METADATA STANDARDS DIRECTORY WORKING GROUP

Objectives
The RDA Metadata Standards Directory Working Group (MASDIR) is supported by individuals and organizations involved in the development, implementation, and use of metadata for scientific data. The continued proliferation and abundance of content driven metadata standards for scientific data present significant challenges for: 1) Individuals seeking guidance in the selection of appropriate metadata standards, and 2) Automatic processing capabilities for manipulating digital data. Research indicates the many researchers are following local metadata practices developed in a lab, or no standard at all. Additionally, research reveals that discipline-specific metadata efforts have led to duplicative standards, given the lack of communication across communities. A collaborative, open directory of metadata standards applicable to scientific data can help address these infrastructure challenges. MASDIR succeeds the work of the initially endorsed via the RDA Metadata Standards Directory Interest Group (MSDIG) and directly contribute to cyberinfrastructure development by accomplishing short-term goals.

Ongoing Activities:
The short-term goals of the Metadata Standards Directory Working Group include:
Develop a prototype wiki-based directory (RDA Metadata Directory) listing metadata standards applicable to scientific data. The initial emphasis will be on widely used and domain community-endorsed metadata standards and schemas with significant interoperability / re-use capability.
Define and develop use cases to analyze and document the functional uses of metadata (e.g. for discovery, interoperability, re-use)
Further develop an operational plan for supporting collective, sustainable growth and maintenance of the RDA Metadata Directory

Results:
The Metadata Standards Directory Working Group became a recognized and endorsed RDA working group in August 2013. The existing RDA Metadata IG was a precursor to MASDIR, specifically targeting the ‘task’ of producing a metadata directory. With RDA Council’s recognition and endorsement of MASDIR, the initial charter is being revised. Keith Jeffery is leading the effort to define a RDA ‘cross-cutting’ Metadata Interest Group.
Recognizing that metadata is vital to the discovery and management of scientific data, the DC-SAM/RDA CAMP-4-DATA workshop held September 6, 2013 in Lisbon, Portugal, explored infrastructure design, applications, and policies that advance the support of open, collective and sustainable access to metadata standards used for managing scientific data.
MASDIR will be meeting at the second RDA plenary meeting in Washington, DC in October.

URL: https://www.rd-alliance.org/working-groups/metadata-standards-directory-masdir-working-group.html

Metadata Standards Directory Working Group Poster @ RDA 2nd Plenary Meeting
16-18 Sept 2013