

Invitation to join the OAIS community platform

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ABSTRACT

In this poster, we describe an initiative to build a community resource around the OAIS standard.

General Terms

Infrastructure opportunities and challenges

Keywords

OAIS

1. INTRODUCTION

The OAIS standard (Open Archival Information Standard) published by both the Consultative Committee for Space Data Systems (CCSDS) and as ISO14721 (last updated in 2012) has been highly influential in the development of digital preservation. As a reference model it provides a common basis for aligning disparate practice in diverse institutional settings. A range of standards have emerged around and related to OAIS including PREMIS (for preservation metadata), ISO16363 (for certification) and PAIMAS (for exchange between Producers and Archives).

Since OAIS was initially proposed the digital preservation community has grown tremendously in absolute numbers and in diversity. OAIS adoption has expanded far beyond the space data community to include cultural heritage, research data centers, commerce, industry and government.

The digital preservation community has a responsibility to keep the standard alive and relevant. The upcoming ISO review of the OAIS standard in 2017 offers a chance for a cooperative, transparent review process. It also creates an opportunity for further community building around OAIS and related initiatives.

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At the 2014 4C/DPC Conference¹ in London a few people decided it was time to start thinking about the OAIS review in 2017 and the importance this standard has for the digital preservation and curation community. This group has a vision of developing an information platform around these common vocabularies, concepts, functions, and standards to develop a common view on the state of digital curation and preservation and provide the basis for a contribution to the OAIS review.

The Digital Preservation Coalition in the UK offered to host this OAIS resource which will be created, supported and maintained by the cross-domain, international digital preservation and curation community.. Every preservationist will be able to contribute, whether they are working in libraries, archives, research organizations, data centers or banking, medicine, and space agencies.

To support this platform the following will be initiated:

1. An OAIS Wiki environment
2. Exploring official review channels
3. Active interaction

2. *An OAIS Wiki environment?*

Feedback on a range of topics related to the use and interpretation of the OAIS standard and the related standards will provide a valuable reference for new as well as experienced preservationist. Various interpretations, related to different domains will offer insight in the actual implementation of the OAIS standard, insight that currently is not available in one place.

Some specialists in digital preservation and curation were asked to pick a topic of their interest and write a guest post about it, thus helping to start discussions.

The community will doubtless deliver a wide range of alternate perspectives and some conflicting views. The wiki will facilitate discussion and debate, and act as a record of the issues and opinions beyond those included in the formal review submission.

But this information can also be input for an editorial committee (consisting of the most active participants) to formulate recommendations which will result in a formal submission to the

¹ <http://digitalpreservation.nl/seeds/the-gold-standard/>

² http://wiki.dpconline.org/index.php?title=OAIS_Community

2017 review. In this way, the community will be able to understand all the wide ranging input to the review, maximising transparency and enabling ongoing dialogue.

3. Exploring official mechanisms

Official mechanisms for the review of ISO standards are well established via National Standard Bodies. These will be explored and described and used to give input for the upcoming review. This will support a better preparation for the review of the preservation community

4. Active Interaction

Ensuring inclusion for this large, diverse community means collaborative virtual meetings are necessary but we all recognize the value of face-to-face meetings and will seek to enable them.

The outcome from this activity is not simply a wiki nor is it a set of recommendations. The community that gathers around the OAIS standard is diffuse and fragmented.

By providing a shared open platform for the community that gathers around the OAIS we aim to ensure on-going dialogue about our standards and their implementation in the future.

In this sense the 2017 review is a milestone on the way to an engaged and empowered community rather than a destination.