International Journal on Digital Libraries

Call for Papers

Special Issue on

Extending, Mapping and Focusing the CIDOC CRM

The CIDOC CRM is a widely accepted ontology for the management of documentation concerning Cultural Heritage, Archaeology and more, and is the ISO standard 21127:2014. It is promoted by CIDOC, the documentation committee of ICOM, the UNESCO international Museum Committee. One of its strong points consists in the possibility of creating specializations and extensions to the core body of the CRM to adapt to special uses and specific subdomains. It has been selected as the standard by the most important EU-funded research projects on digital heritage such as, among others, 3D-COFORM and ARIADNE. Several world-famous institutions are using it as a model for their data management projects, such as the British Museum (ResearchSpace), the German Archaeological Institute (Arachne), the Getty Institute (ARCHES), the University of Oxford (CLAROS) and many more.

On the other hand, the CRM candidates as the semantic glue to achieve the interoperability of large cultural heritage datasets. Therefore research has focused on creating mappings from existing metadata schemas to the CRM, which is now playing the role of pivot ontology to integrate datasets from different sources, having different data structures. While in most cases the CRM core has proven to be sufficient, in others the addition of a few classes and properties was required, however without loss of generality and without affecting their interoperability with correlated systems. The most important harmonization effort of this kind has concerned FRBR, an ontology for bibliographic information promoted by IFLA, the International Library Association.

In sum, the CRM is currently one of the most important tools in the domain of digital heritage and digital humanities, in light of the international push to open, share and foster the re-use of the huge amount of data accumulated by research in all these domains.

This richness of applications suggests that it is high time to take stock of the work done so far in a special issue of the International Journal for Digital Libraries, dedicated to the extensions and specializations of the CRM, to the mappings of metadata schemas to the CRM, and to theoretical papers analyzing the foundations of various aspects of the CRM or the incorporation of new concepts in its core, as required by the needs of new research communities.

In the editors' intention, the special issue should be the venue for a discussion on the current and the perspective impact of CRM adoption on digital heritage research; thus submitted papers should assess and consolidate the advancement of its applications and they should indicate new avenues for future research in the knowledge organization domain, as regards heritage-related applications. They should also foster cross-domain fertilization between the heritage and digital libraries communities and provide a forum for debating the mutual impact of research questions in archaeology and heritage versus the most recent trends in digital libraries investigations. Due to the specific theme, contributions will be required to address together both knowledge organization aspects and the application profile. They will consist of research papers or top-quality reports of good practices, highlighting their exemplary innovation content.

Themes will include, but not limit to:

- Extensions and specializations of the CRM for heritage and archaeology applications
- Extensions and specializations of the CRM in digital humanities
- Mapping existing metadata schemas to the CRM
- Mapping repositories and tools
- CRM and other documentation standards
- Using CRM for gazetteers and thesauri
- Using CRM in Linked Data
- CRM and Natural Language Processing
- Formalization of CRM
- Querying, searching and faceted browsing of CRM repositories
- Reasoning with CRM
- Introduction of new key concepts in the CRM

Key dates:

- December 31, 2015   Paper Submission deadline
- February 28, 2016   First notification
- April 30, 2016   Revision submission
- June 30, 2016   Second notification
- July 31, 2016   Final version submission

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Paper Submission

Papers submitted to this special issue for possible publication must be original and must not be under consideration for publication in any other journal or conference. Previously published or accepted conference papers must contain at least 30% new material to be considered for the special issue.

All papers are to be submitted by referring to http://www.springer.com/799. At the beginning of the submission process, under "Article Type", please select the appropriate special issue. All manuscripts must be prepared according to the journal publication guidelines which can also be found on the website provided above. Papers will be reviewed following the journal standard review process.