



DLF Quarterly Report

July-September 2005

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These reports on DLF activities are designed to supplement the website sections on individual initiatives, reports at Board meetings, the Annual Report, and the regular postings of news on the DLF-ANNOUNCE listserv.

Rather than try to make them mini-Annual Reports each time, I plan to focus on one or more topics of current DLF activity and interest in each one, intending this to be another way to increase knowledge about what various working groups are doing.

A Focus on:

The Electronic Resource Management Initiative, Phase Two (ERMI2)

During Fall 2002, DLF launched the Electronic Resource Management Initiative (DLF ERMI 1) to foster “the rapid development of improved tools for managing licensed electronic resources – whether by individual libraries, consortia, or vendors.” The team, chaired by Tim Jewell (University of Washington) comprised of Ivy Anderson (Harvard University), Adam Chandler (Cornell University), Sharon Farb (UCLA), Kimberly Parker (Yale University), Angela Riggio (UCLA), and Nathan Robertson (The Johns Hopkins University).

When libraries acquire licensed electronic resources, they must comprehend, transmit, and inform others about the many financial, legal, and access aspects of these arrangements. The acquisitions and licensing processes are complex -- publishers transmit this information to libraries in a variety of paper and electronic formats, and the number of licensed electronic products that libraries are collecting is increasing rapidly. DLF ERMI 1 set out to bring order and efficiency to this situation by focusing the expertise of a group of domain experts from across the Digital Library Federation and beyond on this pervasive and time-consuming set of problems.

Their work proceeded speedily and a coordinated set of specifications and recommendations was completed in draft form in August 2004 (but circulated in parts

even before that date), followed by final electronic and print publication in June 2005 <<http://www.diglib.org/standards/dlf-erm02.htm>>.

The online versions have seen heavy use by our standards (more on our web usage patterns in a later *Quarterly Report*) and the influence of the work has been widely felt.

The DLF ERMI 1 working group impressed me in particular by their ability to engage publishers, data aggregators, and large automation vendors as “reactor panels” to their work even as they were developing their ideas. This activity occurred at ALA meetings, and in October 2004 at a day-long session prior to the DLF Fall Forum in Baltimore, which attracted representatives from scholarly publishers, most of the systems vendors, from standards bodies such as NISO, EDItEUR, and the Digital Object Identifier Foundation, and from EBSCO.

The value of this community involvement was swiftly seen as library systems companies brought out electronic resource management software heavily influenced by the ERMI specifications:

Innovative Interfaces made waves when it introduced an ERM (Electronic Resource Management) module ... and announced that it had sold over 60 of [them] by April 2004.... ExLibris, Endeavor, Sirsi, Dynix, and VTLS all announced their own modules and tools.... It is a tribute to DLF and also a statement about the need on both sides for these systems, that the DLF specifications have been used by all the large automation vendors who are offering ERM modules.

[From "ERMs: The New 'New Thing' in Library Systems." Cover story in *The Charleston Report*, July/August 2004.]

DLF ERMI 2: after a brief hiatus the ERMI initiative team re-grouped in the summer of this year and are focused now on a second phase of effort that capitalizes on and extends the visibility and success of DLF ERMI 1, with a particular focus on data standards, issues related to license expression, professional development training, and usage data <<http://www.diglib.org/standards/dlf-erm05.htm>>.

Revising the Data Dictionary: This Data Dictionary is the core set of 300 elements that are available for capturing the range of items one may need to record and control when managing electronic resources. As a version 1.0 release it needs further review and revision to render it more internally consistent and extensible, to facilitate machine interoperability of ERM records with other contexts and systems, and to make those modifications that only come to light during widespread implementation.

License Expression: Using the ERMI licensing data elements as a basis (one major section of the Data Dictionary) -- and working with NISO, EDItEUR (the maintainers of ONIX, the commonly used metadata standard in the scholarly

publishing world), and other appropriate publisher, vendor, and library groups, DLF ERMI 2 plans to establish practical, standardized ways of describing and communicating e-resource license provisions and related licensing metadata. The group is operating as part of a NISO committee to give confidence that what they produce will indeed be standardized:

<http://www.niso.org/committees/License_Expression/LicenseEx_comm.html>

A real potential outcome of this work is the ability for a publisher to express a license in a commonly-agreed XML format and transmit it to a library customer for ingest into an ERM system, which would be a significant efficiency over the current situation of licenses arriving in every shape and format. EDItEUR, the developers of Onix, are already prototyping one early iteration of this in their “ONIX for Licensing Terms” offering, with funding by DLF Ally JISC:

As the number of the digital resources in library collections grows, libraries have increasing difficulty complying with the widely differing licence terms applied to resources by their creators and publishers. The ability to express these terms in a standard XML format, link them to digital resources and communicate them to users has become a pressing need with benefits to both publishers and libraries.

