

The CIDOC Documentation Standards Working Group Minutes from the Meeting August 22, 2000, CIDOC Conference Ottawa

Acting Chair: Martin Doerr

- The election of a new chair for the Group was postponed to the end of the meeting, until all technical implications have been clarified.
- Pat Young informed the Group about the CIDOC Board decision to initiate an open "CRM Special Interest Group", in the following "CRM SIG".
 - This open Group of stakeholders aims at further promoting the CIDOC Conceptual Reference Model (CRM) into an international standard by collaborating with the ISO Ad-hoc Working Group for the CRM expected to be formed end of September 2000, and at fostering a wide consensus in the community about the contents of the envisaged standard.
 - For that purpose the CIDOC Board will invite relevant organizations or initiatives of the wider cultural community to delegate representatives for this group. Further expressions of interest in participation are welcome. Members are in general thought to actively participate in the work program the group will set up.
 - The Group will inform the CIDOC Board about its activities.
- Martin Doerr presented to the Group the report from Nick Crofts about the CRM submission to ISO and related ISO procedures. Major points:
 - The CIDOC CRM, product of years of engagement of this Group, has now been submitted for ballot at ISO TC46, SC4, following the proposal of the Group and decision of the Board August 1999.
 - SC4 is expected to vote for the CRM as Draft International Standard (DIS) until September 26. It is expected to enter the ISO procedures in Stage 4, "Enquiry" under the "fast track".
 - The fast track procedure will take at least two years to complete, and leaves enough space for corrections and amendments in order to properly reflect the communities requirement and consensus for the CRM. The promoters of the CRM are expected to collaborate actively with ISO.
- Axel Ermert pointed out that the respective national interest groups of the museum and wider cultural community must confirm their interest in the CRM to the respective voting members of SC4 before September 26. SC4 voting members may not be aware whom to contact, and should be sought actively by CIDOC members for that purpose.
 - The Group asks Nick Crofts to distribute a list with the addresses of those SC4 voting members to the Group participants for the above purpose (actually it is on the TC46 Website).
 - The Group expresses the need for a compact "layman text" to promote awareness of the CRM to non-experts.
- Martin Doerr presented to the Group the current understanding of the functional role of the CRM, its basic structure and reported the latest progress of the CRM work:
 - Presentation of the CRM as a means to explain data and metadata structures for the purpose of semantically correct data transfer, data merging and query mediation between heterogeneous sources.
 - Report on the progress of the CRM Correlation Test Project. So far, the AMICO data model, the Dublin Core Element Set with all its qualifiers, the EAD archival standard and some 90% of the

SPECTRUM data fields and have been mapped successfully to the CRM. The "Agios Pavlos Extensions". The full report of the Dublin Core mapping is on the Web-site of ICS-FORTH (<http://www.ics.forth.gr/proj/isst>).

- Report on the Agios Pavlos meeting (based on report by Nick Crofts). The Informal meeting of stakeholders and CIDOC members within the framework of the CRM Correlation Test Project in Agios Pavlos, Crete, June 26-30 2000, approved a proposal for a set of extensions to the current CRM, the "Agios Pavlos Extensions". They render the mappings of DC, AMICO, EAD to 100% within the scope of the CRM. It was agreed that complete mappings of the Archeological Core Data Standard (CDS), Spectrum, the CIMI Access Points and Profile will be achieved by a future extension. The process of elaborating the Agios Pavlos extensions effectively confirmed the validity of the methodology and reinforced the participant's confidence in the potential of the CRM. The full report is on the Web-site of ICS-FORTH.
- Presentation of the core concepts of the CRM for all newcomers and as a memory refreshment for all others.
- Introduction to the Agios Pavlos Extensions. The full report is on the Web-site of ICS-FORTH.
- The Group discussed the scope of the CRM.
 - The CRM is thought to be primarily a tool for the museum community, that intellectually originates in the museum community, but enables an effective communication with the libraries and archives world. As such it should contain the necessary concepts to communicate, but is not required to cover those areas.
 - The CRM is thought primarily to support the data interchange of documentation. Planning events e.g. is explicitly excluded for the time being, as well as completely museum internal data handling. This does not pose however any restrictions to the wide extensibility of the CRM.
 - Rather than defining intellectual rules what should be or not be in the CRM, it seems to be more effective to define the scope of the CRM on a set of current data and metadata formats, as those already express the outcome of extensive scope discussions of the respective experts.
 - The need for a clear definition of the scope of the CRM was expressed.
- The Group discussed application aspects of the CRM.
 - There is a need for extensive documentation.
 - Usage scenarios in simple terms and in particular data examples are regarded to be particularly valuable to render the concepts. Participants are invited to create data examples, and to let them validate by the current CRM experts.
 - The benefits of the CRM for implementers should be made clear. As the CRM is a reference rather than a prescription, it is reasonable to define a variety of different compatibility predicates. They should not create obstacles to the necessary diversity in the domain.
 - The need for recommendations for implementation, machine readable formats of the CRM etc. was expressed, and it was discussed how to relate those to the standard to come.
- The Group agreed, that the Documentation Standards Group Web-site is transferred from Geneva to ICS-FORTH in Crete, as Nick Crofts is no longer working at that site in Geneva.

- The Group agreed with the formation of the CRM SIG in the following manner:
 - Martin Doerr, from ICS-FORTH, acts as one co-chair of the SIG with a focus on technical issues.
 - A representative of CIMI is invited to be the other co-chair.
 - Proposed organizations so far:
 - CEMAC
 - CIDOC-ISO Liaison
 - CIMI
 - CHIN
 - EMII
 - Germanisches Nationalmuseum Nuernberg
 - ICS-FORTH
 - Museum Benaki
 - MDA
 - National Museum of Denmark
 - Research Library Group California
 - Other organizations will be invited as members or may express their interest in active participation. Members are expected to have the technical possibility to participate in the respective meetings.
 - ICS-FORTH can support the SIG with the equivalent of 50% of the workload of a technician over the next two years out of its own means. The SIG members are thought to seek financial support for their work from appropriate bodies like the European Community, US Government, Canadian Government and others..
- The Group discussed its future objectives. All participants expressed their opinion and interests. Major points were:
 - The delegation of the direct CRM work to the CRM SIG is seen as a chance for reorientation, in particular to take up important activities that could not be done in the past due to the Group's exclusive occupation with the CRM. The Group seeks to define its objectives independent from the CRM.
 - Nevertheless the whole Group is understood as an observer of the CRM activities, and the SIG will take care to keep the Group appropriately informed. Participants gave their e-mail addresses for that purpose.
 - Thesauri were regarded by many participants as a major topic, details to be defined. Besides others the relation of thesauri to other data standards and to the CRM. The need for a thesaurus of event types was mentioned, as many data formats and the CRM use explicit representations of events.
 - The Group as an information forum about practice and needs of data standards was mentioned, rather than as a standards producing organization. The Group seeks contact with the EMII initiative and expresses its interest that such work is carried further on.
 - Finally an interest in identifying the potential relations of the CRM to other activities in the community was expressed, in particular the contacts and overlaps with the archive and library community.
- Finally the Group sought a new chair. During the session, no participant declared candidacy. Matthew Stiff was proposed by the participants to be elected if he agrees. Richard Light declared his interest in the final session. In this situation, we are looking forward to new initiatives from Richard Light, until a new chair can be elected again. Matthew and Ifigenia Dionissiadou continue to be co-chairs for terminology and data modeling respectively.

Edited by Martin Doerr, Ottawa, August 23, 2000
Presented in the Annual Business Meeting Ottawa August 26, 2000.