

Applying Metadata Protocols and Standards at the Institutional Level: The University of Arizona Experience

CNI attendees are familiar with national and international metadata initiatives at the macro level (e.g., IMS, CIMI, DOI, Dublin Core). At the University of Arizona, we have been engaging metadata at the micro level. That is, exploring what national initiatives seem to have the best applicability in our environment, promoting the use of metadata on campus, and forging a campus framework that incorporates developing metadata with our instructional objects.

Garry Forger and Stuart Glogoff, two members of the U of A's Office of Distributed Learning, will discuss how they are creating Web accessible resources of instructional material suitable for a variety of grade levels and incorporating metadata when appropriate. For example, the metadata initiatives that have been consulted include the Dublin Core set, CIMI, recommendations from the Digital Imaging Group (DIG), and standards for the creation of education-oriented resources from Ariadne, IMS, and IEEE. Their efforts include digital objects created by the library, a highly recognized instructional module in the College of Science, and efforts in the College of Agriculture to manage a disparate array of instructional and research objects.

Nationally we are participating in GEM, MERLOT and SMETE. The University of Arizona is adding resources to these databases, participating in the structure and the directions of these efforts, and looking at ways of incorporating content from these databases into online and traditional courses. Using homegrown and commercial course management tools (Webct), along with a variety of digital library assets, we are focusing our efforts on issues of interoperability and seamless interfaces.

The presenters will address the levels of institutional commitment needed to sustain the initiative, how the Dublin Core and IMS recommendations are being adopted to create the basic metadata structure for campus learning object repositories, and participation in national/international projects.