

and epistemological commitments in LIS research. Three different meta-theories, the information transfer model, constructivism, and social constructionism, are identified and their assumptions about the relationships between discourse, cognition, and reality are described. The authors describe how they think social constructionist ideas about the conversational production of knowledge in discourses will reorient LIS research.

The Fourth International Conference on Conceptions of Library and Information Science was a very

successful conference that drew participants from all continents to Seattle for a week of discussions and collaboration on setting the future for research and development in library and information science.

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6th Annual Open Forum on Metadata Registries – Santa Fe, New Mexico

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The high desert of New Mexico, USA served as the backdrop to the 6th Annual Open Forum on Metadata Registries. From January 20 to 24th, 2003, researchers, practitioners, and other interested parties met to discuss and learn about efforts to standardize mechanisms that will enable metadata interoperability. Different discourse communities presented their efforts, from the Department of Defense to Microsoft. Various standards bodies were on hand to introduce their work and to take comments on developing new standards or revising existing standards. For example, the International Organization for Standardization/International Electrotechnical Commission, Joint Technical Committee 1 (ISO/IEC JTC1) presented a partially revised standard, 11179 Information Technology – Metadata Registries (MDR), for discussion. This standard, in cooperation with others, would allow government, industry, and others to construct interoperable metadata registries.

The definition of metadata registry is a matter of discussion. A metadata registry is different things to different people, and to different discourse communities. To Rachel Heery of UKOLN and Harry Wagner of OCLC/DCMI, metadata registries are “databases of schemas” (Heery and Wagner, 2002). Schemas are a

collection of metadata elements, like the Dublin Core. Metadata registries advance the machine use of metadata elements “by providing a common approach for the discovery, understanding, and exchange of semantics,” (Heery & Wagner, 2002). Because of this, metadata registries are seen as a way to create interoperable metadata systems.

Bruce Bargmeyer of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory started the meeting with an outline of metadata registry initiatives. They included, Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI) Metadata Registry, Universal Description, Discovery and Integration (UDDI) specification, ISO/IEC 11179 emerging standard, the Organization for Structured Information Standards Electronic Business using eXtensible Markup Language (OASIS ebXML) Metadata Registries, Database Catalogs (SQL Metadata), Case Tool Repositories, Software Component Registries, and Ontology/Terminology Registries.

Each of these registries initiatives had a representative present at the forum. Each representative, and often more than one representative, described the ongoing work on these registries. Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI) representative Harry Wagner discussed the DCMI Metadata Registry. Work on the

DCMI Metadata Registry aids in reuse of Dublin Core metadata elements and in localization issues – issues of Dublin Core metadata element language translation. Case Tool and UDDI were not represented due to last minute cancellations. However, their work can be found through the URLs below. The ISO/IEC 11179 emerging standard was introduced by individual section editors. There were six section presentations in all. Kathryn Breininger presented a report of ongoing work by the OASIS ebXML initiative. OASIS is a not-for-profit organization that works to enable e-business standards. A major part of that work is an e-business metadata registry. Every representative illustrated features and functionalities of the metadata registries. They also outlined ongoing and future work both technically and in the standards committees.

The forum participants met in plenum for the first two days then, split into separate tracks for the remaining days. Each track had a theme. The themes were: Defense, E-Business, E-Commerce, E-Government, Environment Track, Healthcare and Bioinformatics, Knowledge Management & Learning Technology, Statistics, Terminology and Ontologies, and Transportation, Aviation and Aerospace. Each track provided either examples of metadata registries in use, or standards initiatives unique to the particular discourse community. In the Terminology and Ontologies track the Standard Upper-Level Ontology (SUO), the Suggested Upper Merged Ontology (SUMO), and other semantic web related standards and technologies were discussed.

The forum proved to be an open atmosphere where ideas were exchanged freely. This environment, an environment where standards work, technological implementation, and conversations take place about discourse-specific needs, is an environment ripe for

collaboration between knowledge organization researchers and others hard at work on similar issues.

Beijing has been suggested as the site for next year's Open Forum. Once it is officially announced, this author will post it to the ISKO website for those interested.

For further information

Website for the 2003 Open Forum on Metadata Registries

<http://metadata-stds.org/openforum2003/>

Dublin Core Metadata Initiative

<http://dublincore.org>

OASIS ebXML

<http://www.ebxml.org>

ISO/IEC 11179

<http://metadata-stds.org/>

UDDI – Universal Description, Discovery and Integration

<http://www.uddi.org/>

References

- Duval et al. (2002). Metadata Principles and Practicalities. In *D-Lib Magazine* 8(4). (<http://www.dlib.org/dlib/april02/weibel/04weibel.html>)
- Heery, R., & Wagner, H. (2002). A Metadata Registry for the Semantic Web. In *D-Lib Magazine* 8(5). (<http://www.dlib.org/dlib/may02/wagner/05wagner.html>).

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