

OAI Services Break Out Group (#7)
Discussion Leader: Michael L. Nelson

We identified several areas of focus for future development in OAI services. Chief among these was the idea of a "Value Added Aggregator" (VAA). The VAA would perform many of the services associated with the traditional Abstracting and Indexing (A&I) services. The VAA would be a supporting service to those who build SPs. The key point is that the VAA would re-expose the results of its (meta)data analysis. This would be an appropriate role for professional societies, national libraries, OCLC etc. We envision the creation of multiple, and in some sense competing, VAAs.

An example would include a VAA harvesting all appropriate (for its purpose / mission) metadata repositories. It would then perform automatic classification based on the metadata (or data), and possibly perform other crosswalks and classification. This could include rating for educational level, translation of the metadata or classification system into other languages. It could also include automated abstracting, citation extraction, annotations, etc. Think "OAI-PMH-based PICS" (<http://www.w3.org/PICS/>).

The VAA could be constructed as part of an end-user service, or it could be a machine-based service to be used only by those that build SPs. For example, this would allow a service to be built that gets all crystallography theses and dissertations from 1 canonical site. The VAA site will have done all the work to scour and convert. As the number of repositories increases, the sheer number (and varying quality) will make it necessary for VAAs to emerge.

Another area of concern (alluded to above) is the relationship between metadata and data. We believed that many services require full text documents (such as the classification system mentioned above), and repositories would have to become more creative in interpreting "metadataPrefix" so full text could be exposed for the creation of more full-featured services.

A third area discussed was the exporting of preservation metadata (e.g. METS (<http://www.loc.gov/standards/mets/>)). Services were discussed that could aid in the migration of data based on preservation metadata. For example, a service could pull down the (meta)data, migrate/convert it, alert the original repository that the new (meta)data can be harvested. Also, we discussed auditing systems to determine when the last time (meta)data was refreshed.

Finally, we discussed the problem of linking objects in different

archives. In particular, the example we considered was linking non-documents (data sets, video, etc.) with the related publications. We felt that a tight integration of OAI-PMH and the (new) OpenURL would be helpful in achieving this condition. VAAs could discover these relationships and expose their findings.