

OAIS for all of us

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ABSTRACT

In this panel we will discuss various aspects of the ISO 17421: 2012 OAIS standard.

CCS Concepts

Information systems → Standards

Keywords

OAIS; digital preservation; standards; community building.

1. INTRODUCTION

Without exaggeration we could state that the OAIS standard has been most influential in the development of digital preservation within the last decades. With its definition of terms, concepts and models, the OAIS reference model has shaped the way we talk and think about digital archiving in general and about the systems we use for this task. It has become the lingua franca of digital preservationists and one of the most important and most influential documents in the field of digital archiving. Besides that, a range of standards have emerged around and related to OAIS including PREMIS (for preservation metadata), Data Seal of Approval, DIN 31644 and ISO16363 (for certification) and PAIMAS (for exchange between Producers and Archives).

2. UPTAKE AND REVIEW

Since OAIS was initially proposed the digital preservation community has grown tremendously in absolute numbers and in diversity. OAIS adoption has expanded far beyond the space data community (as its original publisher of the standard) to include cultural heritage, research data centres, commerce, industry and government. The needs of users, the technologies in question and the scales of data have also expanded beyond recognition.

The upcoming ISO review of the OAIS standard in 2017 offers a chance for a cooperative review process in which all domains should be involved. Those who depend on the standard have an opportunity to modernise it: those who have found it unwieldy or incompatible with their needs have a chance to report their concerns. It also creates an opportunity for further community

building around digital preservation standards, and create even more awareness and understanding. In order to support community building in digital preservation, a community forum via a [wiki](#) has been set up. This wiki could be used by professionals to provide feedback on the standard and discuss topics to be fed into the review process. It will provide us with a common view on the state of digital curation and preservation and provide the basis for contributions to the OAIS review.

The outcome from this activity is not simply a wiki nor the ability of stakeholders to generate informed recommendations for change. By providing a shared open platform for the community that gathers around the OAIS, the initiators of the wiki aim to ensure on-going dialogue about our standards and their implementation in the future.

In response to the OAIS community forum, several national initiatives have started to support and contribute to the initiative. DPC in the UK, nestor in Germany and the NCDD in The Netherlands all have set up small working groups to address areas that might worth looking at in the upcoming revision process and will feed them into the forum.

The panel session for iPRES 2016 will give an overview of these national discussions and contributions and will give a floor to continue the discussion with the preservation community based on the themes articulated by the working groups. As the OAIS standard is basis of our daily work, and all of us have opinions about it, the revision of the standard brings our community a perfect opportunity to give input to the standard. Because only if the interested, and qualified, parties voice their issues and concerns, the revision process will yield an appropriate result. We believe that iPRES is the best place we could think of for discussion, community building and adding the issues and concerns of our community to the revision process.

The panel session will be jointly organized by DPC (William Kilbride and Paul Wheatley), nestor (Sabine Schrimpf) and NCDD (Marcel Ras), together with the KB (Barbara Sierman) and the UK Data Service and UK Data Archive (Hervé L'Hours).