

TDG 3A: What Near-Term Cooperative Partnerships Should Libraries Explore in the Digital World?

Facilitator: Larry Alford, Deputy University Librarian, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Recorder: Larry Dixon, Library of Congress

Members: Amira Aaron, Jeff Calcagno, Karen Calhoun, Cameron Campbell, John Celli, Vinod Chacra, Daniel Chudnov, Michael Kaplan, Judy Mansfield, Jennifer Younger

The Assignment

The TDG was asked to develop and prioritize a list of recommended cooperative partnerships that academic, research, and national libraries could undertake in the near-term (next twelve to eighteen months) to address some of the many pressing issues surrounding the bibliographic control of scholarly resources on the Web. (Cooperative partnerships relating to the development of metadata standards were not covered by TDG 3A; these issues were covered by TDG 8.) Such collaborations would extend the tradition of cooperative partnerships such as NACO, SACO, CONSER, and BIBCO into the world of networked resources.

Recommendations

The TDG developed the following *recommendations* and *specific steps* to accomplish each:

- 3A.1. Involve library community in the development of ONIX to ensure that it meets the needs of both communities. Specific steps include:
 - 3A.1a. LC initiate conversations with EDITEUR.
 - 3A.1b. Include representatives from the library community.
 - 3A.1c. Metadata capture for copyright.
 - 3A.1d. Survey landscape to determine what formats are being used by publishers; provide links between ONIX and templates for metadata.
- 3A.2. Create a SISAC-type group to solve issues related to record supply and maintenance for aggregated databases. Specific steps include:
 - 3A.2a. Automated way to make changes to records (EDI-like solution; investigate batch loading process; Z39.50 database update extended service)
 - 3A.2b. Centralized model (partner with bibliographic utilities)
 - 3A.2c. Aggregators need to provide ongoing maintenance to bibliographic utilities.
 - 3A.2d. Maintenance of resource cataloging needed: Larry Alford referred to the work being done by PCC task groups in this area.
 - 3A.2e. Notification process (back to libraries) is needed for changes.
 - 3A.2f. The group should include utilities, commercial aggregators, LC, PCC, ILS vendors and publisher representatives.

- 3A.3. LC should market library-developed products to the search engine/dot.com world. Specific steps include:
 - 3A.3a. Mapping of classification to subjects through statistical analysis
 - 3A.3b. Outsource assignment of subject headings (to publishers/distributors)
 - 3A.3c. Develop/utilize alternative/simplified version of LCSH for search engines/Amazon.com
 - 3A.3d. Consider how to group for subject browsing in the Web.

- 3A.4. User concerns survey (fund study). Specific steps include:
 - 3A.4a. Seek partners and funding to conduct survey to explore what users' needs are and what they expect.

- 3A.5. Network Development and MARC Standards Office should pursue standardized mechanisms for supporting component records. Specific steps include:
 - 3A.5a. Extending MARC core with links to TOC, author information, cover images, etc. Implement support for component record interoperability tools, including OpenURL, DOI resolution

- 3A.6. Authority control partnerships. Specific steps include:
 - 3A.6a. Determine what uniformity is necessary
 - 3A.6b. Determine what uses Internet community can make of our (library-produced) data? (e.g., AMAZON use of LC name headings)
 - 3A.6c. XML DTD defined by library community with LC and utility leadership role.
 - 3A.6d. Leading to experiments with search engines providing metadata from MARC record

Discussion

Larry Alford began the TDG's presentation by reviewing the tradition of library collaboration and observing, "we know how to do this ... dot.coms can learn from us." Carol Hixson endorsed the proposal that the Library of Congress market library-developed products to the search engine/dot.com sector. She said that such organizations have approached her for help but that it is very difficult to point them to the right tools. Marcia Bates said all sectors needed to learn not just how to apply schemes, but also how to create them.

Post Conference Comments from Participants

None

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