



Making Europeana Interoperable (the) Six Most Challenging Issues

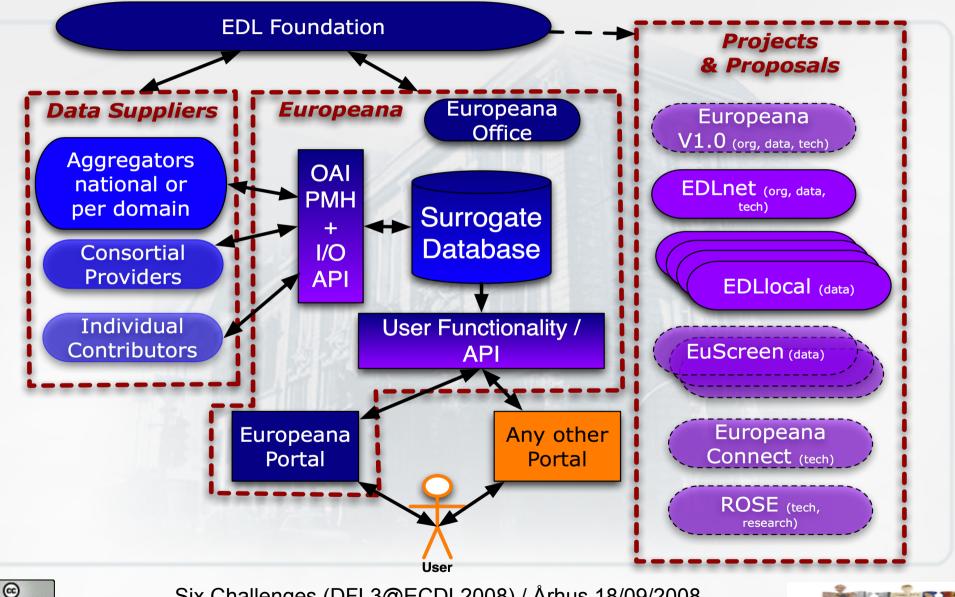
Prof. Dr. Stefan Gradmann Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin / School of Library and Information Science stefan.gradmann@ibi.hu-berlin.de





Europeana 1.0 Big Picture





Six Challenges (DFL3@ECDL2008) / Århus 18/09/2008

OpenOfficeorg



Overview



Six Issues:

- Object Model
- Functional Primitives
- Authentication based services
- Semantic Mapping and Alignment
- Multilingualism
- Data quality
- Finding the appropriate abstraction level
- ... to what end?

