Oxford Talks- iCalendar Specification for Harvesting

This document outlines the iCalendar (RFC 5545) properties recognized by the Oxford Talks harvester. If you would like Oxford Talks to aggregate talks from your website automatically, then please construct an iCalendar feed following the specification below. We have indicated where our requirements vary slightly from the iCalendar specification – we have more 'required' properties.

An iCalendar (.ics) feed containing one or more Events will equate to an Oxford Talks List, each Event will be an individual Talk within that List:

When your feed is ready, contact [email] with

1.   the full address of your feed e.g.: http://www.dept.ox.ac.uk/seminars/dept.ics
2.   the proposed title of the Oxford Talks list e.g.: 'Department of Study, Wednesday Seminars'

VEVENT

iCalendar Information

Oxford Talks does not make use of these properties but they are required by the iCalendar specification.

dtstamp

iCalendar: Required and must not occur more than once

uid

iCalendar: Required and must not occur more than once

Core Information about the seminar

All of these properties are optional in the iCalendar specifications, but must appear in a **vevent** component destined for Oxford Talks.

summary

The title of the talk.

```
SUMMARY:Learning to localize sound\: implications for recovery from hearing
loss
```

Note: If you cannot use x-oxtalks-speaker (see Other Information below) for the speaker information, add the speaker here.

```
SUMMARY:Learning to localize sound\: implications for recovery from hearing
loss\, Professor Andrew King
```

Oxford Talks: Required
iCalendar: Optional, must not occur more than once

description

A short description of the subject of the talk; any additional and pertinent information (e.g.: seating capacity, booking requirements).

```
DESCRIPTION: Head of Department Seminars Convener\: Dr Deborah Goberdhan.\n
The seminar will be held at 1pm and 1.30pm  in the Sherrington LARGE LECTURE
THEATRE
```

Oxford Talks: Required
iCalendar: Optional,must not occur more than once

dtstart

The start date and time.

The example below is for a lecture beginning at 1pm BST. See the note on time and time zones at the end of this document.

```
DTSTART:20130614T120000Z
```

Oxford Talks: Mandatory, must be accompanied by dtend – a Date-Time value is recommended.
iCalendar: Required, must not occur more than once.

dtend

The end date and time.

The example below is for a lecture ending at 1pm BST. See the note on time and time zones at the end of this document.

```
DTEND:20130614T123000Z
```

Oxford Talks: Required.
iCalendar: Optional, must not occur more than once.

location

The location of the talk.

```
LOCATION:WIMM Seminar Room
```

Oxford Talks: Required
iCalendar: Optional, must not occur more than once

Other Information

These properties are not required but will be harvested by Oxford Talks if you provide them.

x-oxtalks-speaker

The speaker and institution.

The harvester will use the first comma to denote the institution.

```
X-OXTALKS-SPEAKER:Professor Mikael Pittet\, Centre for Systems Biology\,
Massachusetts General Hospital\, Simches Research Center\, Boston\, USA
```

Oxford Talks: Optional. This property may occur more than once, but Oxford Talks will only take the first (see the note on speakers at the end of this document).
iCalendar: Experimental property

Future Proofing

Oxford Talks is not using these properties at the moment but may well use them in the future.

x-oxtalks-organizer

The organizer of the talk.

Oxford Talks doesn't currently have an organizer field. Talks do have an owner, but these must be signed up users of Oxford Talks which makes this a complicated value to harvest. At the moment, therefore, harvested talks are 'owned' in Oxford Talks by the Talks aggregator

We have considered using the iCalendar **organizer** property but that property has a specialized meaning in the context of group scheduled events.

url

The url at which the talk is published (and from where the iCal element gets its data).

Oxford Talks doesn't currently have a separate field for a url, if you would like to supply a link back to your own site then put this in the description field and Oxford Talks will convert it to a hyperlink.

geo

The global position of the talk location.

categories

Tags or keywords categorizing the talk (comma-separated list).

Oxford Talks does not support tagging, although the list model provides an element of categorization.

x-oxtalks-lists

Secondary lists the talk may belong to (comma-separated list).

Each talk belongs to a 'master list' – which must be specified when submitting the .ics feed to us for harvesting. It is possible to add a talk to additional lists.

We could use the iCalendar **categories** property for this, but not all tags will make suitable lists.

x-oxtalks-audience

The proposed audience (comma-separated list).

We aim to align the Oxford Talks data model with What's On section on www.ox.ac.uk, where talks are also categorized by their target audience.

It may be possible to use the iCalendar **categories** property to include audiences as tags or keywords.

date-modified & date-created

These are not currently used by the aggregator, but may be useful for future aggregation.

Notes

Time and Time Zones

It is important (obviously) to have accurate times for talks and it is very easy for errors to arise when transferring time information between systems.

The harvester uses Python pytz and can interpret both local time and Time Zone identifiers. Here are some suggested formats which we know work for a talk beginning at 1pm on June 14 2013:

1. Do not use a Time Zone identifier e.g.: 20130614T130000
2. Provide the time as UTC using the Z identifier e.g.: 20130614T120000Z

Speakers

Currently Oxford Talks has space to record only one speaker per talk. Future development will address this. If you have more than one speaker, then the best solution for the moment is to list both in the description property.

If you add each speaker to a **x-oxtalks-speaker** property then Oxford Talks will take the first and ignore the rest. You might want to do this, nevertheless, to future proof your feed.

We have considered using the iCalendar **attendee** property **attendee;role=x-oxtalks-speaker** but, as for organizer, the property has a specialized use within the context of group scheduling.