PREMIS Editorial Committee Conference Call Notes
2 April 2009

<u>In attendance:</u> Priscilla Caplan, Angela Dappert, Angela di Iorio, Rebecca Guenther, Sally Vermaaten, Yair Brama, Rob Wolfe, Bill Leonard (notes).

Regrets: Olaf Brandt, Markus Enders, Brian Lavoie

<u>Introduction of New Members</u>
The new members Angela di Iorio and Yair Brama introduced themselves and their institution's involvement with digital preservation. Sally Vermaaten the intern at OCLC introduced herself and outlined her keen interest in digital preservation.

<u>PREMIS conformance</u>
Priscilla recounted the history of the issue of conformance: the current statements in the statements in the Data Dictionary were modelled on those in OAIS. During the time of revision of the Data Dictionary in 2007 and 2008 a more detailed examination of conformance was deferred. Prompted by a question from the National Library of New Zealand which has recently implemented the Ex Libris system, Rosetta, the PEC may wish to revisit the issue of conformance. NLNZ is looking for a baseline from which to perform audits. Priscilla reminded PEC that she spent two days with Ex Libris staff examining the data elements used within Rosetta.
The question of an audit process was raised. It could take the form of a checklist and/or a self-audit list as is used for Drambora (Digital Repository Audit Method Based on Risk Assessment).

Concerns: who would perform audits; how formal an audit process is needed; would audits lead to certification of some sort? Would a checklist suffice, or would it be part of a multi-stage formal process?
Conformance is only an issue in exchange of data.
A tool to test exchange data, such as the METS validator would not be implementation-neutral, unless it was promoted as a tool for a recommended best practice, e.g. for use with PREMIS in METS.

Angela pointed out that the British Library has learned there are some gaps and ambiguous areas within the Data Dictionary which would inhibit the strictness of a test for conformance. PEC may wish to address these areas before we addressing the question of conformance. On the other hand, the process of developing a checklist would help to elucidate the areas of ambiguity.

Some aspects of conformance were identified:

- being sure the application of semantic units is consistent with the Data Dictionary;
- applying the data model consistently with the DD;
- how much of the data model is implemented, i.e. some or all of the entities;
- how do we measure gradations of conformance, e.g. when portions of the data model are used, or only a selection of semantic units for a particular entity are used, or when semantic units from other schema are used as equivalent replacements for PREMIS semantic units.

It was proposed that a "do it yourself" checklist be developed. Consideration for development of a validation tool will be given in the future.

ACTION: Brian, Priscilla and Rebecca will meet to discuss a proposal for proceeding.   (possibility of developing a checklist; re-visiting the current statements in the Data Dictionary)

Update from Rob on the METS board comments on PREMIS schema changes
The METS board suggests that PREMIS adopt mdRef and mdWrap within PREMIS extensions. This would impact the schema and the Data Dictionary. Rebecca will discuss the schema change issue with the schema sub-group. Angela will send a draft of wording changes in the Data Dictionary Introduction.

The METS board received feedback on the attributes MDTYPE and OTHERMDTYPE. The board is asking whether the PEC is interested in taking the lead of finding an alternative solution which could be submitted as a proposal to the METS board.

Rob will forward background messages.

Update from Angela on Significant Properties
The Inspec project is coming to an end.

Planets has written a paper on significant characteristics which was distributed earlier. Angela highlighted three areas of concern:
1. Significant characteristics can be considered as widely-applicable business rules and as such they could be a primary entity in the data model rather than subordinate to the object. This could also be a path to simplification.

2. Angela also described a new entity type "component."
3. Elements attached to environment and/or object are also a concern. Environment could be considered as a primary entity with its own identifier.

Priscilla noted that these are areas where PREMIS conflicts with Planets and questioned how we should proceed. It was suggested that a subgroup of Planets and PREMIS could continue the discussion. Angela and Priscilla will discuss this offline.

Rebecca noted there are tie-ins to the question of conformance.

Angela noted that the Planets group intends to align the various data models used by its participants.
Angela has also asked Planets to invite a PEC advisor to participate.

Topics for Future Discussion
Priscilla would like to discuss TIPR in a meeting soon.

Angela will forward some questions from the National Library of Singapore to the PEC list.

Next Call
May 7, 2009
  9:00 Eastern US and Canada
14:00 UK
15:00 Europe
16:00 Israel