

DC-2002: Metadata for e-Communities: Supporting Diversity and Convergence

DC-2002 marks the tenth in the ongoing series of International Dublin Core Workshops, and the second that includes a full program of tutorials and peer-reviewed conference papers. Interest in Dublin Core metadata has grown from a small collection of pioneering projects to adoption by governments and international organizations worldwide. The scope of interest and investment in metadata is broader still, however, and finding coherence in this rapidly growing area is challenging.

The theme of DC-2002—supporting diversity and convergence—acknowledged these changes. The greatest challenge of the current phase of metadata development is bringing together the diversity of local conventions, domain specific requirements, and differing encoding conventions such that cross-domain interoperability can be achieved.

DC-2002 brings together practitioners from libraries, education, government, commerce, supra-governmental organizations, and others in a venue for discourse, education, exploration, and development of metadata themes on the Web and elsewhere. Contributions come from practitioners focused on the needs of constituents on the one hand and theoreticians exploring the ‘Semantic Web’ on the other: Adopters are faced with decisions about XML, RDF, schema languages, ontologies, Open Archive Initiative protocols, and more. The richness of this diverse field of endeavor is both exciting and daunting.

It is fitting that DC-2002 takes place in Florence, in the shadow of Il Duomo, Brunelleschi’s dome, still acclaimed as one of the world’s great buildings, offers us lessons for our own efforts. Francesco Talenti’s 1366 design for Il Duomo called for a dome that surpassed the limits of architectural practice of the day. It was more than 50 years before Brunelleschi’s design to complete the building was approved and years more before it could be executed.

Our metadata systems may never achieve the grace and beauty (let alone the persistence!) of this great hallmark of Renaissance confidence, but we share with these visionaries acceptance of uncertainty and the confidence to act in spite of it. The authors of the papers in these Proceedings, and the conferees that engage them, will play a part in resolving these uncertainties and strengthening the foundations or resource discovery.

Stuart Weibel
Director, Dublin Core Metadata Initiative



Message from the Organising Committee

DC-2002, the International Conference on Dublin Core and Metadata Applications 2002 is taking place in Florence. In late 2001 Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI) asked a number of us if we saw a possibility to host this annual event. One of the ideas behind the choice of location was the intention to highlight the metadata concept for a potential public in Southern Europe. We accepted this challenge and have worked to make this year's Conference an occasion where experts, practitioners as well as learners can profitably come together and take away sessions and birds-of-a-feather meetings on offer every participant will find plenty of interest.

Later this same week the annual Italian Library Conference is taking place in Rome. We have profited from the presence of this large gathering of Italian librarians to organize an extra Dublin Core introductory tutorial in Rome and in the Italian language. Interest has been overwhelming.

In addition to the conference programme itself the organizers have tried to offer the participants an experience that will make their brief stay in Florence agreeable. The Conference venue, the Oltrarno Meeting Center, a former convent by the name of "Convitto della Calza", is a beautiful and historical place. Other historical buildings in the town of Florence will host some of the social events during the week.

Although the DC-2002 Conference is largely self-financed we need to thank a number of organizations for their material, financial, and staff support. These are listed in the next pages.

Finally, many individuals have given of their time and effort to create the conditions of success for this conference. We owe them our thanks. Among them a few certainly deserve special mention because of their constant and unstinting involvement: Massimo Rolle, Susanna Peruginelli and Giovanni Bergamin.

On behalf of the local Organising Committee I wish all participants a most successful conference.

Michiel Tegelaars
Coordinator of the local Organising Committee



The DC-2002 Conference in Florence was organized under the auspices of the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative by the following people:

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