Dear DCMI Advisory and Usage Board members,

Since our meeting in Lisbon this fall, Eric and I, as your newly elected Chair-elect and Chair of the Oversight Committee, have been working with Stuart Sutton and 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 the new governance structure of DCMI based on our conversations at the AB and OC 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, reflecting the reduced role the Directorate will have in the future.

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 named the Governing Board).

The highlights of the changes include:
1) Renaming the Oversight Committee to the Governing Board, to recognize the increased responsibility it is taking on as the Directorate steps back into a supporting role with reduced funding. This is in line with the comments that were raised in the OC meeting in Lisbon, and 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. This body will have an expanded role and a voice in the governance structure through a seat on the newly formed Executive Committee.
3) Creating a new Standing Committee reporting to the Technical Board-- the Community Specifications Committee-- 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.
3) Formalizing the new structure of the Advisory Board with the election of Chair (Marcia Zeng) and Chair-elect (Joseph Busch), and 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), which will provide overall guidance to the Directorate, with the approval and input of the three Boards in their discussions. The purpose of this committee is to allow routine decisions to be made without full convening of the respective Boards, but in no way removes the authority of those Boards, since all decisions must be vetted by their members—the presumption is that the officers of the Boards will maintain communication with each group and make sure that any decisions taken have full approval and knowledge of the respective Board at all times.
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 draft form for your review and discussion at [1]).

All of these changes will require further elaboration through changes in the bylaws and policies and procedures to support the bylaws in the coming months, which we are working on now through the Executive Committee.

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, will be following up with membership in each of the respective Boards (in the case of the Technical Board, the current Usage Board members will be 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)