

CYBER-INFRASTRUCTURE STEERING COMMITTEE (CISC)

Meeting Minutes – May 19, 2010

Present

Grace Agnew, Chair	Rhonda Marker
Kalaivani Ananthan	Jane Otto
John Brennan	Mary Beth Weber
Ron Jantz	

Excused

Isaiah Beard	Chad Mills
Linda Langschied	Tibor Purger

AUL Report

Agnew reiterated given the current budget situation we will continue to place a sharp emphasis on streamlining workflows and maximizing efficiencies across all departments which support core Library services. RUcore will probably scale back to one new major release per year. Grants which enhance the Library's ability to meet mission critical goals will help supplement focused staffing needs.

Planning for the RUcore Open House continues. The date has yet to be finalized. The Open House will highlight those robust services which are currently available to Library Liaisons, services which can assist the faculty they support. The intent is to provide one-on-one consultation and demos of these services. Among those services which will be on display are Portals, Digitization on Demand, and Customizable Metadata.

Since portals are now a functional service Ananthan (as Applications Manager) will assume oversight responsibility from Mills. Ananthan will work closely with Marker supporting this service. Mills will continue to focus upon architecture and development initiatives.

Henry Rutgers Digital Exhibit

Agnew initiated a discussion to determine the cost and effort required to create an online, digital version of "Benevolent Patriot: The Life and Times of Henry Rutgers", an exhibit created by University Archives/Special Collections (SC/UA) and currently on display in Alexander Library. A sustainable strategy needs to be developed which would allow the Libraries to create and unveil online exhibits concurrently with physical ones. Several prominent universities already do this, including Columbia University. If this moves forward, the Henry Rutgers exhibit will be used as a test case.

Among the high level tasks which will need to be done are digitizing the resources, creating a metadata profile, and establishing a dedicated web page for the exhibit. The group talked about web site presentation. This included maintaining a clean "look and feel", allowing visitors to intuitively and easily scroll through the resources, and providing context for resources wherever possible.

A strong level of expertise across all facets of this project would be required. Discussion focused on possible sources, both internal and external, for the skill sets needed (including web site design). Thoughtful exchange followed as the group estimated a realistic budget for this pilot project. Agnew will present the budget to the University Librarian. The consensus is the budget for any subsequent projects of this nature would be smaller provided a solid framework was put in place upfront.

Assuming project approval, Marker will spearhead it and work closely in conjunction with UA/SC and Technical Services.

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Content Model for VMCAlytic

Agnew shared a rough draft of a content model for the VMCAlytic. She said although there are multiple video annotation tools available for education they offer limited capabilities. For example, they do not export in a standardized format. This shortcoming can present significant problems in ensuring the information collected lives beyond the life of the annotation tool. Additionally, current tools do not provide the ability to share data with other applications.

The content model should support the ability to store the master code for data in the object XML. We need to supply "meta-metadata" to accomplish this. This "meta-metadata" will pull from information in the WMS, or feed information to the WMS record.

Agnew highlighted five major requirements for the Analytic – capture data in a standardized, replicable manner; share data with data analysis tools; share data in a readable, transferable format; enable multiple users to add data to the analytic and track individual contributions; support free text, codes, links and graphics.

In discussing the relationship between a video and an analytic it was noted if the analytic is private, there is only a one-way relationship: analytic-to-video (Analytic is-annotation-of Video). If the analytic is published, there is a two-way relationship: Analytic is-annotation-of Video; and Video has-annotation Analytic.

Jantz will review the draft model to determine if its core functionality could be adapted to data. Over the next month Agnew will be working with Mills and Yang Yu on revising the model.

Linking Rights Events to Administrative Documents

Jantz walked through a draft document he prepared concerning a possible approach to managing rights events for restricted objects in RUcore. Restricted objects are defined as those which the creator does not want made public. During the discussion the group chose to rename "restricted objects" to "administrative objects".

Administrative objects can be either independently retrievable or only retrieved in the context of the main object. Independent objects are separately owned and can be separately created. They have meaning apart from any other objects, i.e. they are contextually independent. Dependent objects have to do with the intellectual content of the main resource. The group agreed that supplementary files for dissertations will be dependent objects, even if (theoretically) they could be contextually independent.

In a certain sense administrative objects are independent. There is some basic groundwork which needs to be done to support administrative objects. An Applications Profile for Administrative Objects is needed. Metadata must include title and genre. Administrative objects must link to an external document/object. The reference should be the persistent ID (PID).

Discussion was wide-ranging and surfaced additional repository needs. We should develop a new user option of exportable citations. The group recommended that CSC should determine the format(s) for citation export. In order to control access license documents (one type of administrative object) the group recommended a restricted portal using XACML. This should be applied system-wide so that technical staff, collection owners, etc. could have appropriate access.

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As the document is refined additional discussion will occur in subsequent meetings.

Submitted by John Brennan
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