PREFACE

It is a pleasure and an honour for the University Carlos III of Madrid, especially the Library and Information Sciences Department (L&ISD) and for "Agustín Millares" Institute on Information Sciences and Information Management (IUAM), to open its doors to the *International Conference on Dublin Core and Metadata Applications (DC-2005)*. When we began to discuss the idea of holding the conference in Spain, many of us felt a certain vertigo, but at the same time we were excited to organise such an important event in our University.

For some years both the L&ISD and the IUAM have included metadata management and information systems in our teaching and research. In 2003 we launched the Spanish language mirror of the DCMI website, which has served many in the huge Spanish-speaking community of professionals and interested people to bring a better understanding of the DCMI. We have also organised, in collaboration with other institutions (such as the National Library of Spain, Sedic or Fesabid), various seminars and conferences to promote and discuss metadata in Spain. Taking that into account, this year we undertook the adventure of organising DC-2005, acting, once again, as a bridge across cultures, people and languages.

About DCMI and DC-2005: a vision from Spain

The first of March 2005 was ten years since the first workshop, in Dublin, Ohio (USA). At that time, Filo and Yang created Yahoo!, Google was not even an idea... but it was already clear that metadata would be part of the solution for information discovery on the Web. At that first meeting were 52 people, affectionately described as *"geeks, freaks, and people with sensible shoes"*. In the subsequent ten years, a lot has happened on the World Wide Web, which has evolved and is evolving as collection of information-bearing repositories whose data can be accessed through a global information system. Through that decade, Dublin Core (DC) would also evolve as a metadata scheme, more and more consistent, recognised, accepted and adopted on a global level, and has not only become the ISO 15836 standard, but a standard "by seduction".

What the Dublin Core Metadata Inititative (DCMI) is now, and what it will be in the future, is due to the experience of the community that makes it up, and their enthusiasm and commitment to improve the management and retrieval of digital resources for the benefit of all who comprise the great family, diverse and beyond definition, of the Internet. This year that community, with experts in vocabularies and in all the related fields dealing with digital information, holds their conferenceand celebrates its anniversary in Madrid, Spain. For the first time in a Spanish-speaking country, all the communities and working groups of the DCMI are called together, and all the friends from Spain and Latin America who work with metadata in Spanish are invited to join this international community.

DC-2005 is in the same spirit as the DCMI itself, and it is this that we have understood and enjoyed in preparing the conference at the Universidad Carlos III de Madrid:

• International: We expect professionals and interested people from more than 40 countries, the five inhabited continents, among them our Latin American colleagues who will join us in Leganés.

XII

- Independent: The conference, like the DCMI, is not dependent on any commercial, governmental, not even academic initiative, although all are invited and many have contributed.

- Global and multidisciplinary: All sectors of the information management world are invited, from creators of scientific repositories to corporate intranet managers, and from business models and publishers to those working in education or electronic administration.

- Open: Anyone can participate, present their work, their products, their ideas and opinions, join working groups or simply attend and share four days with the community who develop and work with not only DC but at the same time other metadata vocabularies and standards.

And above all, it is an initiative and a conference that is "living". Although the Dublin Core elements could seem an unchanging vocabulary of 15 terms, DC lives and evolves through the metadata terms, and the committed and generous work of the Usage Board. This vital spirit transcends the individual conferences (and we hope this happens also in Madrid) gathering more experience, more countries, more institutions and disciplines into its ambience, but above all, each time, more "DC people".

About the proceedings: Vocabularies in Practice.

DC-2005 is the 13th International Dublin Core Workshop and the fifth in a series of full conferences (Tokio, 2001; Florence, 2002; Seattle, 2003 and Shanghai 2004). Last year's conference in China had the theme *Metadata Across Languages and Cultures* and Seattle's *Supporting Communities of Discourse and Practice-Metadata Research & Applications*; this year, with the same integral and inclusive spirit as previous conferences the theme is Vocabularies in Practice. A theme that is suggestive, attractive, and opportune, which draws together all the communities that one way or another create and use vocabularies to organise their digital information. Some of these communities and the work that comes from them can be recognised in these proceedings, such as:

- Everyone involved in the Semantic Web activity emanating from the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) who have formalised the notion of ontologies in the Web.

- Creators and users of knowledge management systems, including a range of structures such as thesauri and other vocabularies oriented to representation and recuperation of document content, such as subject lists or classification schemes.

- Information professionals (informaticians and documentalists) linked to the not always well understood world of corporate information, who use the term "taxonomies" to describe their vocabularies and information structures in Internet/intranet environments.

- Of course, users of metadata standards who bring together vocabularies of descriptive elements for their properties, such as Dublin Core, LOM, GEM, MPEG7, CIMI, and other metadata schemas discussed in some of the papers included here.

And some other communities involved with vocabulary development for digital accessibiliy and adaptability, or people who create tools for improving vocabulary management for Internet Commons or who work on disciplinary application profiles and crosswaks to achieve interoperability. All of them are represented through the 14 full papers and the 22 short papers included in this proceedings, carefully reviewed by Program Committee members.

At DC-2005, under the catchphrase *Vocabularies in Practice*, we will see that those little more than fifty enthusiastic *"geeks, freaks, and people with sensible shoes"* have become a huge community, alive and generous that believes in the evolution not only of Dublin Core but of multiple vocabularies, of the Web, of digital knowledge and the so-called Information Society. So 2005 is for Spain, as well as the fourth centenary of one of its great contributions to literature (Don Quixote), the year that the DCMI celebrates both, its conference and its anniversary in this country. Madrid will not be the host of the 2012 Olympics, but it will play host to DC-2005. The Library and Information Sciences Department, the "Agustín Millares" Intstitute and the University Carlos III of Madrid are proud to have contributed a little to making this possible.

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Finally, a very special mention for all the sponsors, collaborators and exhibitors, and may they believe that supporting this conference justified the effort.

Gracias a todos por venir y bienvenidos.

Eva Méndez and Tony Hernández
On behalf of DC-2005 Host Organisation
University Carlos III of Madrid