

# International Conference on Dublin Core and Metadata Applications

DCMI address:  
Introduction to DC-2008

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## ☼ A bit of history of Dublin Core

- The idea originated in October 1994 at a brainstorm during the 2<sup>nd</sup> WWW Conference in Chicago
- The first formal meeting was in March 1995, NCSA/OCLC workshop in Dublin, Ohio
- Early contributors agreed there was a need for a metadata “core”: a small, common set of metadata elements to describe Web content
- The focus was on discovery of information, as one of the applications where metadata would be needed
- This was, of course, before search engines took care of indexing the Web (Altavista was launched in December 1995)



## ☼ Where is Dublin Core used?

- Initial idea for simple description mechanism to help discovery of information on the open Web has been overtaken by success of search engines (high quantity)
- Use shifted to more controlled environments, e.g. digital collections, e-Print repositories, company intranets, eGovernment programs (high quality requirements)
- Sometimes used as basic description approach (e.g. where no description format existed)
- Sometimes used as exchange format for aggregation of resource descriptions in different formats



## ☼ How is Dublin Core used?

- As a list of commonly (more-or-less) understood descriptors, encoded in HTML tags or in XML records, useful for aggregating resource descriptions between known partners
- A more semantic approach using RDF/XML allowing wider interoperability in the context of the Semantic Web
- Trend towards more sophistication, away from embedded HTML tags towards semantic approaches



## ☼ Cross-domain interoperability

- Dublin Core aims to meet general, cross-domain interoperability requirements
- Specific requirements can be met by extending the base specifications, e.g. adding semantic units and specific relationships
- Work underway to define various levels of interoperability:
  - level 1: using shared vocabulary
  - level 2: using RDF encoding
  - level 3: based on DCMI Abstract Model
  - level 4: based on Description Set Profile (under development)



## ☼ Three dimensions of understanding

- **Shared basic semantics** (metadata elements, vocabularies) to understand, combine, deduct
- **Shared model** to describe relationships between pieces of information (documents, multimedia, events, people, topics, dates, places)
- **Specific content-level agreements** for deeper understanding of specific usage in a domain or application, without sacrificing interoperability with others



## ☼ ... like a language

- Small vocabulary (like a pidgin)
  - Need for shared words to be able to talk about objects and concepts
- Basic grammar
  - Need for rules to be able to make sentences to say something about objects, concepts and their relationships
- Jargons, styles and idioms
  - Communities (e.g. experts) may have specific ways of expressing themselves



## ... in DCMI terminology

- DCMI Metadata Terms
  - defining the properties (“words”) that can be used to speak about resources
- DCMI Abstract Model
  - defining the way (“grammar”) in which descriptive statements are built from properties and values
- Dublin Core Application Profiles
  - defining how specific agreements (“jargons”) can be described and published so others can use them too





## ☼ Standardization

- The set of initial 15 elements (the Dublin Core Metadata Element Set) was proposed as international standard
  - Internet Draft RFC2413, 1998
  - European endorsement as a CEN Workshop Agreement, CWA 13874-2000
  - US NISO Standard Z39.85-2001
  - ISO international standard 15836-2003
- Updated versions:
  - Internet Draft RFC5013, 2007
  - Revision US NISO Standard Z39.85-2007
  - Revision ISO standard 15836-2008 (in process)



## ☼ Available documentation

- Dublin Core Metadata Element Set (legacy)
- DCMI Metadata Terms (extended set of semantic units)
- DCMI Abstract Model
- Singapore Framework for DC Application Profiles
- Encoding Guidelines for (X)HTML, XML and RDF/XML
- Schemas: XML and RDF
- Guidance materials: “Using Dublin Core”, tutorials
- List of Dublin Core-related tools
- Translations (18 languages), glossary, bibliography
- Conference paper repository

## ☼ Availability of results

- DCMI results (documentation, specifications, guidelines) are freely available at no cost
- No restrictions for use (e.g. commercial use allowed)
- No royalties for including Dublin Core metadata in products
- The only requirement is acknowledging DCMI as source of documents and schemas



## ☼ Workshops and Conferences

- 1995-2000, eight invitational workshops:
  - (1995) **Dublin**, Ohio, US; (1996) **Warwick**, UK; **Dublin**, Ohio, US; (1997) **Canberra**, Australia; **Helsinki**, Finland; (1998) **Washington DC**, US; (1999) **Frankfurt**, Germany; (2000) **Ottawa**, Canada
- From 2001, International Conference on Dublin Core and Metadata Applications:
  - (2001) **Tokyo**, Japan; (2002) **Florence**, Italy; (2003) **Seattle**, US; (2004) **Shanghai**, China; (2005) **Madrid**, Spain; (2006) **Manzanillo**, Mexico; (2007) **Singapore**



