

## 24TH ANNUAL UKSG CONFERENCE

### Briefing Sessions

*Nine briefing sessions were held at this year's conference, each repeated three times, generating much interesting debate and discussion. Reports reflecting the content and discussion at some of these sessions are included below.*

#### **Linking.**

*Simon Inger, CatchWord Ltd*

Simon Inger managed to cram into one hour what would normally require a day to explain. The session began with an explanation of the basics of linking between journals and also the reasons behind linking, such as added value, increased navigation and usage of content. Simon explained the difference between a linker and linkee and also the different business models such as:

Content hosts	e.g. CatchWord
Gateways	e.g. subscription agents, CSA
Full-text aggregators	e.g. Gale.

The role of gateways was discussed in some detail. The term gateway was defined as 'a collection of links to full text', where money is made from 'pointing' users to primary content. The three basic types of gateway are subscription agents, abstract and indexing companies and libraries.

Simon moved on to cover reference linking, 'the act of linking from a citation in one article to the appropriate full text or abstract in the same or other collection'. Three relationships were identified, direct relationships, both internal and external, and indirect relationships, where linking between journals is facilitated by a third party, such as CrossRef, without the need for complex linking agreements between publishers.

CrossRef consists of a database of DOIs (Digital Object Identifiers or dumb numbers with no meaning), which act in a similar way to phone numbers in that a DOI will refer to a journal article, however, there is no way to connect the journal article to the DOI. CrossRef's membership

of 69 publishers have submitted over 2.3 million article DOIs and supporting metadata but due to CrossRef's poor search engine only a fraction of reference linking uses this method. An improved look-up service is currently being built.

A problem with CrossRef and its DOIs is that even though they may link the user to a related article, the user may not have the correct permissions to view the 'appropriate copy'. Simon concluded the briefing session by mentioning new resources that start to allow for the management of the 'appropriate copy' issue.

Jake	Jointly Administered Knowledge Environment
SFX	Context-sensitive reference-linking
Openly Jake	An incarnation of Jake

Jake shows in which databases, aggregators and gateways an article appears, and allows a library to choose the appropriate resource. SFX allows the library to replace a link in a document with a more appropriate one or a list of alternatives, e.g. pay per view, local resources etc. Openly Jake combines Jake with an SFX like functionality.

The implications of these tools are threefold: libraries can maintain a certain amount of control over linking; users are directed more easily to free (at point of use) resources, but publishers may be made more cautious about the number of access points and pricing of their content.

The PowerPoint slides for Simon Inger's packed session along with other Catchword presentations can be found at:

<http://www.catchword.com/papers.htm>

*Graham Stone, Bolton Institute*

#### **The latest web developments.**

*Brian Kelly, UKOLN*

Brian Kelly's session was a roller-coaster ride through the recent web developments and

initiatives infiltrating the modern world. It was a difficult session to follow, especially for those of us unfamiliar with the confusing, technological abbreviations, like myself, but interesting and enlightening points were made.

The session began by Kelly instructing on the need for standards to implement the Web Vision fully. He warned of the role of the software vendor and highlighted potential problems for the future, e.g. difficulties in interoperability of systems made attractive by vendors today. Kelly's history lesson provided a glimpse at the different approaches to standardisation, from the progression of HTML and CSS, to XML, Xlink, XPointer and XHTML, which is the new current development.

Kelly spoke of the problems with 'transport,' i.e. design flaws and implementation problems, and highlighted the problems in 'addressing,' with URLs and their limitations, such as lack of long-term persistency and inability to support multiple versions of resources. Kelly's suggestions for solutions included PURLs (persistent URLs), which could provide a single level of redirection, and DOIs (Digital Object

Identifiers). The session became very complicated for the uninitiated with talk of 'metadata' – 'the missing architectural component from the initial implementation of the web,' and the RDF – Resource Description Framework. However, comments on e-commerce and the development of the Mobile Web were very interesting.

Kelly's fundamental point was in his question, "Has the Web stabilised?". The session made us ponder certain possibilities: Will we want to implement WAP services?; Will we want to, or be forced to, make our Web service accessible?; Will we want to deploy personalized interfaces?; and Will our information provision move from information provision to business?.

The Web Vision, like this session, is not straightforward or easy-going. The main focus, which Kelly made us understand, is to question how, in this current climate, can one best exploit new developments. Deployment issues and architectural models appear to be an integral part of this equation – storing information in a structured format makes redevelopment easier.

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