

Standards in Electronic Resource Management

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Panel:

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Scope:

Following last year's panel on developments in electronic resource management (ERM), the 2006 ERM panel will discuss ERM standards specifically. The deliverables published by the Digital Library Federation's Electronic Resource Management Initiative (DLF ERMI) had a decisive impact on the development of ERM systems and created a demand by the library, vendor, and publisher communities for further standardization in the area. In the second phase of the group's work (DLF ERMI 2), a major objective is to develop standards for the collection of license information and usage statistics. Presently, both data sets incur high administrative costs; standards would enable more efficient data handling. The expressed need for standardization in ERM has led to various collaborations between the stakeholders. ERMI 2 and EDItEUR are attempting to incorporate the data elements proposed by ERMI into the ONIX family of publisher data standards. The DLF/NISO/EDItEUR/PLS License Expression Working Group (LEWG) is participating in the development of license standards in part based on the work of ERMI and EDItEUR. The Standardized Usage Statistics Harvesting Initiative (SUSHI) is developing a standard model for retrieving usage data. It is expected that as a result of these efforts, license data available in a single data container could be downloaded directly into ERM systems, as would usage statistics thanks to a platform-independent web service protocol for retrieving COUNTER-compliant data.

Panel Member Contributions:

History and Current Developments in Electronic Resource Management Standards

Ted Koppel, Verde Product Manager at Ex Libris, Inc., since 2005, oversees the implementation of the company's ERM system. Before joining Ex Libris, Mr. Koppel worked at the University of Denver (Assistant Director for Technical Services), the CARL Corporation, OCLC, and TLC (Senior Product Manager for Standards Implementation). He has extensive experience in standard development as member of several key committees: SICI Z39.56, BICI, NCIP Implementers Group, IPIG ILL Implementers Group, Metasearch Initiative, SRN (ONIX for Serials), VIEWS, Book Industry Study Group BISG X.12 Update Committee, and lately the Standardized Usage Statistics Harvesting Initiative (SUSHI), as well as the License Exchange Working Group (LEWG). Mr. Koppel will (a) discuss the history of publishing and library technology standards, (b) show how previous standardization efforts lead to the current ERMI, EDItEUR, SUSHI and LEWG projects, (c) explain the driving forces behind the increasing trend for ERM standards and their importance to ERM systems, and (d) provide insight into relevant standards on the horizon and their potential usefulness to information science.

Questions Mr. Koppel's presentation will respond to include:

- (1) How will the SUSHI and LEWG projects make workflows more efficient in today's library environment?
- (2) How will the protocols developed in conjunction with the standards established by the two working groups simplify the tasks related to usage statistics and license data collection and analysis?
- (3) What other library tasks will standardization efforts attempt to model in the predictable future?

Overview and Progress Update on the Work of the Standardized Usage Statistics Harvesting Initiative (SUSHI)

Ted Fons, Senior Product Manager, Innovative Interfaces, Inc., is responsible for the implementation of III's ERM system, which, as the first DLF ERMI-compliant system, has been on the market since 2003. A founding member of the NISO/EDItEUR Joint Working Party for the Exchange of Serials Subscription Information, he is also currently serving on the Standardized Usage Statistics Harvesting Initiative (SUSHI) and License Exchange Working Group (LEWG). Mr. Fons will explain how usage data standards, driven by the increasing importance of ERM systems and web services, are evolving from COUNTER specifications to the SUSHI protocol. The currently developed SUSHI protocol will be presented in depth and implementation examples will be provided following established guidelines.

Questions Mr. Fons will address include:

- (1) How does a single data container for usage statistics reduce the administrative costs of usage data collection and analysis?
- (2) How does the web service technology improve the retrieval of usage data from various providers?
- (3) How does the SUSHI protocol technology facilitate the transfer of usage data?

Overview and Progress Update on the Work of the DLF/NISO/EDItEUR/PLS License Expression Working Group (LEWG)

Nathan Robertson joined the University of Maryland Thurgood Marshall Law Library as Electronic Resources Librarian in 2005 and is responsible for the management of the database and electronic journal subscriptions. He is a member of the Digital Library Federation's ERM Steering Group, and co-author of the 2004 DLF ERMI report. He chairs the Coverage subgroup of the NISO/EDItEUR Joint Working Party for the Exchange of Serials Subscription Information, and co-chairs the License Exchange Working Group (LEWG). Mr. Robertson is also a member of the Library & Information Technology Association's (LITA) Top Technology Trends committee and a former chair of its Standards Interest Group. In his prior engagement as Database Analyst/Programmer for the Milton S. Eisenhower Library at Johns Hopkins University, Mr. Robertson was a co-developer and administrator of the open-source Hopkins Electronic Resource Management System (HERMES). Mr. Robertson will talk about the legal and technical conflict between licenses, copyright, digital rights management (DRM) technology and Rights Expression Languages, and discuss the alternative approach LEWG's License Expression message will provide. He will also present information on the content of the License Expression message, the uses to which the standardized message can (and cannot) be put, and demonstrate how uses of the license expression format may appear to librarians and end-users.

Questions Mr. Robertson will be able to answer include:

- (1) What are the distinguishing features between licenses, copyright, DRM technology and rights expression languages?
- (2) How will the License Expression message resolve the inherent legal and technical incompatibilities between these data sets and what are its limitations?
- (3) How will the proposed license expression protocol be implemented in the library environment?