

Presentation Abstracts

Acquisitions of Networked Electronic Publications by John Stegenga

A brief history and current status of the National Library of Canada's Electronic - Collection (E-Collection). An examination of the motive for building a comprehensive collection of electronic Canadiana. The E-publication defined. Some issues with which the Library contends on a daily basis include: degree of comprehensiveness; methods of acquisition; standardization of formats; maintaining the "look and feel" of the original e-publication. Some observations on the dynamic interface between publisher and Library.

Access to Networked Electronic Publications by Carol Smale

The National Library of Canada provides interlibrary loan and document delivery services to libraries in Canada and around the world so that their clients can have access to information which cannot be found within their local resources. The service is part of the Library's mandate to make its collections accessible and is based on the principles of public good and equitable, universal and affordable access. We both loan original items and provide copies from our collections. Copies are always provided within the provisions of the copyright law and/or our CanCopy license.

To date, we have received very few requests for electronic publications. This is likely to change and we would like to be able to provide a similar service for electronic publications to that we provide for our print collections, i.e. the ability to provide access to materials in our collection within the provisions of the law and/or a license. We recognize the importance of private rights, but believe that a balance with the public interest can be achieved. As part of this consultation process, we would like to discuss how this might be done.

Identifiers for Networked Electronic Publications by Tom Delsey

Planning for the development and implementation of identifiers for networked electronic publications is currently underway on a number of fronts internationally. The applications that identifier schemes are being designed to support fall generally into three broad categories: resource management applications (internal to a specific organization); e-commerce applications (within and across specific business sectors); and "open" applications (across global networks).

In order to function effectively in such a broad range of applications and environments, identifiers must be persistent (i.e., the identifier must be assigned once and only once, and the link between

the identifier and the entity it identifies must always be kept up to date). They must also be universal (i.e., the identifier must be universally recognizable, each identifier must be unique within the universe of identifiers assigned by a particular authority, and the structure for the identifier must be sufficiently scaleable to support the assignment of identifiers to all entities within the universe defined by that authority). Identifier schemes must be supported by resolution services (i.e., services that provide a transparent link from the identifier to the entity it identifies). Resolution services, in turn, must be supported by Internet transfer protocols, network browsers, and resolution service software, and will be dependent on metadata associated with the identifier to support “look-up” and selection.

A number of administrative and technical issues must be addressed by the organizations that will function as registration agencies for identifier schemes. Among those issues are policy and governance questions (e.g., scope of coverage, eligibility criteria), questions relating to registration procedures (for the assignment of identifiers and the recording of metadata), the distribution of responsibilities (for maintaining the link between the identifier and the physical address of the entity it identifies, and for updating associated metadata), and the scalability of the implementation.

Implementation will also require both the registration agency and the producers of the registered entities to ensure that they have in place the technical infrastructure required to support resolution services as well as registration, and that sources of financing and agreements relating to cost-sharing are in place.

Information Technology Standards: An Environmental Overview by Terry Kuny

A short synopsis of selected assertions, assumptions, and notable efforts in standards development for electronic publishing, including: document standards (HTML/XML/SGML, PDF, Postscript), multimedia standards (image and sound formats), retrieval standards (Z39.50), description (metadata, identifiers), communications (future Internet).

Publishers' Services by David Balatti

The National Library offers a number of services to publishers of traditional print materials. We assign the International Standard Book, Serial and Music numbers and provide Cataloguing-in-Publication data. We give top priority to disseminating the CIP records to a wide range of users and potential buyers in advance of the items' publication. In the case of first-time publishers, the Library is often a source for practical “how-to” information. The latest addition to the roster is the Publishers' Window on the Government of Canada, an organized collection of links to federal government information for and about the Canadian publishing industry. Work to date on

building the Library's e-collection indicates these services could be extended to publishers of online texts.

Background on Preservation
by Nancy Brodie

Outlines the challenges of digital preservation and emphasizes the need for active management of electronic publications over time. Preservation begins with the creator. As part of its mandate, the National Library of Canada preserves Canada's published heritage by collecting, organizing, storing and managing publications over time. Preservation can also be seen as a service to publishers. Best practices for digital preservation are evolving through international research and Canadian projects. NLC has adopted the Open Archival Information System as a target model for its Electronic Publication Management system project. There are many preservation issues which NLC and publishers could consider jointly: What formats and functionality can be preserved? What degree of authentication is required? Do we need standards or a certification process for digital archives? Can we share in research and development of standards or best practices?