

Philip Hunter, June 2002

Terminology breakout session

The terminology breakout session was facilitated by Philip Hunter of UKOLN (University of Bath), and reported by Joe Yates of Space S.p.A. (Italy). The session covered a large amount of territory in the limited time available. Michael Nelson of the OAI was present throughout, and contributed both extensively and constructively to the discussion. Many of the terms present in the Forum's Metadata Glossary were discussed, as well as two of the terms in the name of the OAI - 'Open' and 'Archive', which were found to be problematic ('archive' in fact is not used in OAI documents).

The breakout session also looked at terms which it would be useful to add to the glossary. These included definitions of 'resource' and 'rights', despite the fact that the OAI MPH explicitly is not concerned with the latter. 'Repository' was another term whose meaning might have difficulties for potential implementers: a draft glossary redefinition resulted from the discussion. Other additional terms which might be added were also discussed: these included 'item' and 'set': these terms were defined in the course of the discussion, and will be added.

Other issues discussed included the potential usefulness of translating the OA-Forum glossary into different European languages. It was decided that this would be useful for those producing introductory articles and papers, especially those aimed at managers and other decision-makers. This was unlike the situation for the OAI-PMH documents themselves, where maintaining versions in several languages was an unnecessary overhead, since implementers generally have a good knowledge of technical English, and would go directly to the original publications. A number of those at the session expressed interest in providing translations for the OA-Forum. The workshop also looked at the target audience for the glossary, and at how difficult it was to locate it on the OA-Forum site. It was decided that a new menu item should be placed on the home page to facilitate access.

Other documentation which it might be useful to make available was discussed. It was suggested that a 'non-normative' document might be created which indicated 'useful things to do with OAI' to stimulate the development of the technology.

Overall, rights management, and the fact that the OAI does not address this important issue, ran through much of the discussion.