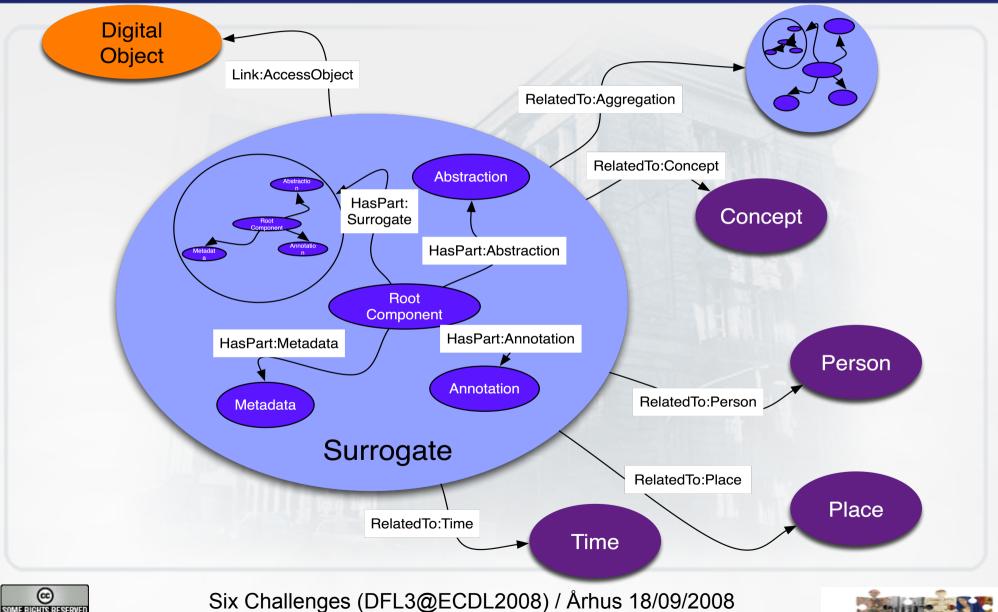




Objects: Europeana Perspective

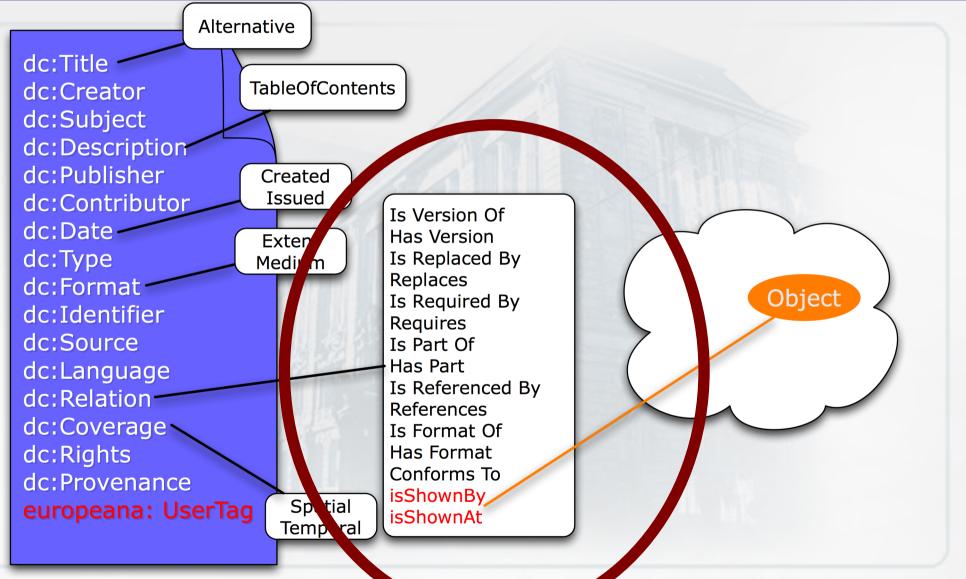


connecting cultural heritage



OpenOfficeorg

Objects and Relations

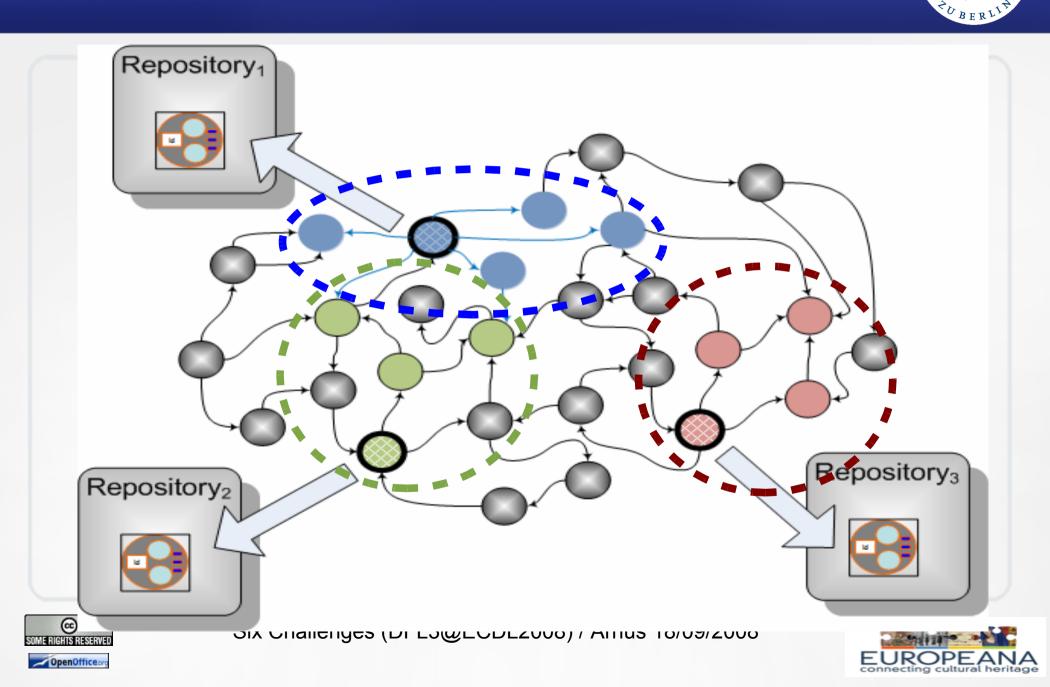






Objects:OAI-ORE Perspective

NOT DT-UNIL,



Document / Object Model: Beyond Metadata



- Things are relatively simple with digitised objects but what about born digital ones?
- What constitutes the boundaries of a complex digital entity?
- What are its basic constituents?
- What are typical relations between components within an entity?
- What are typical relations between autonomous entities?
- Framework candidates include
 - ORE
 - CIDOC-CRM
 - DCMI Abstract





Modelling of Non-textual Media



- Media types
 - still images
 - audios
 - videos
 - 3D objects
- Too many standards: Plethora of content models and formats!