# ☼ The Dublin Core Metadata Initiative

## Mission:

- The Dublin Core Metadata Initiative provides simple standards to facilitate the finding, sharing and management of information
- DCMI does this by:
  - **Developing** and **maintaining** international **standards** for describing resources
  - **Supporting** a worldwide **community** of users and developers
  - **Promoting** widespread **use** of Dublin Core solutions



# ☼ The Dublin Core Metadata Initiative

## Characteristics

- ***Independent***: not controlled by specific commercial or other interests, not biased towards specific domains, does not mandate specific technical solutions
- ***International***: encourages participation from organizations anywhere in the world, respecting linguistic and cultural differences
- ***Influenceable***: open organization aiming at building consensus among the participating organizations; no prerequisites for participation



# ☼ The Dublin Core Metadata Initiative

- Governance:
  - Board of Trustees: strategic and financial oversight
  - Directorate: executive, day-to-day management
  - Advisory Board: technical and operational advice
  - Usage Board: maintenance and review of proposals
- Work structure
  - DCMI Architecture Forum: technical implementation issues
  - DCMI Communities: platforms for specific domains or interests
  - DCMI Tasks Groups: working on specific projects
- Voluntary effort from many organizations and individuals around the world



# ☼ The Dublin Core Metadata Initiative

- Affiliates:

- National Library of Finland
- JISC (Joint Information Systems Committee), UK
- National Library Board Singapore
- National Library/National Archives/State Services Commission, New Zealand
- National Library of Korea

- Partners:

- Platinum Partner: Infocom Corporation, Japan
- Gold Partner: Fondazione Rinascimento Digitale, Italy

- Sponsors:

- The British Library and Siderean Software support the DCMI/RDA Task Group





## ☼ DC-2008: how does it work?

- Four tracks:
  - Tutorials on Monday
  - Conference: Tuesday through Thursday (morning plenaries and afternoon parallel sessions)
  - Workshop: Tuesday through Thursday (afternoon parallel sessions)
  - Seminars on Friday

## ☼ Tutorial track

Separate track on Monday 22 September

- Dublin Core History and Basics
  - Jane Greenberg
- Dublin Core Key Concepts
  - Pete Johnston
- Dublin Core and Other Metadata Schemas
  - Mikael Nilsson
- Dublin Core in Practice: Implementation issues
  - Marcia Zeng

## ☼ Conference track

Tuesday through Thursday (plenary and parallel)

- Program Chairs:
  - **Jane Greenberg** (Francis Carroll McColl Term Professor and Director, SILS Metadata Research Center, School of Information and Library Science, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA)
  - **Wolfgang Klas** (Professor, Institute for Distributed and Multimedia Systems at the University of Vienna, Austria)
- Program Committee:
  - 53 experts from 19 countries
- Program:
  - 12 plenary papers, 8 project reports and 12 posters



# Program content

*~ a word about the submissions*

## Papers

1. Dublin Core: Innovation and Moving Forward
2. Semantic Integration, Linking, and KOS Methods
3. Metadata Generation: Methods, Profiles, and Models
4. Metadata Quality
5. Tagging and Metadata for Social Networking

## Reports

1. Toward the Semantic Web
2. Metadata Scheme Design, Application, and Use
3. Vocabulary Integration and Interoperability

## Posters

Research and development

## Keynotes

Tuesday:

- **Kurt Mehlhorn**, Max Planck Society, Germany
- **Jennifer Trant**, Archives & Museum Informatics, Canada

Wednesday

- **Ute Schwens**, German National Library

Thursday

- **Paul Miller**, Talis, UK

## ☼ Workshop track

Afternoon sessions Tuesday through Thursday

- 17 Workshop sessions
  - **DCMI Architecture Forum**
    - One introductory session, one working meeting (both open!)
  - **DCMI Communities**
    - Libraries, Social Tagging, Identifiers, Tools, Scholarly Communications, Knowledge Management, Registry, Localization & Internationalization, Accessibility
  - **DCMI Task Groups**
    - Education, Government, DCMI/RDA, DCMI/IEEE
  - **Special sessions**
    - NKOS, Metadata for Scientific Datasets

## ☼ Workshop “rules”

- Workshop sessions are open to all conference participants, everybody is welcome!
- Workshop chairs should give short introduction on the relevant issues and outline objectives of the meeting
- Some sessions have pre-arranged presenters, e.g. introducing discussion items or reporting on work relevant for the group
- Active participation of the audience is encouraged (although not mandatory...)
- Meetings are conducted in English, but don't be afraid to ask for clarifications if things are unclear!

## ☼ Seminar track

Separate track on Friday 26 September

- User-Generated Metadata
  - Karen Coyle, Jochen Topf, Andreas Hotho
- Using the Text Encoding Initiative for Documenting Describing Documents
  - Laurent Romary, Lou Burnard, Werner Wegstein
- PREMIS Metadata Tutorial
  - Markus Enders, Olaf Brandt
- Ontology Design and Interoperability
  - Sam Oh



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DCMI address:  
Have a good conference!

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