Understanding and Implementing PREMIS

Peter McKinney
National Library of New Zealand Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa
Cnr Molesworth & Aitken St
Wellington, New Zealand
+64 4 4623931
Peter.McKinney@dia.govt.nz

Eld Zierau
The Royal Library of Denmark
Søren Kierkegaards Plads 1
DK-1016 København K
+45 91324690
elzi@kb.dk

Evelyn McLellan
Artefactual Systems Inc.
Suite 201 – 301 Sixth Street
New Westminster, BC
Canada V3L 3A7
+1 604.527.2056
evelyn@artefactual.com

Angela Dappert
British Library
96 Euston Road
London
NW1 2DB
Angela.Dappert@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This tutorial will provide participants with an introduction to the PREMIS Data Dictionary. It will give a basic overview of the standard and explore different models of implementation.

Keywords

Preservation strategies and workflows; Infrastructure, systems, and tools; Case studies, best practices and novel challenges; Training and education.

1. INTRODUCTION

The PREMIS Data Dictionary for Preservation Metadata is a specification that provides a key piece of infrastructure for digital preservation activities, playing a vital role in enabling the effective management, discovery, and re-usability of digital information. Preservation metadata provides provenance information, documents preservation activity, identifies technical features, and aids in verifying the authenticity of digital objects. PREMIS is a core set of metadata elements (called "semantic units") recommended for use in all preservation repositories regardless of the type of materials archived, the type of institution, and the preservation strategies employed.

2. SUMMARY OF TUTORIAL

The PREMIS Data Dictionary was originally developed by the Preservation Metadata: Implementation Strategies (PREMIS) Working Group in 2005 and revised in 2008 and 2015. It is maintained by the PREMIS Editorial Committee and the PREMIS Maintenance Activity is managed by the Library of Congress.

We have seen a constant call for PREMIS to undertake tutorials such as this as more and more organisations come to grips with digital preservation. This tutorial provides an introduction to PREMIS and its data model and an examination of the semantic units in the Data Dictionary organized by the entities in the PREMIS data model, objects, events, agents and rights.

In addition it presents examples of PREMIS metadata and a discussion of implementation considerations, particularly using PREMIS in XML and with the Metadata Encoding and Transmission Standard (METS). It will include examples of implementation experiences through the institutional experience of the tutors.

The tutorial aims at developing and spreading awareness and knowledge about metadata to support the long term preservation of digital objects.

3. CONTENT OUTLINE

The draft outline for the tutorial is outlined below.

Introduction to PREMIS

- *Background (brief history and rationale of PREMIS)*
- *Benefits of implementing PREMIS*

PREMIS in detail

- *Core entities*
- *Simple examples to build familiarity*

Implementation

- *PREMIS in METS*
- *Case studies*
- *Support and the PREMIS community*
- *Conformance*

Next Steps

- *Round table discussion for institutional plans*

Wrap up

INTENDED AUDIENCE

The tutorial will benefit individuals and institutions interested in implementing PREMIS metadata for the long-term management and preservation of their digital information but who have limited experience in implementation. Potential audience includes cultural heritage operators, researchers and technology developers, professional educators, and others involved in management and preservation of digital resources.

4. EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Participants will understand:

- What PREMIS is and why it exists;
- How PREMIS has changed across versions;
- The benefits of implementing PREMIS;
- The nature of the existing PREMIS community;
- The critical role PREMIS plays in the digital preservation community.

In addition, participants will get insight into:

- How PREMIS may be used in conjunction with METS;
- How different organisations implement PREMIS within their own repositories;
- The nature of conformance with PREMIS.

5. SHORT BIOGRAPHIES OF ORGANIZERS

Peter McKinney is the Policy Analyst for the Preservation, Research and Consultancy programme at the National Library of New Zealand Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa. He currently serves as Chair of the PREMIS Editorial Committee.

Eld Zierau is member of the PREMIS Editorial Committee, since 2013. She is a digital preservation researcher and specialist, with a PhD from 2011 within digital preservation. Originally, she is a computer scientist, and has worked with almost all aspects of IT in private industries for 18 years, before starting in digital preservation in 2007. She has been working with many aspects of digital preservation, and she is involved as an architect or a consultant on major initiatives such a new digital repository including data modeling of metadata for preservation.

Evelyn McLellan graduated from the Master of Archival Studies program at the University of British Columbia, Canada, in 1997. She worked as an archivist and records manager for several organizations prior to joining Artefactual Systems in 2008. Evelyn started at Artefactual as the first ICA-AtoM Community Manager, then became the lead analyst for Archivematica, an open-source digital preservation system. In September 2013 she took on the role of President when Artefactual founder Peter Van Garderen stepped aside to work full-time on archives systems research. Evelyn has a long-standing interest in digital preservation and open technologies for archives and libraries. She has served as a co-investigator on the International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems (InterPARES) Project and as Adjunct Professor at the University of British Columbia's School of Library, Archival and Information Studies. She is currently a member of the PREMIS (Preservation Metadata Implementation Strategies) Editorial Committee.

Dr Angela Dappert is the Project Manager for the EU-cofunded THOR project (project-thor.eu) on linking researchers, data and publications through persistent identifiers. She has widely researched and published on digital repositories and preservation. She has consulted for archives and libraries on digital life cycle management and policies, led and conducted research in the EU-co-funded Planets, Scape, TIMBUS, and E-ARK projects, and applied digital preservation practice at the British Library through work on digital repository implementation, digital metadata standards, digital asset registration, digital asset ingest, preservation risk assessment, planning and characterization, and data carrier stabilization. She has applied her work towards preservation of research data and processes, software environments and eJournals, with an emphasis on interoperability and standardisation. Angela holds a Ph.D. in Digital Preservation, an M.Sc. in Medical Informatics and an M.Sc. in Computer Sciences. Angela serves on the PREMIS Editorial Committee and the Digital Preservation Programme Board of NRS.