Functional Primitives



- What functional primitives can we distinguish beyond 'read' and 'write'?
- On which level of abstraction?
 - Bytestream as in iRods microservices?
 - Content management as in JCR 283?
 - Higher level function blocks as in DRIVER?
 - Web Service Level as in JISC Information Environment?





Authentication based Operations



- Authorisation
 - closely related to functional primitives!
 - what kinds of operations do we want to distinguish in terms of authorisation?
- Access control / licensing
- Personalisation





Semantic Alignment & Mapping



- Terminology alignment and identification of preferred concepts
- Ontology matching
- Ontology mapping
- Mapping evolution
- ... the underlying issue is conceptual interoperability => next & last challenge





Multilingualism



- 'European' essential: linguistic diversity is vital for Europe!
- Four levels of multilinguality:
 - Interface elementary and mostly available
 - Browsing via a common multilingual ontology mapping onto versions for each language. Invest in SKOSification!
 - Search on a monolingual baseline
 - Monolingual search for multiple languages (L1 => L1) Invest in tokenizers (essential), stopword lists (essential), stemmers or morphological analysers (essential), decompounders (optional), phrase recognizers (optional), named entity recognizers (optional)!
 - Simple cross language search (L1 => Ln) Invest in the above plus automated query and document translation!
 - Full multilingual search (Ln => Ln) Holy grail and still in a distant future only!
- Multilingualism beyond linguistic mimicry requires conceptual interoperability!





The Nasty Bit: Data Quality



- A perfect framework combining
 - object modeling
 - well understood functional primitives
 - including authorisation methods
 - as well as using aligned semantic elements
 - and fully multilingual

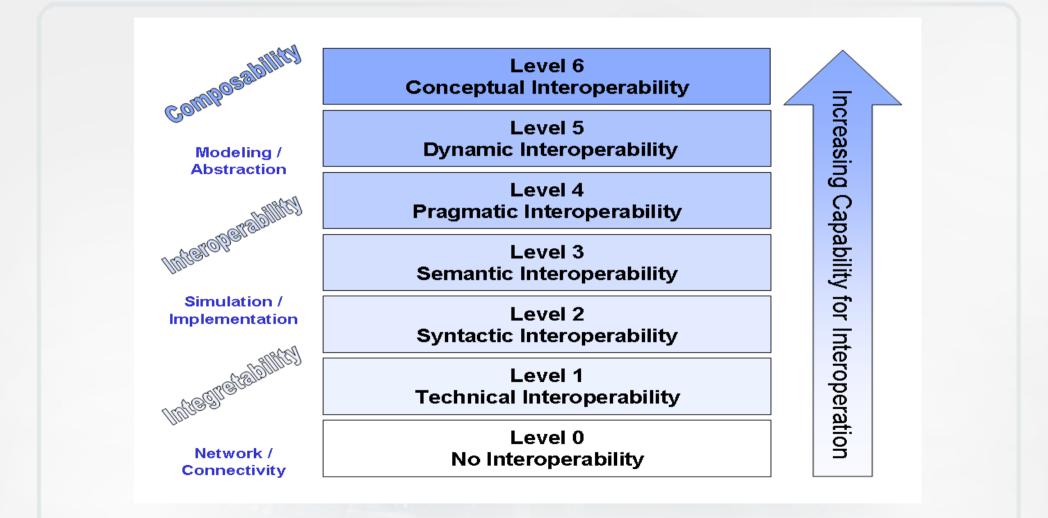
may still result in a dramatic lack of interoperability:

- When operating on 'dirty', heterogeneous data!
- This is a truth both trivial and critical





Abstraction Layers (Tolk2006)







Abstraction Layers (Legrand2006)



Political Objectives	Organizational Interoperability	
Harmonized Strategy/Doctrines		
Aligned Operations		
Aligned Procedures		
Knowledge/Awareness		
Information Interoperability		
Data/Object Model Interoperability		
Protocol Interoperability	Technical	
Physical Interoperability	Interoperability	



-ayers of Interoperability



Abstraction Layers

WDH. BERT

Abstract

semantic

allowing to access similar classes of objects and services across multiple sites, with multilinguality of content as one specific aspect

Europeana Focus

functional / pragmatic based on a common set of functional primitives or on a common set of service definitions

syntactic allowing the interchange of metadata and protocol elements

technical/basic

common tools, interfaces and infrastructure providing uniformity for navigation and access

OpenOffice



... to what end?



- "Interoperability is the capability to communicate, execute programs, or transfer data among various functional units in a manner that requires the user to have little or no knowledge of the unique characteristics of those units." (ISO/IEC 2382 Information Technology Vocabulary)
- This is required both
 - for interoperation
 - and for making knowledge access platforms sustainable/persistent
- And in this sense Europeana is sharing the six challenges touched upon with all communities present in this workshop!
- And this requires continued work on the ... Reference Architecture





