

DDI Alliance Executive Board Meeting

30 November 2016

Present: Bill Block, Jared Lyle, Steve McEachern, Joachim Wackerow

Moving Forward project and Strategic Plan

- a) Discussion of next phase of Moving Forward
 - i) Dagstuhl, [week one](#) (October 17-21) outcomes
 - ii) Dagstuhl, [week two](#) (October 24-28) outcomes
 - iii) Michelle is following up on workshop outcomes.
 - iv) Importance of ensuring outputs are produced, including vision paper.
- b) Strategic plan 2017-20 timeline and next steps:
 - i) Discussed using the Dagstuhl vision paper as starting point for strategic planning. We can release the vision for comments in January/February, with discussion at the 2017 annual members meeting. A final version can be targeted for March 2018. Recommended forming a working group to steer the strategic planning.
- c) Help with project management and programming. FY 17 special requests:
 - a. Recommended to move forward on finding the Drupal programmer and the Semantic Web consultant. See attached "Tasks Related to the Production Framework and to the RDF-S/OWL Binding" for details about required work.
 - b. Finding a project manager for DDI4 work, while important, will be put on hold while the above programmer/consultant search is completed.
- d) Discussed the need for succession planning within the Alliance.

Alliance leadership

- a) Election to fill open Executive Board seat (was David Schiller's seat). Dana Müller has been nominated. We will send an election ballot to the Alliance membership.
- b) Workshop on Implementing Standards for Statistical Modernisation, on 21-23 September 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland. The designated Alliance representative was not able to attend.
- c) Achim presented "DDI and Its Role on Modernising Official Statistics in the Post-2015 Development Period" in a session on "Modernisation of National Statistical Systems through Architectural Models and Skill Set Expansion of Human Resources" at the [Organisation of Islamic Cooperation Statistical Commission](#) meeting in Turkey on 5-6 November. The OIC-StatCom is a large supra-national organization for 57 Islamic countries. The presentation was well received and fit nicely with a previous presentation on "Statistical Architecture Models" (GSIM, GSBPM etc.) from Steven Vale of the UNECE in the same session. The DDI presentation is available

at: http://www.oicstatcom.org/imgs/news/1517_PRESENTATION_OICSTATCOM6_S4_ARCHITECTURAL_DDI%20ALLIANCE.pdf.

- d) Discussed the importance of attending these types of meetings in the future. Also discussed creating building blocks for presentations like these -- i.e., description of DDI, use in official statistics, advantages of DDI, multiple branches. This would enable easier building of presentations for conferences and meetings, especially for new communities.

Placeholders

- a) "Interoperability Standards - Digital Objects in Their Own Right" (The DDI Alliance is mentioned very favorably on page 12). See: <https://dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.4055496.v1>
- b) CESSDA metadata effort review, including unified catalogue and question bank. Make sure we are supporting versions in the right way. (Louise)

DDI 4 / Views

Tasks Related to the Production Framework and to the RDF-S/OWL Binding

Joachim Wackerow, 2016-11-30

Introduction

DDI 4 / Views uses model-based and model-driven approaches. The specification is defined as a model in UML. This is the basis of all derived products like the class-level documentation and the bindings of the model. This includes XML Schema for exchange and preservation, RDF-S/OWL for discovery in the Semantic Web and program libraries for processing. The same metadata should be representable in different representations; a round-trip of the metadata should be possible using multiple DDI 4 binding formats. The goal is to achieve a robust, sustainable, and maintainable production framework.

Production Framework

The UML class definitions and relationships are captured by web forms which are driven by a custom Drupal instance. Drupal exports the model in XMI which can be transformed in multiple steps to the final binding representation. The production framework comprehends all these different steps and provides specialized tools for the export from Drupal and transformation steps. Most of these building blocks exist. The maturity of the tools has a range from development status to mature draft status.

Required Work

Production Framework

Further changes, especially in the capture process and export steps, are necessary. The transformation tools have to be reviewed. Transformation logic and configuration options should be separated for clean setup and maintenance of these tools. Documentation for each tool needs to be done.

These tasks require skills in Drupal and PHP, and with XSLT. Contributed work from people of the DDI community made all these possible. But the time of skilled people is very limited.

Proposal

A person with skills in Drupal and PHP should do the open tasks on the basis of task-paid work or time-paid work. Additional skills in XSLT are desirable. The tasks can be described in further detail at the upcoming Moving Forward working meeting after the EDDI16 conference. A group

in the Moving Forward Project would be responsible to describe the tasks and to control the completed work. Even, this seems to require a lot of effort of existing working groups, it seems to be the right approach because we don't see currently related capacity in the DDI community.

Conceptual Work for RDF-S/OWL Binding

The work on the RDF-S/OWL binding needs major improvement on the conceptual level in terms of integration of existing vocabularies. Furthermore, the binding syntax needs an expression which uses common approaches in the Semantic Web and can be used for effective processing in the Linked Data world.

Proposal

A person with intensive experience in Semantic Web technologies should review and improve the current RDF-S/OWL binding. This person should have a time contract and provide the knowledge on a consultancy basis. The person should be then involved in related conference calls and meetings of the Moving Forward Project. This person should be ideally already familiar with the overall approach of DDI and DDI 4. Somebody, who participated in two recent expert workshops on DDI and interoperability with other specifications could be a candidate.