

Topical Discussion Group 3B: What Long-Term Cooperative Partnerships Should Libraries Explore in the Digital World?

Facilitator: William Gosling, Director, University Library, University of Michigan

Recorder: Kay Guiles, Library of Congress Cataloging Policy and Support Office

Members: Barb Beach, Patricia Harris, Regina Reynolds, Wendy Riedel, Sherrie Schmidt, Kathlin Smith, Sarah Thomas, Julia Trainor, Jane Treadwell, David Smith

The Assignment

The Topical Discussion Group (TDG) was asked to develop and prioritize a list of recommended cooperative partnerships that academic, research, and national libraries could undertake over the long term (next two to five years) 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 and might involve other libraries, publishers, consortia, the metadata community, and commercial service providers.

Recommendations

William Gosling reported that the TDG had concentrated on identifying long-term cooperative projects that the Library of Congress could initiate or lead. The group developed the following list of *recommendations for LC to carry out, with specific steps* for each:

- 3B.1. Create a research and development program. Specific steps include:
 - 3B.1a. Form partnerships with designers of information management and related cutting-edge systems to develop visionary, proactive applications to meet future needs.
 - 3B.1b. Form partnerships with experts from related fields to develop end-user oriented systems that more effectively deliver a coherent response from searches performed across multiple data sources.
 - 3B.1c. Offer library environments as a test-bed for new software designs, new product applications, etc.
 - 3B.1d. Identify needs and define a national program to secure funding for research and development initiatives.
 - 3B.1e. Create cross-profession (system designers, librarians, etc.) teams to develop mechanisms for creating metadata standards and new record structures.
 - 3B.1f. Engage visiting scholars and other experts to advise on resolving pressing issues as they arise.
 - 3B.1g. Create teams or establish partnerships with appropriate academic programs and professional organizations to address issues relating to access to electronic resources.
 - 3B.1h. Identify areas for which standards are needed and work with appropriate organizations (e.g. NISO) to develop them, e.g., standards for electronic archiving, emerging bibliographic systems, etc.

- 3B.2. Form alliances with leading technology partners. Specific steps include:
 - 3B.2a. Partner with visionaries with influence, funding, and common values to advance a shared agenda.
 - 3B.2b. Work with dot.coms, ISPs, and search engine providers to develop innovative applications of the technology to improve bibliographic access; in the process, reduce time to market, and interact with emerging industries working with wireless, cable, broadcasting, music, and film.
 - 3B.2c. Support areas of common ground which enable collaboration among bibliographic utilities, aggregators, ILSs, and other system vendors, as well as content intermediaries, to facilitate the implementation of standards.

- 3B.3. Form partnerships with publishers. Specific steps include:
 - 3B.3a. Encourage publishers (including self- or informal publishers) to take responsibility for supplying metadata for their publications by providing them easily applied guidelines and mechanisms to accomplish this.
 - 3B.3b. Explore areas of mutual interest to streamline bibliographic information creation; partner on system design for more efficient delivery of electronic resources to the end user.
 - 3B.3c. Work with faculty, professional associations, and other creators of scholarly information resources, to facilitate access to, and archiving of, their academic output.
 - 3B.3d. Design mechanisms to archive electronic government publications through a partnership with government agencies and/or academic institutions.

- 3B.4. Form partnerships with registration agencies. Specific steps include:
 - 3B.4a. Library of Congress to coordinate, with support from publisher associations, a pilot project to re-purpose metadata received under programs it administers for registration, cataloging, copyright, and related activities.
 - 3B.4b. Programs could include CIP, Copyright, and ISSN. Return metadata received from publishers to them as HTML headers.
 - 3B.4c. Establish formal liaisons with identification agencies such as DOI, ISMN, and ISTC.
 - 3B.4d. Work with the ONIX maintenance agency to ensure the presence of data elements needed for registration purposes in the data element set.

Discussion

In other points, the TDG stressed the desirability of international sharing of authority records and called for the Program for Cooperative Cataloging to facilitate digital conversion projects by ensuring that records for digitized collections are entered into shared databases. The TDG envisioned creation of an international database of digitally reformatted masters. Gosling emphasized the importance of having partnerships and working groups already in place in order to ensure that the library community can fashion timely responses to new developments in the world of Web resources. Karen Smith-Yoshimura pointed out from the audience that in 1999 several bytes were added to the 007 field of the MARC 21 Bibliographic Format to convey information

about digitally reformatted resources; Gosling commented that use of these bytes was not yet part of the “digital conversion culture.”

Post Conference Comments from Participants

None

1/4/01