EDItEUR is developing standards for the communication of licensing terms, ONIX for Licensing Terms, building on the work of the Digital Libraries Federation's Electronic Resource Management Initiative (ERMI) and the joint EDItEUR / NISO work on ONIX for Serials, and with initial funding contributions from the UK Publishers Licensing Society (PLS) and the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC).
<<http://www.editeur.org/>>

Training and Advocacy: members of the ERMI Steering Group collaborated with ARL to present a well-attended introductory pre-conference workshop at the June 2005 ALA Annual Conference on analyzing license terms for use in systems that rely on the ERMI data elements: *Reading and Mapping License Language for Electronic Resource Management: A Pilot ARL/DLF Workshop* (ALA Annual 2005 Preconference, Chicago, IL Friday, June 24, 2005): see <<http://www.arl.org/stats/work/mapping.html>>. Turnout for the session was strong – over 50 participants – and we expect to see further training sessions in partnership with ARL in 2006, to promote DLF ERMI 2. There is a current proposal to ARL for Trisha Davis (Ohio State) and Diane Grover (U. of Washington) to be appointed ARL Visiting Program Officers with the goals of bringing awareness of developments regarding the Electronic Resources Management Initiative to a wide community and of strengthening the partnership between ARL and DLF to promote awareness and better tools for managing electronic resources.

Usage Data: In a recent survey of librarians interested in electronic resources <<http://www.electroniclibrarian.com/node/22>> “extracting and analyzing e-resource data” was the second most-commonly cited problem (after “issues in management and access of e-journals”). DLF ERMI 2 will address usage statistics issues directly through partnership in the (delightfully-named) SUSHI: Standardized Usage Statistics Harvesting Initiative <<http://www.library.cornell.edu/cts/elicensestudy/ermi2/sushi/>>.

SUSHI builds firmly on the standards work of by Project COUNTER, which addresses a central problem familiar to all of us: “Librarians want to understand better how the information they buy from a variety of sources is being used; publishers want to know how the information products they disseminate are being accessed” <<http://www.projectcounter.org/>>.

While Project COUNTER has been successful in defining an “international set of standards and protocols governing the recording and exchange of online usage data,” DLF ERMI 2 is going the next step and developing a machine-to-machine Web protocol for moving Project COUNTER reports from a vendor site into an Electronic Resource Management system. Such a protocol will enable data handling and manipulation to be much less time-consuming and the DLF ERMI 2 group expects to develop a detailed statement of functional requirements in this area.

The DLF ERMI 2 Steering Group (SG) consists of 6 of the 7 members of the original group, along with two new members:

Timothy Jewell (University of Washington), coordinator
Ivy Anderson (California Digital Library)
Adam Chandler (Cornell)
Trisha Davis (Ohio State University)
Sharon Farb (UCLA Libraries)
Linda Miller (Library of Congress)
Angela Riggio (UCLA Libraries)
Nathan Robertson (University of Maryland Law Library)

Watch their new website -- <http://www.diglib.org/standards/dlf-erm05.htm> -- for ongoing developments with this work.

In Other News: A DLF Publications Program Update

For nearly a decade now, DLF has produced not only a steady stream of meeting reports, papers, and Forum presentations in various electronic formats, but also a more formal publication series that are copyedited and laid out for print distribution as well. Either jointly published with CLIR, or solo DLF efforts (but using the skilled production and editorial staff at CLIR), these books now number sixteen titles and over 2,000 pages.

Through the good work of DLF's Barrie Howard, these publications now all reside with a single vendor and printer, available for purchase through a single "shopping cart" program and with a print-on-demand feature behind it to allow us to keep older publications available without the need to create and store significant print runs: <<http://orders.balmar.com/store/entrance.asp?CompanyID=31>>

A steady stream of "putting our house in order" activities are going on around these publications as time permits:

- ISBNs are being updated and registered so we are discoverable in Books in Print;
- MARC records are being created or emended to allow us to be present in WorldCat;
- XML master files that comply to the DLF's own "Text Encoding Initiative (TEI) in Libraries" recommendations are being created by a graduate student at the University of Virginia for most of the publications, both as malleable sources for any future re-publication we do and to allow us to offer the user an electronic version that they can re-use more easily than a PDF file or a website;
- by Spring 2006 we hope to have had all our publications accepted in both Google Print and Amazon's "Search Inside the Book" programs, to be sure we are easily discoverable in the places that people look for books;
- And Persistent URLs (PURLS) and harvestable Open Archive Initiative (OAI) records are in the offing too for each title, so we can say with honesty that we practice what we preach.

