September 20, 2011 Mets Board Teleconference

Attending: Nancy Hoebelheinrich, Terry Catapano, Markus Enders, Thomas Habing, Betsy McKelvey (recording), Sébastien Peyrard, Jenn Riley, Tobias Steinke, Brian Tingle

## Fall 2011 DLF Forum/METS Board Meeting Reminder (Betsy)

## Registration for the Fall Forum is now open

## The METS Board face-to-face meeting is a post-conference event and is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Dates and time are as follows:

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

**Proposed Teleconference Schedule (Betsy)**

**All calls at 11 am EST**

* Thursday, December 1
* Thursday, January 5
* Thursday, February 9
  + Note: Sunday, March 11 (Daylight Savings Time Begins U.S.)
  + Note: Sunday, March 25 (Daylight Savings Time Begins Europe)
* Thursday, March 29 (7 weeks after Feb 9.)
* Thursday, May 3
* Thursday, June 14

The call that would have happened March 22nd is delayed until March 29 (7 week interval) when both the U.S. and Europe will be on DST.

**Filling Vacant Board Seat**

We will put out a call to fill the board seat. The application deadline will be set for sometime after the face-to-face Board meeting at the DLF Forum.

**Stylesheet for METS 2.0 Profile**

* Tom noted that the newer [Registered METS Profiles](http://www.loc.gov/standards/mets/mets-profiles.html) on the LC site are linked to raw xml without a style sheet.
* It is possible that a style sheet was never developed.
* Jenn looked at this over a year ago, can’t remember the details, but will send Tom what she has.
* Tom will review what Jenn sends, see what needs to be done and take this on in time for the DLF meeting. He will test against all the 2.0 registered profiles.

**Report on RAMLET work (Nancy)**

### Background

[RAMLET](https://mentor.ieee.org/ramlet/bp/StartPage) is an initiative of the IEEE Learning Technology Standards committee. Work began in 2005 or 2006. Its goal was to create a language to translate one aggregation format into another (e.g. METS to [ORE](http://www.openarchives.org/ore/1.0/datamodel)).

The effort resulted in an ontology. (See <https://mentor.ieee.org/ramlet> for more information and access to the ontology files).  An overview and a set of use cases are also available from this site.

### RAMLET Process

The RAMLET group went through each aggregation format and came up with a set of classes/sub-classes/properties (in the RDF sense) that express each and all of those aggregation formats.

### Description

RAMLET is very centered in the actual aggregation formats, not an abstract ontology. (It is abstracted from the aggregation formats, but it is very grounded in what people are actually doing from the point of view of the schemas themselves.)

### Two Items for the Board to Consider:

#### RAMLET and Data Model Work

If we want to pursue discussions about a data model for METS, one approach would be to look at RAMLET Core and the mapping to METS. See what this tells us about different classes that could express a model for METS.

#### Balloting

Balloting will be open for a period of 30 days sometime this fall. To participate in the ballot, one must pay to join IEEE or the standards committee itself by OCTOBER 14. Nancy is looking for someone to go through the ballot process, look through what’s been done and make comments that the RAMLET group can react to.

To review RAMLET: Look at RAMLET Core. In RAMLET Core there are mappings to each aggregation format. So, it’s possible to look at a METS mapping against the Core ontology and see how it applies to the elements and attributes in METS and to see how they’re structured.

Possible Agenda Items for Fall Board Meeting at DLF

There was a wide-ranging discussion about directions for METS and the agenda for the face-to-face meeting.

The TOP PRIORITIES are as follows:

* STEP 1: Build consensus around what we want to do as a Board
* STEP 2: Put together a plan to achieve this

We could start with 5-10 minute lightning talks: “This is what METS needs to worry about”

Facilitated brainstorming exercise: good things about METS vs. bad things about METS. To some extent the White Paper does this . . . but we still need one hour focused on figuring out what we’re trying to do with METS (Tom facilitates?)

If multiple directions, then form sub-groups

#### Additional agenda items:

Several more agenda items were discussed. Many of them focused on data modeling. We are not convinced data modeling is a path we want to pursue. With respect to data modeling, we need to ask: How many users are we serving? Is it a valuable thing to do? Data modeling is one of three approaches we discussed in an earlier meeting: (1) formal vocabulary, (2) endorsed profile, and (3) data model.

* Compare standards – what do others do better? What can METS do that others can’t?
* RAMLET work

The RAMLET work could inform a data model for METS that is part of the re-imagining METS work. Nancy will present RAMLET work in more detail at the face-to-face Board meeting. She will add links to the agenda ahead of time and write up some background information.

* Schema Change Requests?

We’re not aware of any

* Visitors Lightning Talks - -Put out a call in advance for visitors to give time-constrained talks on what they are doing with METS.
* Data Model

Have someone come up with different ways of expressing what a data model would be. Take an example, express in UML, as an rdf binding and an xml binding.

* Extended Relational Analysis

* Database approach

Take METS and map it into a relational database. BNF has done this and Sébastien can send some information and/or post on Board wiki.

* Provide context for METS and data modeling
  + Review Jerry McDonough’s paper on mapping METS to ORE
  + Tom and Tim Cole’s work on mapping METS to ORE
* Use cases: access and technical – these need to be developed if our intent is to pursue a 2.0 METS