

DATA FOUNDATIONS AND TERMINOLOGY (DFT) RDA WORK GROUP (WG)

CONTACT DETAILS:

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Objectives

The idea for a data foundations and terminology work topic was initiated at April 2012 Copenhagen meeting and further organized as a proposed WG at the October, 2012 Washington RDA Meeting. The DFT WG supports the overall goal of RDA to facilitate the exchange and interoperability of data across disciplines, communities, & national boundaries by enhancing the way people store, use, and manage data. The DFT WG task seeks to address a data management and curation problem - various parallel efforts use different terms & conceptual building blocks to describe data infrastructure across the lifecycle. To advance a common vocabulary objective we will describe a basic, abstract (but clear) data organization model that systemizes the already large body of definition work on data management & infrastructure terms, especially as involved in RDA's efforts. The model aims to be sound, practical and agreed upon within the community for use across to better synchronize data conceptualization. Proper data organization will be enabled by agreeing upon a number of basic concepts and it should also enable better understanding within and between communities and stimulate tool building, such as for data services for explicitly defining and registering appropriate terms along with alternative views of them.

On-going activities

Although this is a relatively new and ambitious effort, progress has been achieved with a Case Statement. This was presented and discussed at the First RDA Plenary in Gothenburg where attendees agreed on the need for a common vocabulary. Based on this a revised Statement was submitted and accepted. In our early phase of work we are drawing from extant work and the models discussed at the First Plenary as well as through contact with relevant communities. We have started on the research needed to integrate these and identify other contributing initiatives. Several models of Digital Objects have been sketched out including data organization models that represent concrete use cases. These are either foundational models from operative systems or are being considered as the basis of data systems. We are currently drafting a summary reference document with an accompanying abstract data organization model that conceptualizes these various models to help provide a basis for moving forward on unified conceptualization and terminology. In parallel with this we are developing an analysis document of the various DFT model together a workflow analysis and a model synthesis. We are preparing to brief these 4 aspects of work at the 2nd Plenary Session.

Results:

Based on conversations at the First Plenary Meeting we have furthered revised our Case Statement to include a refined adoption plan showing 7 centers and groups willing to test adopt our eventual integrated model. We also gathered several, real use cases from the community, such as data service & brokering model from the European Plate Observing System (EPOS). These help to guide our effort based on working systems. We have established collaboration with other RDA WGs and relevant communities such as W3C, librarians, etc. We hold regular conference calls with WG members as well as with the chairs of other RDA WGs to discuss interests and issues across various domains. We have asked a variety of sources to contribute relevant models as input to DFT. Drafts of the model summations and the model analysis have been sent for comment to interested parties and the working draft of the model summary and analysis along with workflow and synthesis will be discussed at the 2nd RDA Plenary. We plan on presenting the resulting final, integrated model at the Dublin plenary (March 2014) and we expect that final results including an ISO-like concept registry for terms should be ready at the autumn plenary 2014.

URL: <https://www.rd-alliance.org/working-groups/data-foundation-and-terminology-wg.html>