With 16 titles, none of this is particularly time-consuming, and it should ensure that these good practices become ingrained as part of the DLF production routines moving forwards. < <http://www.diglib.org/pubs/dlfpubs.htm>>

To remind you, the DLF and CLIR/DLF print publications are as follows:

1. *Acquiring Copyright Permission to Digitize and Provide Open Access* (October 2005). Denise Troll Covey. 63 pages.
2. *A Kaleidoscope of Digital American Literature* (September 2005). Martha L. Brogan with assistance from Daphnée Rentfrow. 176 pages.
3. *Technical Guidelines for Digitizing Archival Materials for Electronic Access: Creation of Production Master Files-Raster Images* (June 2004). Steven Puglia, Jeffrey A. Reed, Erin Rhodes, and the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration. 87 pages.

4. *Electronic Resource Management: Report of the DLF Electronic Resource Management Initiative* (August 2004). Timothy D. Jewell, Ivy Anderson, Adam Chandler, Sharon E. Farb, Kimberly Parker, Angela Riggio, and Nathan D. M. Robertson. 267 pages.
5. *A Survey of Digital Library Aggregation Services* (August 2003). Martha L. Brogan. 105 pages.
6. *Dimensions and Use of the Scholarly Information Environment: A Data Set Assembled by the Digital Library Federation and Outsell, Inc.* (November 2002). With an introduction by Amy Friedlander. 893 pages.
7. *The Digital Library: A Biography* (December 2002). Daniel Greenstein and Suzanne E. Thorin. 70 pages.
8. *Usage and Usability Assessment: Library Practices and Concerns* (January 2002). Denise Troll Covey. 93 pages.
9. *Scholarly Work in the Humanities and the Evolving Information Environment* (December 2001). William S. Brockman, Laura Neumann, Carole L. Palmer, Tonyia J. Tidline. 38 pages.
10. *Strategies for Building Digitized Collections* (September 2001). Abby Smith. 36 pages.
11. *Selection and Presentation of Commercially Available Electronic Resources: Issues and Practices* (July 2001). Timothy D. Jewell. 55 pages.
12. *Building Sustainable Collections of Free Third-Party Web Resources* (June 2001). Louis A. Pitschmann. 44 pages.
13. *Systems of Knowledge Organization for Digital Libraries: Beyond Traditional Authority Files* (April 2000). Gail Hodge. 37 pages.
14. *The Making of America II Testbed Project: A Digital Library Service Model* (December 1999). Bernard J. Hurley, John Price-Wilkin, Merrilee Proffitt, Howard Besser. 36 pages.
15. *Preserving the Whole: A Two-Track Approach to Rescuing Social Science Data and Metadata* (June 1999). Ann Green, JoAnn Dionne, and Martin Dennis. 45 pages.
16. *Enabling Access in Digital Libraries: A Report on a Workshop on Access Management* (February 1999). Caroline Arms. 36 pages.

Director's Activities: presentations, site visits, and DLF meetings

05/07/08: Presentation: "The Library in Flux: Motion, Modularization, and Malleability." Kanazawa Institute of Technology Roundtable, Kanazawa, Japan. At the invitation of Deanna Marcum and the KIT Roundtable directors.

05/07/19: Met with Ann Wolpert at MIT Libraries to discuss DLF matters

05/07/19: Met with Mackenzie Smith, MIT, to discuss Services Framework

05/07/19: Site visit: examine potential sites for DLF Fall Forum 2006 in Boston

05/07/20: Met with staff, Boston Public Library

05/07/20: Met with Dale Flecker, Harvard University Library, to discuss Services Framework

05/07/26: Presentation: "Speaking Pictures Newly Construed: Emblematic Literature and the Digital Library." Seventh International Emblem conference. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

05/09/05: Presentation on the DLF for Oxford librarians – senior management team, Oxford, England.

05/09/06: Presentation on the DLF for Lynn Brindley and the British Library senior management team, British Library, London, England.

05/09/06: Met with JISC staff – Sarah Porter, Rachel Bruce – London, England

05/09/07: Acted as a judge for the Digital Preservation portion of the UK Conservation Awards, British Library, London, England.

05/09/09: Meeting: Bibliographical Society of Virginia Annual Board meeting, UVa.

05/09/13: Presentation in the "Future of Libraries" day at the Boston Athenaeum – a conference and discussion session for the Athenaeum staff and trustees. Boston.

05/09/17 – 05/09/22: Attended European Conference on Digital Libraries (ECDL), Vienna, Austria.

05/09/29: Keynote: "Revolution and Evolution in the Digital Library." The South Atlantic Regional Conference of SLA, Williamsburg, VA.