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Archiving Metadata Forum (AMF)

The ARCHIVING METADATA FORUM

Introduction

One of the key issues in a digital world concerns the creation and maintenance of metadata. Different communities people have adopted approaches to identifying what metadata is necessary to capture, manage, maintain and preserve digital objects. The scientific community, the health community, business companies (pharmaceutical, energy), libraries, archives, museums, broadcasting companies, and others all have their own approaches to defining both the requirements and the specifications for metadata. They all need metadata for different reasons such as accountability, evidence, authenticity, regulations, litigation, intellectual capital, information discovery, and simply to deliver their programs and services effectively.

So far, each of these communities has tried to address the metadata issue in its own domain. Sometimes there exchange information, but not often. But it is through the opportunities to exchange that committees become aware of their common interests as well as the strengths of their individual perspectives, strategies and methods.

Given the substantial amount of activity currently underway to address metadata issues around the world and in different communities, it seems opportune to bring people together to exchange information, explore the issues more deeply, and identify areas of potential collaboration.

In order for both to learn from each other's initiatives and, at the same time, to explore the issues in some depth, an **Archiving Metadata Forum** has been established at a metadata meeting in The Netherlands in June 2000.

Objectives

1. to acquire a better understanding of the main metadata standards initiatives underway around the world
2. to identify commonalities among the different initiatives
3. to identify research issues and establish a research agenda
4. to discuss possible areas of co-operation
5. to position recordkeeping metadata initiatives within the context of the metadata needs and issues of other disciplines
6. to identify metadata requirements within the context of business processes, record keeping requirements, and cultures
7. to explore the possibility of establishing a common infrastructure of research in this field.

Members of the AMF are

Recordkeeping experts:
Margaret Hedstrom, University of Michigan, USA
Wendy Duff, University of Toronto, Canada
Sue McKemmish, Monash University in Melbourne, Australia
Adrian Cunningham, National Archives of Australia, Canberra
Peter Horsman, Netherlands Archives School and Research Institute, Amsterdam
Meg Sweet, Public Records Office, London, UK

Hans Hofman, Ministry of the Interior of the Netherlands, The Hague
Barbara Reed, Recordkeeping Systems Ltd., Sydney
Heather MacNeil, University of British Columbia, Vancouver Canada
Angelika Menne-Haritz, Archivschule Marburg, Germany
David Wallace, University of Michigan, USA
Anne Gilliland-Swetland, University of California, Los Angeles, USA

Information Discovery experts
Carl Lagoze, Cornell University, Ithaca, USA (Dublin Core)
Peter Hirtle, Cornell University, Ithaca, USA
Titia van der Werf, National Library of the Netherlands, The Hague

Experts in ICT
Nigel Ward DCST Melbourne, Australia
Gabriel David, University of Porto, Portugal
Cristina Ribeiro, University of Porto, Portugal

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