Report of the

DCMI Localization And Internationalization Working Group Meeting, 13th September 2005

Seminar Room 4.1.E06 (Torres Quevedo building) Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Spain

Chairs: Karen Rollitt and Shigeo Sugimoto

Session 1

Karen Rollitt and Shigeo Sugimoto gave a general introduction about the WG and its activities.

This was followed by a presentation from Tom Baker, Director of Specifications and Documentation, Dublin Core Metadata Initiative, and who was also the Chair of this Working Group when it was established in 1997.

Tom told us of the many translations of the Dublin Core Metadata Element Set. The availability of translations depends on the willingness of DC metadata experts to provide them. Translations of DC terms also requires ongoing maintenance, for example, keeping up with DC term updates and maintaining parity with the language itself. Validation and / or certification of the translations is highly desirable. The DCMI have identified the role that DCMI Affiliates could take in the maintenance of these translations, however as yet there are not enough affiliates to undertake this work. Also each DCMI affiliate may not necessarily represent a language. The DCMI would like to determine further ways that validation and / or certification could be given to translation.

There may exist various historical translations of a DC terms due to the timing of the translation. A model was developed outlining how translated versions of DCMES could be represented which could be used to generate web pages for DCMES in different languages. Each translated dcterm would point to the version of the term that has been translated. Eg. http://dublincore.org/usage/terms/history/*#subject-002*

The DCMI Registry is the tool used for DCMES translations, which needs to be maintained and updated with authenticated translations. Two scenarios Tom described were that the DC Registry could harvest from the distributed versions of the DC Registry and the DCMI Registry could point to distributed versions of the DC Registry.

Session 2

The second part of the session included presentations from some of the Working Group members including:

- Mike Pluke (European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI). Mike described an eEurope 2005 initiative. A Specialist Task Force at ETSI has been established looking at ways to address the language and cultural barriers when communicating with another person or accessing an information service.
- Pat Leibetrai – (South Africa). Pat talked about the first national collaborative effort of research institutions and archives to create "Digital Imaging South Africa". It will make available resources to support scholarly research. Phase one included scanning journals. She described the use of standardised metadata (e.g. DC and use of XML) and the use of concepts derived from keywords and thesauri for search.
- Karen Rollitt (New Zealand) Karen presented an overview of Dublin Core activities at the National Library of New Zealand including information frameworks and principles, projects - including collaborative projects; development of the DC registry, DCMI affiliation and future work for New Zealand's National Digital Strategy.
- Shigeo Sugiomoto – (Japan) Shigeo presented information on Japanese activities including DC as a National Standard in March 2005 (JIS X 0836), preservation, the National Deposit Office, the National Archives of Japan and the Digital Okayama Dai-Hyakka (DODH) with the development of it subject vocabularies. He also talked about the use of a common layer of interoperability to ensure consistent meaning in the multilingual Internet environment. The ingredients for this include the use of agreed exchange schemas, subject vocabularies, and agreed ontologies.
- Hsueh-hua Chen (Taiwan) Hsueh-hua presented the case study of the National Taiwan University Digital Archives Resource Center and the metadata interchange required for the heterogeneous collections. She told us that the metadata supports over 80 different projects with 7 participating organizations and an integrated searching system. Metadata is converted to simple DC. She also spoke of the National Digital Archive Program, its contribution to world heritage projects and the many types of resources it includes to recreate peoples life's of the past. She also talked of the Digital Archives Union Catalog which uses DC and provides for the exploration and search of digitally archived holdings nation-wide.
- Liddy Nevile (Australia) Liddy spoke of the importance of authenticated metadata in a multilingual environment and also about current search engines making assumptions about a person's language from their location. So for e.g. if using the Internet in Japan, then the Search engine assumes Japanese is the preferred language.
- Praditta Siripan – (Thailand) Praditta's presentation was about the use of Dublin Core in Thailand, its translation and its promotion for digital collections in Thailand research databases, including the Thai research database, and the Research/thesis digital collection. She also talked of the development in subject search and use of vocabularies.