August 11, 2011 Mets Board Teleconference

Attending: Nancy Hoebelheinrich, Terry Catapano, Markus Enders, Richard Gartner, Thomas Habing, Jukka Kervinen, Betsy McKelvey (recording), Sébastien Peyrard, Leah Prescott, Jenn Riley, Brian Tingle, Robin Wendler

## Announcements related to the Board

* Changes in responsibilities
  + Sébastien Peyrard has agreed to be liaison to the Premis Board
  + Leah Prescott has agreed to be the documentation editor for the METS Board
* Resignation
  + Patrick Yott has resigned due to the nature and responsibilities of his new job at Northeastern
  + Discussing filling Patrick’s seat will be postponed to a later meeting.

**Approval of Admin Co-Chair Change**

The Board approved Nancy Hoebelheinrich’s proposal that Betsy McKelvey take on the role of Adminstrative Co-Chair for the Board. Nancy will work closely with Betsy and Tom Habing during the transition.

**Logistical Planning for Board Meeting at DLF Forum**

The 2011 DLF Forum will be held on October 31–November 2, 2011, in Baltimore, Maryland at the Hyatt Regency. The METS Board meeting, open to the public, will be held immediately after the forum over a period of two days:

* Wednesday, November 2
  + Gather at 1:30
  + Meeting 2-5
* Thursday, November 3
  + 8:30 Continental Breakfast
  + 9-12 meeting

Details:

* The room will be set up for 25 people
* The agenda, when ready, will be posted on the public wiki
* We will use Ready Talk and its share-a-screen function for remote attendees.

Action items

* Ensure that Board Meeting is in DLF Program (Betsy and Jenn mention to Rachel)
* Post announcement on DLF mailing list
* Get a count of Board members who are able to attend
* Tom will take a stab at the Re-imagining METS portion of the agenda

**METS Next Generation**

The Board engaged in a wide-ranging conversation about the approach(es) it could take to support the future development of METS. The future development of METS was discussed in detail in the Board’s February 2011 white paper, *Reimagining METS*. The conversation will continue in our next conference call and at the face-to-face meeting at DLF.

At this point, there is not consensus that pursuing a METS 2.0 standard is the next step. Understanding the demand for a 2.0 version is critical; the need for a significantly reframed METS using formal data models hasn’t been clearly articulated at this point.

The Board will step back and focus on the existing METS 1.x. After a thoughtful conversation, three approaches were identified. Each approach will have a separate page on the Board’s [private wiki discussion page](https://www.socialtext.net/p-mets-board/mets_2_0_sandbox) and members will self-nominate to work on one of three areas:

1. Formal Vocabulary

Define a formal vocabulary for existing METS. Express/extract the latent vocabulary, assign a URI to each concept (e.g. file) and define it.

1. Endorsed Profile(s)

Create an endorsed profile(s) for maximum interoperability.

* We need a good definition of interoperability.
* See paper by Syd Bauman on the difference between interchange (attainable) and interoperability (cautious about ability to attain).
* Possible to resolve some ambiguities on a profile basis . . . and perhaps this resolution shouldn’t actually happen at the model level.
* Re-imagining “what METS means” may not be result in one standard, but a complementary set of practices.
* More tightly intertwine METS schema and profiles.
* Take into account what people are doing in uncontrolled USE attributes

1. Data Model

Expression of METS entities and relationships

* Formal data modeling on METS 1.x
* We should extract ourselves from xml and go to a higher level of abstraction, but keep it real and not put practitioners off.
* Currently we are using elements for different purposes in slightly different ways.
* Goal should not just be data model, but what we are trying to solve with the data model: making it easier for people to do their jobs.
* Tension between desire for a data model that someone could take in serialize in ways other than xml vs. confusion and library practitioners wanting one thing rather than multiple serializations.