DCAT Application Profile for Data Portals in Europe

WORKING GROUP

VIRTUAL MEETING 1

2013-04-03

Meeting Minutes

Date: 15/04/2013

DCAT Application Profile – Working Group Virtual Meeting 1

Venue	Virtual Meeting	Meeting date	2013-04-03
Author	MDK	Meeting time	16:00 – 18:00
Reviewed by	SG	Issue date	2013-04-05
Status	for review	Version	0.04

ATTENDEES

Name	Abbreviation	Organisation
Øystein Åsnes	ØA	data.norge.no
Antonio Carneiro	AC	EU Publications Office
Enrico Francesconi	EF	Italian National research Council
Nicolas Hernandez Guerra de Aguilar	NG	UNIFICA / Sielocal
Nikos Houssos	NH	eurocris.org
Valerie Brasse	VB	eurocris.org
Carlos Iglesias	CI	dats.gob.es / Andalusia / Euskadi
Brigitte Joerg	BJ	eurocris.org
Paul Hermans	PH	Flemish Open Data Portal
Ioannis Kanellopoulos	IK	INSPIRE Geoportal
Andrea Perego	AP	INSPIRE Geoportal
Peter Krantz	PK	OpenGov Sweden Catalog
Hans Overbeek	HA	data.overheid.nl
Phil Archer	PA	GLD Working Group
Martin Álvarez	MA	datos.gob.es
Andrea Maurino	AM	Municipality of Vigevano - Open Data Portal / dati.lombardia.it
Manuel Canabal	MCa	datos.gob.es / red.es
Pascal Heus	PH	www.dwbproject.org
Thimo Thoeye	TT	Open Data Gent
Max Craglia	MCr	INSPIRE Geoportal
Dominik Klauser	DK	data.gv.at
Margarida Abecasis	MAb	EC – ISA Programme
Makx Dekkers	MD	Independent metadata expert
Stijn Goedertier	SG	PwC EU Services
Michiel De Keyzer	MDK	PwC EU Services

AGENDA

Item	Owner	Subject
1	AC	Welcome and overview
2	MD	Collaboration in the Working Group • Public mailing list archive • Issue tracker • Conference call system • Contributor licence agreement (You need to be a member of this project and logged in if you want to be able to read and sign the contributor agreement.)
3	all	Working Group members: • Short self-introductions, interest in the topic, what has been done in this area. • Which governmental data portal do you work for? • What are your expectations?
4	MD	Context of developing a DCAT Application Profile
5	MD	Process and Methodology for developing Core Vocabularies
6	SG	Use Cases (chapter 3)
7	MD	DCAT Application Profile - Draft 1: Mandatory, optional and excluded classes (chapter 6) Mandatory and optional properties (chapter 7)
8	MD	Controlled vocabularies (chapter 9)
9	MD	Wrap-up, actions, next working group meeting (2013-04-17)

DISCUSSION

1. Welcome and overview
2. Collaboration in the Working Group
3. Working Group Members

Discussion

- MAb, welcomed the Working Group and gave a short introduction to the work of the Interoperability Solutions for European Public Administrations (ISA) Programme, which initiated and supports the work DCAT Application Profile as part of its Action 1.1 on semantic interoperability.

- MD explained the different tools that are used within the WG:
  - Public mailing list archive: all communications sent to the mailing list are archived online and publicly accessible. The mailing list is used for general announcements and discussion and contributions by the Working Group members.
  - Issue tracker: topics that require further discussion will be formally logged as issues in the issue tracker.
  - Conference call system: to access the conference call system, you use the link published on the respective virtual meeting page on Joinup. You need to enter as a guest. Then you can connect by phone by dialling a valid number or insert your telephone number and let the system call you. You will be asked to enter the room number, which is also available on the respective meeting page on Joinup.
  - ISA Contributor Agreement[1]:
    All Working Group members are invited to electronically sign the ISA Contributor Agreement on Joinup. Signing the contributor agreement allows the EU to make the specification available under the ISA Open Metadata Licence v1.1[2].
    To sign the contributor agreement you need to be registered on Joinup and request membership to the DCAT Application Profile project on Joinup. Only then you will be able to access and sign it.
    If there are any problems with signing you can contact MDK.

