Proposal for a Joint DCMI/IEEE LTSC Taskforce

The taskforce will produce a joint DCMI/IEEE specification with the working title

"Recommendation for using IEEE LOM Elements in Dublin Core Metadata"

Scope of the recommendation

This activity will develop a recommended representation of the metadata elements of the IEEE Learning Object Metadata Standard in the Dublin Core Abstract Model. The recommendation will include the specification of a number of terms, including properties, syntax encoding schemes, vocabulary encoding schemes as well as vocabularies, that may be used for expressing metadata conforming to the IEEE LOM Standard in Dublin Core metadata. The recommendation will also include the specification of namespaces to use for the terms, as well as a basic application profile describing how to combine the specified terms in a way that is compatible with the structural constraints of the IEEE LOM Standard.

Purpose of the recommendation

There is an increasing demand for interoperable definition of metadata terms which allows the terms to be used in different kinds of combinations. The IEEE LOM and Dublin Core metadata standards are suffering from a lack of interoperability, making it unnecessarily difficult to use metadata elements from both standards in a single application profile. This activity will approach part of this situation by producing a recommendation for using IEEE LOM and Dublin Core term in combination in Dublin Core applications. This represents a partial and short-term solution to the overall issue, which will still be of great value in the short to medium to implementers that are struggling with these metadata interoperability issues. The recommendation will also be of great value in the longer-term process of trying to align the abstract models of IEEE LOM and Dublin Core, as it will provide an analysis of fundamental incompatibilites between the two models.

Publication

The intention is to publish the recommendation as both an IEEE "Recommended Practice" and a DCMI "Recommendation". The details of the formal process necessary to achieve that are still to be worked out in detail. However, the following are high priorities for the publication process:

• Consensus within both IEEE LTSC community and the DCMI community

• Both communities will be able to contribute to the production of a draft recommendation

• Both communities will be able to participate in the commenting/balloting process

• Comments from both communities will be shared between the communities

• Comments from both communities will be considered and resolved by the taskforce.

• The DCMI and the IEEE LTSC will each have the right to veto the final publication of the joint standard. Thus, if one of the organizations do not agree to the publication of the standards, the publication will be stopped in the other organization.

Taskforce structure

The taskforce will consist of members of both DC-Education and IEEE LTSC. The taskforce will interact with the DCMI through the DC Education working group. It is expected that there will also be an IEEE LTSC working group handling the formal aspects of the IEEE process. In the process of formalizing the PAR for the IEEE LTSC working group, an interim IEEE LTSC study group will be set up. However, the work will be carried out within the joint taskforce. The LTSC and the DCMI will need to recognize this joint taskforce as the locus for the work on the recommendation.

Membership in IEEE LTSC will *not* be mandatory, and the mailing list will be open to anyone. It is expected that taskforce documents will be referenced both from the IEEE LTSC web site[1] and the DC Education working group web site[2], regardless of where they are actually hosted.

The initial technical editors will include

- Mikael Nilsson

- Andy Powell

- Pete Johnston

The taskforce will be lead by Mikael Nilsson and Jon Mason.

Resources (in progress)

Starting points for the working group will be the following set of documents:

Nilsson, M., Palmér, M., Brase, J. (2003), *The LOM RDF Binding - Principles and Implementation*, Proceedings of the Third Annual ARIADNE conference. *http://kmr.nada.kth.se/papers/SemanticWeb/LOMRDFBinding-ARIADNE.pdf*

Nilsson, M. (ed.), Draft IEEE Learning Object Metadata RDF binding. *http://kmr.nada.kth.se/el/ims/md-lomrdf.html*

RDF binding of LOM metadata, *http://kmr.nada.kth.se/el/ims/metadata.html*

Action Items

- Within a few weeks: setup Wiki, web site, mailing list

- A first analysis of LOM in terms of a DCAM mapping (Oct. 20)

- Scope/purpose, roadmap of the taskforce to be ratified by LTSC and DCMI (Oct 20)

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1 http://www.ieeeltsc.org
2 http://dublincore.org/groups/education