

OAI Metadata Harvesting Workshop at JCDL2003

Call for participation

This workshop will bring together people with Open Archives Initiative (OAI) metadata harvesting experience to discuss problems, their solutions, and to identify best practices. The focus will be on near- to medium-term practical issues. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss problems or raise issues that they have encountered and will benefit from the shared experience of the other participants.

The workshop will combine and distill the OAI harvesting knowledge and experience of the participants to detail 1) best practices and existing solutions to particular harvesting problems; and 2) unresolved problems and issues with current implementations, the specification, or limitations of version 2.0 the OAI protocol for metadata harvesting (OAI-PMH). The conclusions of the workshop will be disseminated to the wider OAI community.

Topics

Workshop participants are invited to present short papers (10–20 minute) papers on issues of particular concern. Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- scalability issues
- response size, response compression
- XML response validity/parsing/robustness
- response size and number of requests/responses to harvest/re-harvest/update
- automated repository discovery (including the friends schema)
- metadata formats (mandatory unqualified DC, qualified DC)
- use and interpretation of metadata in <about> blocks
- harvester notification mechanisms (is there a need?)
- expected future problems

Format

This will be a full-day workshop with an emphasis on discussion. It will be held on Saturday 31 May 2003, the day after the main sessions of the JCDL conference. The morning will be divided into short sessions of 20–40 minutes where participants will use half the time to present a short paper on a particular issue and proposed or possible solutions. The other half of each session will be reserved for moderated discussion. The first part of the afternoon will be reserved for in-depth discussion of the most interesting or difficult issues identified in the morning session. The remainder of the afternoon will be devoted to identification of issues upon which there is consensus and those for which further work is required.

Participation

Participation is open to those who have OAI harvesting experience. Participants will be expected describe their OAI harvesting experience in a brief (1 or 2 paragraph) position statement, and to propose a topic or topics for discussion. Selected participants will be invited to present a short paper to describe and seed discussion on a topic they proposed.

Participants must register though the JCDL registration system. Both the position statement and any suggested topic or topics for discussion should be submitted (by email to simeon@cs.cornell.edu) at the time of registration. There will be a limit of 30 participants to ensure that focused discussion is possible.

Further information

The workshop will be held on Saturday, 31 May 2003, from 9am until 5pm. Current workshop and conference information is available from the URLs given below.

Workshop web page: <http://www.cs.cornell.edu/people/simeon/workshops/JCDL2003>

JCDL2003 web site: <http://www.rice.edu/jcdl03/about.html>

JCDL2003 workshops page: <http://www.rice.edu/jcdl03/workshops.html>

Organizer contact

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Simeon Warner is one of the maintainers and developers of the arXiv e-print archive (<http://arXiv.org/>), and has worked with the Open Archives Initiative (OAI) since its inception. He was one of the editors of the OAI protocol for metadata harvesting (OAI-PMH) specification and has implemented and maintains an OAI-PMH interface for arXiv. He is a Research Associate in Computing and Information Science at Cornell University with research interests in web information systems, interoperability and open-access scholarly publishing.

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