing Board).

The highlights of the changes include:
1) Renaming the Oversight Committee to the Governing Board, to recognize the increased responsibility the Board is taking on as the Directorate steps back into a supporting role with reduced funding. This name change makes the role of the board more explicit as the primary decision making body for the organization.
2) Creating a Technical Board (which will include the former Usage Board as a standing committee) to reflect the importance of the technical work done by DCMI to the organization, and increasing scope to include all the technical activities in one place. This body will have an expanded role and a voice in the governance structure through a seat on the newly formed Executive Committee.
3) Formalizing the new structure of the Advisory Board, pursuant to the election of a Chair (Marcia Zeng) and Chair-elect (Joseph Busch) shortly after the 2013 Annual Conference, and in 2014 establishing standing committees to take on many of the community-based tasks formerly being managed by the Directorate.
4) Establishing an Executive Committee comprised of the officers of the three primary governing bodies in the new organization (the Governing Board, the Advisory Board, and the Technical Board; with the Managing Director and CIO as Ex-Officio members), which will provide overall guidance to the Initiative, with specific decisions subject to the approval and input of the appropriate Board(s). The purpose of this committee is to allow routine decisions to be made without full convening of the respective Boards, but the Executive Committee in no way undermines the authority of the Boards, since key decisions are ultimately subject to approval by the appropriate Board(s).
5) Formalizing standing committees under each Board, and providing an ongoing mechanism for electing officers for the committees through policy and procedures (which are in very draft form for your review and discussion at the wiki pages linked from [1]).
6) One of these committees in particular should be called out for your attention. A new Standing Committee reporting to the Technical Board-- the Community Specifications Committee—was created to provide a home for the community generated application profiles that may not conform to the requirements for long-term maintenance by DCMI (i.e., approval by the Usage

Board). This Committee is meant to address the long-standing problem of what to do with these community specifications, and formalize a lighter weight approval process while recognizing that they have a different purpose than the Core DCMI term sets yet are of high value to the members and others using DCMI work products.

All of these changes will require further elaboration through changes in the bylaws and the policies and procedures supporting the bylaws in the coming months. As part of this process, Marcia Zeng, as the newly elected chair of the Advisory Board, and Tom Baker, as the interim chair of the Technical Board, are working with the membership in each of the respective Boards (in the case of the Technical Board, the current Usage Board members have been asked to help in this task) to discuss these changes in more detail, and refine the structure, charters, policies and procedures associated with the new Boards and committees. We hope that you will participate actively in this discussion, and contribute your insights and ideas to help make this new structure one that will carry DCMI forward into its next phase.

Thanks for your support and guidance as we go through this important change in the nature of DCMI. We hope that the outcome will be a stronger, more community-driven organization, which can continue to contribute in meaningful ways to the international body of knowledge and practice in metadata.

[1] http://wiki.dublincore.org/index.php/DCMI_Handbook/orgStructure
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Michael Crandall
Chair, DCMI Governing Board (formerly Oversight Committee)