

Briefing Paper about the COAR Interest Group „Controlled Vocabularies for Repository Assets”

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Purpose

Scientific results published in Open Access institutional and thematic repositories are described by bibliographic metadata. Open Access to and exchange of these metadata is an important aspect of interoperability that requires the description of specific properties about publications and research data in a standardized way.

A number of vocabularies and application profiles have been defined in the past, among them the Dublin Core Type Vocabulary¹ and the Scholarly Works Application Profile. Others have a thematic focus (e.g. metadata standards and vocabularies in the AIMS-FAO community²) or are intended to comply with specific policies (RIOXX guidelines³).

The vocabulary using the namespace “info:eu-repo”⁴ was introduced around the year 2008 as part of the DRIVER-II guidelines for repositories. Since then this vocabulary has been adopted by an increasing number of initiatives (see below), is supported by major repository and eJournal platforms (e.g. DSpace, EPrints, OJS) and thus is being used across the globe to describe bibliographic metadata.

The “info:eu-repo” vocabulary has gained global importance in the scholarly information infrastructure, yet it is fragile because it currently lacks international governance and sustainable organizational support. Embedding this vocabulary in an international structure will help to extend the viability of the vocabulary over the lifetime of an individual and project. Adding or changing terms has a profound impact on the systems implementing this vocabulary, therefore an international group of stakeholders is needed to review the existing vocabulary and agree on any future changes. COAR is the international body with the proper governance structure that can take up that role.

This Interest Group will also provide an overview of related controlled vocabularies and open access indicators used in international and regional guidelines that are targeted at repositories. This will enable the group to update the vocabulary in alignment with other related vocabularies.

Activities

- Hosting and maintaining the “info:eu-repo” vocabulary; COAR provides the organizational infrastructure and a web platform
- Set up of an COAR authority group of the “info:eu-repo” vocabulary
- Set up of a workflow for members of the authority group to moderate the vocabulary (e. g. decision making about adding / changing terms, identifiers, descriptions)
- Maintaining a knowledge space (wiki) about metadata guidelines and vocabularies related to the Open Access repository and eJournal platform community

¹ <http://dublincore.org/documents/dcmi-type-vocabulary/>

² <http://aims.fao.org/advice-and-capacity-development/metadata-standards>

³ <http://rioxx.net/>

⁴ <http://wiki.surf.nl/display/standards/info-eu-repo>

- Review and monitor new and ongoing developments regarding controlled vocabularies and Open Access indicators and provide feedback to the COAR WG “Repository Interoperability” and the COAR Board

Organisation

The interest group (IG) is part of the COAR working group “Repository Interoperability”.

The IG is coordinated by Jochen Schirrwagen (jochen.schirrwagen@uni-bielefeld.de).

The IG will create an authority group of participants that will moderate and maintain the “info:eu-repo” vocabulary. The authority group should have members representing the project and user community (see below).

Joining the IG is not bound to COAR membership but active participation in IG activities is desired.

Communication Channels

The web-site of the interest group is: <https://www.coar-repositories.org/activities/repository-interoperability/ig-controlled-vocabularies-for-repository-assets/>

An email list has been created that will be used for communication between participants:

<https://listserv.gwdg.de/mailman/listinfo/coar-ig-oa-vocabularies>

It is expected that IG participants will meet quarterly using a web conference tool.

Initiatives and User Community (sample)

- DRIVER / OpenAIRE / OpenAIREplus: EU projects using the vocabulary in guidelines to describe publication type, access mode, funded projects.
- NEEO – Economists online: EU project using the vocabulary for publication types; using the namespace as a name authority for classifying JEL-codes.
- DINI: German network initiative that has created a “common vocabulary” using “info:eu-repo” as part of its repository certification guidelines
- ORIS: Dutch project reviewing the namespace.
- Knowledge Exchange Usage Statistics Guidelines: used to describe the resource a user has requested (e.g. fulltext download, metadata view)
- SNRD: the Argentinian network of Open Access repositories is using this vocabulary in its guidelines