- TT said that he cannot sign the agreement because he is not a legal representative for the city council.
  - MD said that by default signing the agreement is to be signed personally. A contributor grants the EU all rights to his contributions (copyright assignment), allowing the EU to make the specification available under an open licence.
  - SG further clarified that for some WG members, the intellectual property of their contributions resides with their employer. In case a contribution is material, a contributor agreement with this organisation will need to be concluded.

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[1] https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/asset/dcat_application_profile/legaldocument/isa-contributor-agreement-v11 (You need to be a member of this project and logged in if you want to be able to read and sign the contributor agreement.)

[2] https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/category/licence/isa-open-metadata-licence-v11

- BJ asked whether all the work of the WG will be shared and accessible on the internet.
  - MD confirmed that this will be the case.

- The WG members participating in the call introduced themselves and the initiatives they are involved in. Further information on this can be found in the list of WG members[3] on Joinup. Members of the Working Group are invited to update this page themselves or contact MDK for help, should a clarification be required.

4. Context
5. Process and Methodology for developing Core Vocabularies

Discussion

- MD explained the context in which the DCAT Application Profile will be developed:
  There are a growing number of governmental data portals in Europe but currently there is no consensus on how to exchange information about datasets listed on these portals. As a consequence businesses and citizens face difficulties in finding and re-using public sector information, in particular if the datasets are in another Member State where language barriers may apply and the structure of government is unfamiliar.
  Therefore the European Commission sets up a working group to define a common metadata model for describing open data sets, based on the existing DCAT specification. This is a joint initiative of two Directorates-General of the European Commission: DIGIT (ISA Programme) and DG CONNECT and the EU Publications Office.
- MD gave a brief explanation of the process that will be followed for defining the DCAT Application Profile. We will follow the "Process and Methodology for Developing Core Vocabularies", developed by the ISA Programme.

6. Use Cases

Discussion

- SG introduced the working group to the basic use case that is included in Section 3 of the specification (Draft 1). The basic use case that this specification intends to enable is a cross-data portal search for data sets. This can be achieved by the exchange of descriptions of data sets among data portals. The basic use case involves 4 actors:
  - Data publishers;
  - Data portals;
  - Metadata brokers; and

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3   https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/asset/dcat_application_profile/wiki/members-dcat-application-profile-working-group-and-review-group

- o Data consumers.
- SG invited to working group to challenge the basic use case and provide further input in terms of specific user scenarios (see issue 'Provide your use case and user scenario').
- By means of example, one user scenario has been included into the specifications about the cross-portal search for data on tourist accommodations. SG explained further user scenarios will help the WG refine its requirements for the DCAT Application profile.
    - o AM says he will contribute the user scenario he explained on the meeting.
    - o MC will share the documentation he already has.
    - o BJ will also contribute a user scenario from former experiences.
    - o EF will contribute information from former experiences.
    - o AP promised to contribute a user scenario searching for datasets bordering regions, e.g. regarding economic activity in the Danube river basin.
- PK asked whether if it is part of the work to have 2 or 3 reference implementations. This will contribute to the usability of the specification.
- SG explained that in the context of the "Open Data Support" project of DG CONNECT a metadata broker service will be implemented. The projects will provide tools, training, and support to help data portals exchange description metadata about their collections of datasets.
- IK expressed the concern that data portals would need to implement the DCAT Application Profile on a voluntary basis. The advantage of exchanging description metadata using the DCAT Application Profile should be made clear.
    - o SG said that this will be included on the issue tracker (see issue 'Provide your use case and user scenario').

