**Timeline of Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI)**

* **1995 (March):** An invitational meeting hosted by the Ohio College Library Center (OCLC) and the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA) takes place in Dublin, Ohio. This meeting is the genesis of the Dublin Core Metadata Element Set, initially consisting of fifteen terms for describing web content. This event is considered the first Dublin Core workshop (DC-1). Stuart Weibel is a key figure at this initial meeting.
* **Late 1996:** A metadata interoperability workshop is held near Bonn, Germany. At this workshop, Judith Plümer reports on work in Osnabrück where a group is using Dublin Core metadata for a digital library of mathematical preprints. This is noted as the first instance Stuart Weibel encountered people using Dublin Core who were not directly involved in its creation, demonstrating its early adoption. Roland Schwänzl is also mentioned as being involved in this work. The acronym DCMI (Dublin Core Metadata Initiative) comes into use around this time.
* **~1997:** The second Dublin Core workshop (DC-2) is held in Warwick, UK. Renato Iannella and Warwick Cathro attend this workshop and become enthusiastic about expanding the geographic scope of the effort. No elements have been added to the core set since this workshop.
* **~1997/1998:** The fourth Dublin Core workshop (DC-4) is hosted by the National Library of Australia in Canberra. This workshop aims to broaden the geographic scope of the initiative. Discussions lead to the emergence of "Canberra qualifiers" (element refinements) and the "dumb-down principle." The "one to one principle" is also discussed. This workshop results in the first adoption of Dublin Core as a national information standard in Australia. Ken Marko sponsors the workshop T-shirts.
* **Before September 1998:** Working groups are established as an outcome of the workshops, tasked with specific objectives and sunset provisions. The evolution of a data model proves to be a particularly contentious objective, leading to changes in name from "Data Model group" to "Architecture group" and "data model" to "abstract model."
* **Before September 1998:** Bill Arms of the Coalition for National Research Initiatives (CNRI) arranges a meeting with Jim Miller and Dan Connolly of the W3C and Stuart Weibel to discuss the idea of an open community working group for a generalized platform for formalized semantics (metadata), which would become the Resource Description Framework (RDF). This marks the beginning of DCMI's close relationship with the Semantic Web.
* **1998 (September):** RFC 2413, "Dublin Core Metadata for Resource Discovery," detailing the original 15-element vocabulary, is published by the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF).
* **~1999:** The fifth Dublin Core workshop (DC-5) is hosted by Juha Hakala at the National Library of Finland in Helsinki. RDF is a hot topic of discussion, with some participants eager for its potential and others skeptical. The element set remains the original fifteen, but element qualifiers are in use. The workshop concludes with a group sing-along.
* **1999:** The first DC application profile is created for the Victorian Department of Education in Australia with the help of Stuart Weibel. This profile extends the core set by two properties: audience and extent.
* **~1999/2000:** The sixth Dublin Core workshop (DC-6), also referred to as DC:DC, is held at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. Representatives from the INDECS project attend and express concerns. Tensions exist between the consensus-driven approach of DC and the deductive approach of INDECS. Disagreements also arise regarding the adoption of RDF as the preferred encoding syntax, with practitioners preferring simpler encodings like HTML meta-tags. The conference dinner is held at the Smithsonian's 'castle' and features a sand mandala creation and another workshop sing-along. Diann Rusch-Feja and Godfrey Rust of the INDECS project are involved in organizing the sing-along.
* **2000:** A formal voting procedure is implemented due to instability in consensus regarding qualifiers. This marks an inflection point in DCMI's development, introducing a more structured process. Qualified Dublin Core is officially issued.
* **2001:** The Dublin Core Metadata Element Set is published as ANSI/NISO Z39.85 in the United States. The /terms/ namespace is created for identifying new terms coined outside the original fifteen-element set, and the /dcmitype/ namespace is created for the DCMI Type Vocabulary.
* **2003:** ISO 15836 is first published, standardizing the original fifteen elements of the Dublin Core Metadata Element Set.
* **2004:** Roland Schwänzl, an enthusiastic DCMI contributor since encountering Dublin Core in 1996, passes away.
* **2007:** RFC 2413 is updated as RFC 5013 by the IETF. ISO 15836 is revised as ISO 15836-1:2017.
* **2008:** Dublin Core Metadata Initiative Terms are published in RDF, redefining the set as an RDF vocabulary. The original fifteen elements are mirrored in the /terms/ namespace, and the /dcam/ namespace is created for terms used in the description of DCMI metadata terms. The Singapore Framework for Dublin Core Application Profiles is developed by Mikael Nilsson, Tom Baker, and Pete Johnston.
* **2009:** Stuart Weibel's personal history of the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative, covering events up to this point, is published. Around this time, Stuart Weibel's direct involvement in the management of DCMI begins to decline. Makx Dekkers and Tom Baker are enlisted as members of the DCMI Directorate. DCMI's formal link with OCLC is amicably severed, and DCMI is established as a limited liability company under the National Library of Singapore, reflecting its operational independence.
* **2010:** ISO/IEC 19788-1, "Metadata for Learning Resources, Part 1: Framework," is published. This standard incorporates DCMI practices for the definition of terms.
* **2013:** Liddy Nevile publishes a paper on the emerging ISO/IEC 19788 standard for Metadata for Learning Resources, highlighting the adoption of DCMI specifications. Gilles Gautier is noted for his private communications regarding the MLR's approach to data element names.
* **2019:** ISO 15836-2:2019 is published, containing the most useful properties and classes from DCMI Metadata Terms. DCMI holds its annual conference in Seoul.
* **2020:** DCMI Metadata Terms are issued as a DCMI Recommendation on January 20th. The DCMI annual conference is held virtually due to global circumstances.
* **2021:** The DCMI annual conference is held virtually.
* **2022:** Papers in dcpapers.dublincore.org will begin to be assigned DOIs. The DCMI annual conference is hosted by DCMI.
* **2023:** The DCMI annual conference is hosted by Kyungpook National University in Daegu.
* **2024:** The DCMI annual conference is hosted by the University of Toronto.
* **2025:** The DCMI annual conference is scheduled to be hosted by the University of Barcelona. DCMI's copyright statement extends to 2025. DCMI is noted as a project of ASIS&T, a U.S. 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

