Linking to the Future

2013 Proceedings of the International Conference on Dublin Core and Metadata Applications

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DC-2013 Welcome

Welcome to DC-2013 in Lisbon! This gathering of researchers, practitioners and students of metadata for the annual meeting and conference of the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI) marks the twenty-first formal meeting of the community. The seeds of today's meeting were planted in March of 1995 when

> *fifty-two librarians, archivists, humanities scholars and geographers, as well as standards makers in the Internet, Z39.50 and Standard General Markup Language (SGML) communities, met to identify the scope of the problem, to achieve consensus on a list of metadata elements that would yield simple descriptions of data in a wide range of subject areas, and lay the groundwork for achieving further progress in the definition of metadata elements that describe electronic information*. –Stuart Weibel, *D-Lib Magazine*, July 1995

That March 1995 meeting in Dublin, Ohio was convened by OCLC (a long-time friend of DCMI) and the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA). The meeting launched one of the first open communities on the Internet to crowd-source expertise. Annually—and occasionally several times a year—this online community made up of people interested in metadata design and best practices has come together face-to-face to share, to laugh, to argue and to plan.

The annual gatherings of DCMI started as a series of eight workshops that spanned the period from 1995 to 2000. This was the period of heavy lifting in terms of both the Dublin Code element set and the emergence of the intellectual foundations of good metadata design. Through much of this period, the threads of development within DCMI and the emergent Semantic Web within W3C were intertwined through the work of individuals participating in both communities.

DCMI discontinued the workshop series in 2001 and started the *International Conference on Dublin Core and Metadata Applications* with DC-2001 in Tokyo. In the intervening years, DCMI has met in Florence, Seattle, Shanghai, Leganés (Madrid), Manzanillo, Singapore, Berlin, Seoul, Pittsburg, The Hague, Kuching and now Lisbon. Next year, the community will gather in Austin, Texas in the U.S.

With DC-2013, the DCMI community "recalibrates" the annual meeting by refining the mix of peer-reviewed submissions and special sessions in order to recapture some of the more raucous, robust engagement of DCMI's formative workshop days. As a result, the range of activities and session choices has been expanded. Special sessions sponsored by W3C and DCMI Communities and Task Groups will tackle many of today's most pressing issues in the metadata ecology from preservation and long-term curation of metadata vocabularies to the roles and relationships of ontologies and application profiles. Two daylong post-conference workshops will address metadata management and infrastructure design, applications, and policies supporting open and sustainable access to metadata standards used for managing scientific data.

We hope you find the meeting and your engagement with colleagues exciting and that you leave Lisbon with an even greater commitment to a healthy metadata ecology.

Stuart A. Sutton, DCMI Managing Director

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Chair's Notes on the Program

> *Metadata, you see, is really a love note—it might be to yourself, but in fact it's a love note to the person after you, or the machine after you, where you've saved someone that amount of time to find something by telling them what this thing is.*

These insightful words by Jason Scott–later shortened to the meme "Metadata is a love note to the future"—befit the overall topic of DC-2013, *Linking to the Future*. This year, the conference is co-located with iPres-2013, the annual gathering of the digital preservation community. We consider this an ideal opportunity to set the focus on the challenges of the metadata lifecycle with core issues like the maintenance and preservation of metadata and vocabularies in the long run. What is to be done to make the love note to the future heard—and understood—by its recipient?

Enduring metadata about past and current artifacts—including, for instance, books, lessons, models, software, messages, events, and people—ensures that those resources from the past can be used now and that those we produce or observe now will be accessible in the future. Metadata links artifacts, services, and people, among each other, but also to the future.

We are very pleased to present a program that reflects many active topics in the field of metadata and vocabularies. The Web of Linked Data is constantly growing and the provenance, reusability, and persistence of the data and the models behind them become ever more crucial.

The conference program explores (and questions) the design of vocabularies and the necessary collaboration between multiple actors in support of design, maintenance and facilitation of long-term interoperability. The value of metadata and the reuse of metadata across applications and domains is another facet being investigated.

In the Dublin Core tradition, DC-2013 not only presents theoretical results, but also insights from metadata practitioners from around the world. This year, we had many submissions dealing with eScience, where research data and metadata—as well as their publication and provision—change and improve the possibilities of gaining new insights. The program illustrates many challenges faced in the development and curation of metadata in a variety of domains: libraries, education, eGovernment, fracture mechanics, transport and economic statistics.

For the first time in the history of Dublin Core, a Best Paper and Best Project Report award will be granted from among three papers on the shortlist in each category. We see these awards as a way to draw attention to some papers the Program Committee, the Chairs and the Awards Committee deemed particularly innovative in some way. We hope that the awards are a motivation for the recipients and that they will help accentuate for the delegates the levels of innovation in metadata design and best practice that permeate all of the papers in the peer-reviewed program.

Most importantly, we want to keep the spirit that has made the Dublin Core Metadata community so rich and fruitful in the past—the spirit of an *open forum*, a unique place where researchers meet practitioners and decision makers in all fields that use metadata.

We look forward to welcoming all participants and expect many fruitful discussions and encounters at DC-2013 in Lisbon.

Muriel Foulonneau, Public Research Centre Henri Tudor, Luxembourg
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