

**Minutes for SCC meeting of January 21, 2004
by Dave Redell**

Attending

Allison Akbay
Dennis Austin
Sharon Brunzel
Lee Courtney
Gardner Hendrie
Larry Masinter

Paul McJones
Chacko Neroth
Bernard Peuto
Mike Powell
Dave Redell
Anel Rodriguez

Len Shustek
Dag Spicer
Ed Taft
Kirsten Tashev
John Toole

Logistics

- We will try to improve the process of distributing complete, timely minutes.
- Speakers are urged to distribute their presentations:
 - send out electronically a week before the meeting
 - bring 20 hardcopies to the meeting
- We will have a website and work out the best way to use it for online distribution of materials.
- We are emerging from the initial bootstrapping mode of getting organized, and expect to spend most of the time in future meetings reviewing presentations from subcommittees about specific tasks and issues.
- Bernard will attempt to schedule the meetings six months in advance, adding three new meetings to the schedule at the start of each calendar quarter.

Task List and Schedule

A revised Task List was reviewed, showing task schedule and duration. Tasks are grouped into four categories:

- Preliminary Standards & Test Candidates
- Resources & Focusing
- Testing Process
- Broadening the scope

The content and schedule of the listed tasks is being further reviewed to establish priorities, set realistic expectations and clarify roles and responsibilities.

Software Metadata Subcommittee

The subcommittee gave a brief, informal report and took as a goal a substantive presentation at the February meeting.

Software Taxonomy Subcommittee

Members have been working via email and gave a brief report. A number of pre-existing taxonomies have been under review (ACM/IEEE/etc), but there is a general feeling that no other group has the issue under control. It was noted that the existing taxonomies differ along several dimensions, including emphasis on commercial vs academic issues. No specific taxonomic approach has been selected, and any decision on one will take at least a few months. There was some discussion of the idea of allowing multiple taxonomies to be superimposed on a single underlying flat space of UIDs, eliminating the need for a hard selection of a single taxonomy to retain maximum flexibility. The exact distinction and relationship between taxonomy and metadata was discussed, emphasizing the need for cooperation between the two subcommittees. Bernard suggested that for pragmatic purposes, we should see if we can adopt an interim taxonomic approach and move forward while still retaining future flexibility.

Other Action Items

- John Toole reported on funding sources. NSF appears to be largely occupied with a burst of other funding activities. Len suggested starting with a focus on private funding (individuals and/or corporations) and establishing the credibility necessary for sustained funding of ongoing activities from other sources.
- Next meeting we will have a presentation on the Initial Community of Practice.
- There was consensus that coordination with other professional societies was premature at this point, and should be kept on the back burner for the time being.
- Mike Walton was not in attendance to discuss the protected email alias. We expect to discuss it at the next meeting.
- Dag showed a revised list of Collection Criteria. The discussion suggested further revisions, but the list does appear to be converging. The age criterion (>25 years) continues to be a source of some confusion. Other issues included the application of the criteria (are they only suggestions, or hard and fast rules) and the idea of creating a parallel list of Rejection Filter Criteria to characterize criteria for rejecting candidate items from the collection.

The "First Ten" List

Discussion resumed on the process of identifying a set of initial artifacts to use as test cases for the committee's evolving procedures. Bernard stressed that "ten" is not a magic number, and that in practical terms, it is more important to pick a set of test cases that have volunteers ready to work on them than it is to pick the "best" test cases and risk having some number of them languish. It was agreed that one item in the draft list really should be pulled out as a separate activity and worked on in parallel: "Indexing the Current Collection". (It was also noted that technically, this task is cataloguing rather than indexing.)

In a round-robin discussion, various members nominated specific pieces of software for the list, with the most compelling form of nomination being: "I volunteer to work on this". Possible volunteers included:

- Len/Paul/Lee: Early Fortran (Waterloo? IBM? 1620?).
- Ed: Some early interactive system (TBD).
- Sharon: A big search system (TBD).
- Dennis: Early Powerpoint.
- Dag: Software for hardware in the collection (SAGE? JOSS?).
- Mike: Unix V6 or V7.
- John: The vi editor or the MAGIC hardware CAD tool.
- Larry: Something related to LISP.
- Kirsten: Select a First-Ten item as subject for prototype software exhibit. One idea is Xerox Bravo editor.
- Dave: Adventure game software.

Committee members are encouraged to volunteer using the email form that Bernard distributed with the pre-meeting materials.

For each item, the goal would be to apply Len's list of tasks (collect all material, interview authors, get software running, clarify IP issues, etc) and keep track of how much time and effort goes into each one, as well as problems/solutions, open questions, helpful tools & techniques, etc.

Agenda Items for February 18, 2004 Meeting

Taxonomy Subcommittee Report
Metadata Subcommittee Report
Review of Action Items
Continuing Review of "First Ten" List
Webtools & Support

Report on Community of Practice

Start work on the "Top 100" list (may wait until March)

Next Meetings

Wednesday February 18 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Wednesday March 24 from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm. [Note different time]

Wednesday April 21 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Wednesday May 19 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Wednesday June 23 from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm. [Note different time]

Wednesday July 21 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Wednesday August 18 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

No September meeting