7. DCAT Application Profile - Draft 1

Discussion

- MD explained that the **first draft specification** (Draft 1) was elaborated only to have a starting point for further discussion. **Everything in this draft is open for discussion**. The members of the WG are invited to review the draft and make any comments or suggestions via the public mailing list.
- MD explained the proposal of having a distinction between the mandatory, optional, excluded and optional classes and properties.
    - o **Mandatory**: a receiver of data must be able to handle information about instances of the class / property; a sender of data must provide information about instances of the class / property if such information is available.
    - o **Optional**: a receiver must be able to handle information about instances of the class / property; a sender may provide the information but is not obliged to do so.
    - o **Excluded**: a receiver is not obliged to handle information for that class / property; a sender must not provide it
    - o **Minimal**: This is the minimal set of properties is a subset of the mandatory properties. It is the minimum set of properties a sender

- needs to provide for a receiver to be able to process the data.
- MD explained that DCAT proposes two classes for the publisher, namely foaf:Person and foaf:Organization. Since the scope of the DCAT Application Profile are governmental data portals and their representing public administration, MD suggests to only keep foaf:Organization as a class.
  - PA suggests to use org:Organization instead.
- MD remarked that the DCAT specification has not been finalised yet and is currently in "last call". The "last call" period ends on Monday 2013-04-08. Until then comments can still be contributed to the GLD Working Group.
  - PA also invited everyone to review the specification and submit comments.
  - PA said the GLD Working Group has a face to face meeting in Dublin next week to work through the comments received.
  - PA explained that it is not expected that there will be significant changes to the DCAT specification.
- Participants in the call on behalf of datos.gob.es explained that they have already made a mapping between their own application profile, also based on DCAT, and the first draft of the EC DCAT Application Profile. They will contribute this to the working group, together with an English translation of the interoperability guide they are using. They also have a list of mandatory and optional fields.
- AP explained that the Joint Research Centre is working on a mapping from the INSPIRE metadata specifications to the DCAT vocabulary. He promised to share these mappings with the Working Group.
  - MD suggested adding a section to the DCAT Application Profile project description on Joinup, mentioning tools that can be used for mapping to DCAT and/or the DCAT Application Profile.

Issues / Proposals

- PA proposes to use org:Organization instead of foaf:Organization

8. Controlled vocabularies

Discussion

- MD explained that the specification includes a section with the controlled vocabularies (code or value vocabularies) that should be used for exchanging description metadata. A consensus on this will be an important aspect of the application profile.
- MD explained that with regards to the licensing conditions of Eurovoc, an issue has already been raised on Joinup (see issue 'Eurovoc license?').
- MD invited everyone to contribute the controlled vocabularies they use in their data portal (see issue 'Which controlled vocabularies are used on your data portal?').

9. Wrap-up

Discussion

- Next meeting:
  Wednesday 2013-04-17 from 16:00 till 18:00 CEST
  Connection details and agenda will be available on:
  https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/node/64618
- The following issues are already raised in the issue tracker:
  - Provide your use case and user scenario
  - Which controlled vocabularies are used on your data portal?
  - Alternative representations of spatial coverage
  - Eurovoc License?
  - NUTS instead of MDR Countries / Places
  - Mandatory versus minimal properties
  - Enable syndication of dataset metadata
  - Subscriptions, alerts and recommendations
  - Contextual metadata and data set provenance
  - Systems as data consumers
  - Multilingual metadata
  - Description of CERIF
  - Cardinality of spatial and temporal coverage
  - Max cardinality of mandatory/optional properties
  - Kick-off Working Group

Issues / Proposals

- PA proposes to use org:Organization instead of foaf:Organization
- PK proposed to add objective to WG charter to describe operational approaches for brokering and syndication, e.g. using Atom feeds to exchange information
  (http://joinup.ec.europa.eu/asset/dcat_application_profile/issue/enable-syndication-dataset-metadata)

ACTIONS

Action	Owner	Date
WG members to comment the first draft of the DCAT Application Profile specification.	WG members	2013-04-16
WG member to sign the Contributor Licence Agreement. (If there are any difficulties, please contact MDK)	WG members	2013-04-16
WG members to contribute user scenarios.	WG members	2013-04-16
WG members to share the taxonomies and controlled vocabularies they are using in their data portal.	WG members	2013-04-16
WG members who have questions about the process and methodology to contact MD at makx@makxdekkers.com	WG members	N/A

AM to contribute user scenario	AM, MCr, BJ, EF, AP	2013-04-12
MA to contribute Spanish DCAT profile and English translation of interoperability guide	MA	2013-04-16
MA to report on comparison between Spanish profile and draft of European DCAT-AP	MA	2013-04-16