**Cast of Characters**

* **Stuart L. Weibel:** A prominent figure in the history of the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative, particularly in its early stages. He was involved in the initial meeting in Dublin, Ohio in 1995 and played a key role in the development and direction of DCMI, serving as Director. He authored "A Personal History of the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative." His role in the direct management of DCMI began to decline around 2009.
* **Judith Plümer:** Involved in a digital library effort in Osnabrück, Germany, which was an early adopter of Dublin Core metadata for mathematical preprints. Her report on this work in late 1996 was a significant moment for Stuart Weibel, demonstrating the practical application of DC outside the core group.
* **Roland Schwänzl:** Also involved in the Osnabrück digital library effort with Judith Plümer. He became an enthusiastic DCMI contributor until his death in 2004. He was a German mathematician and metadata expert.
* **Renato Iannella:** Attended the Warwick workshop (DC-2) and was enthusiastic about broadening the geographic scope of the Dublin Core effort. He was then of the Distributed Systems Technology Centre in Brisbane, Australia.
* **Warwick Cathro:** Attended the Warwick workshop (DC-2) with Renato Iannella and was enthusiastic about broadening the geographic scope. He was then of the National Library of Australia in Canberra. The National Library of Australia hosted the DC-4 workshop.
* **Erik Jul:** Paraphrased Ranganathan to articulate the "one to one principle" at the Canberra workshop (DC-4).
* **Lynn Marko:** Attended the DC-4 workshop with her husband, Ken.
* **Ken Marko:** Husband of Lynn Marko. He worked for Ford Motor Company at the time of the DC-4 workshop and sponsored several future workshop T-shirts after his luggage was lost and he was given workshop shirts to wear.
* **Bill Arms:** Then of the Coalition for National Research Initiatives (CNRI). He arranged a meeting that helped jumpstart the formulation of the Resource Description Framework (RDF) working group at the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C).
* **Jim Miller:** Then of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). He met with Bill Arms, Dan Connolly, and Stuart Weibel to discuss the idea of an open community working group for a generalized platform for metadata (RDF).
* **Dan Connolly:** Then and still of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). He met with Bill Arms, Jim Miller, and Stuart Weibel to discuss the idea of an open community working group for a generalized platform for metadata (RDF).
* **Tim Berners-Lee:** Credited with originating the notion of the Semantic Web, for which RDF would become a key enabling technology.
* **Eric Miller:** A colleague of Stuart Weibel at OCLC who eventually moved to the W3C and became the Semantic Web Lead, demonstrating the close relationship between DCMI and the Semantic Web.
* **Juha Hakala:** Of the National Library of Finland. He hosted the fifth Dublin Core workshop (DC-5) in Helsinki. He is perhaps playfully associated with a T-shirt listing workshop dates in variant syntaxes.
* **Marshall Rose:** Quoted in the source, although the specific quote provided doesn't reveal much about his role or relationship to DCMI.
* **INDECS project representatives:** Attended the DC-6 workshop in Washington, DC, and felt that the Dublin Core initiative had gotten some things wrong. Their perspective represented a top-down, deductive approach to metadata, contrasting with DCMI's bottom-up, consensus approach.
* **Diann Rusch-Feja:** Involved in the INDECS project. She was a co-conspirator in organizing the workshop sing-along at the DC:DC conference dinner.
* **Godfrey Rust:** Involved in the INDECS project. He was a co-conspirator in organizing the workshop sing-along at the DC:DC conference dinner.
* **Makx Dekkers:** A long-time DC participant who was enlisted as a member of the DCMI Directorate as the need for managerial capacity evolved. He brought strong project managerial skills and experience in European standards.
* **Tom Baker:** An active contributor to DC since the second workshop (DC-2). He has authored many key DCMI documents and papers and was enlisted as a member of the DCMI Directorate. His knowledge of languages and linguistics has been particularly valuable. He was also involved in developing the Singapore Framework.
* **Pat Harris:** Then Director of the National Information Standards Organization (NISO) in the US. She skillfully navigated the challenges of the NISO standardization process for Dublin Core, helping DCMI achieve this important imprimatur.
* **Liddy Nevile:** Author of the paper "DC Metadata is Alive and Well (and has Influenced a New Standard for Education)." She describes the adoption of DCMI specifications into the ISO/IEC 19788 Metadata for Learning Resources standard and created the first DC application profile for the Victorian Department of Education in 1999 with Stuart Weibel's help.
* **Gilles Gautier:** Noted for his private communications regarding the ISO/IEC 19788 standard's approach to linguistically neutral data element identifiers.
* **Mikael Nilsson:** Involved in developing the Singapore Framework for Dublin Core Application Profiles in 2008.
* **Pete Johnston:** Involved in developing the Singapore Framework for Dublin Core Application Profiles in 2008. Also co-authored a document on expressing Dublin Core metadata using XML in 2006.