

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

Global Digital Format Registry (GDFR) Governance Workshop

Washington, D.C., USA
14 – 15 November 2007

Summary

You are invited to contribute to the Global Digital Format Registry (GDFR) Governance Workshop to be held in Washington, D.C., from 14 – 15 November 2007. Participants will examine the issues and approaches to developing and implementing governance models in open, collaborative based environments. By discovering how various consensus driven organizations approach the issue of governance, contributors will share in lessons learned and best practices with the central goal of advancing knowledge and experiences relevant to ensuring the long term sustainability of a global digital format registry, such as the Global Digital Format Registry (GDFR) initiative, led by the Harvard University Library (HUL).

The GDFR project aims to develop an architecture to support a distributed global registry for file format information. Once deployed, the GDFR will provide services for the centrally-organized collection of format representation information, and the distributed storage, discovery, and delivery of that information.

Global registries, such as GDFR, are valuable insofar as they are sustainable. Communities develop sustainability initiatives in many different ways. As a first step to help formalize a structure for the ongoing sustainability of the GDFR, the National Archives and Records Administration Electronic Records Archives Program, working in partnership with Harvard University Library, is hosting the workshop to initiate identification, discussion, and evaluation of options for a potential, sustainable GDFR governance structure.

Participants should leave the workshop knowing more about current governance practices in consensus driven organizations, the common threads of successful governance approaches in various sectors, and how effective governance examples may provide relevant models for a GDFR governance structure.

Contents

Purpose

- Background
- Workshop Description
- Scope
- Deliverables

Participation

- Who Should Attend
- How to Contribute
- Costs
- Registration

Organization

- Sponsors
 - Venue
 - Dates
 - Contacts
-

Purpose

Background

- The GDFR will provide sustainable distributed services to collect, vet, store, discover, and deliver representation information about digital formats.
- The GDFR will be a network of peers, communicating via a common protocol for the synchronization of holdings.
- Global holdings can be designated as *unvetted* or *vetted*: unvetted holdings are distributed immediately; vetted holdings are subject to technical review prior to distribution

For further information about the GDFR project, please visit <http://www.formatregistry.org/>

Workshop Description

This one and a half-day workshop is a step along the path to establishing a governance model to help ensure the long term sustainability of the Global Digital Format Registry. The specific goals for this workshop are to help establish a common ground for this work as well as a community of possible participants; gather information about relevant areas of governance practice and approaches; help organizations and individuals learn enough about this work to determine their level of commitment going forward; and provide a communications framework for the consideration and recommendation of future work.

The workshop format consists of the following two components:

1. One day of presentations and discussion that examines the issues of governance in collaborative, consensus driven organizations. Aimed at gathering existing and potential global digital format registry stakeholders to learn about various governance approaches in collaborative environments, the workshop will explore current governance examples that may provide relevant models for a GDFR governance structure; consider and discuss recommendations for the development of GDFR policies, organizational responsibilities, potential funding models, and oversight of a GDFR editorial process.
2. A half-day of facilitated open forum discussion that focuses on the following key questions:
 - What decisions must be made to ensure effective management and use of a shared global digital format registry
 - Who should make these decisions?
 - How will these decisions be made and monitored?
 - What are the logical next steps to move this process forward?

Scope of the Workshop

The scope of the workshop is limited in order to make best use of participants' time. Workshop presentations and discussions should focus on some aspect of governance for global digital format registries rather than detailed technical discussion of the GDFR implementation.

In scope:

- Overview of current governance practices in open systems
- Description of how a particular organization approached the issue of governance
- Articulation of governance requirements in open, collaborative environments
- Common themes among governance best practices

Deliverables

The governance workshop is expected to result in the following deliverables:

- Workshop presentations
- Workshop report
- Potential governance requirements
- Recommendations regarding next steps

Participation

Who Should Attend

The GDFR governance workshop is open to participation to all interested parties and stakeholders. The diversity and interest in the GDFR project is great, spanning international participation, and representing many sectors including governments, libraries, archives, research and education communities, and more. The workshop will gather together practitioners in the area of governance from the public and private sectors to demonstrate approaches and accomplishments in ensuring the sustainability of open, collaborative based initiatives. Attendees will have an interest in ways to formalize collaboration and develop support structures to ensure the long term sustainability of the GDFR. To ensure the maximum interaction among participants, and due to space limitations, the number of participants will be limited.

How to Contribute

Participants interested in attending are encouraged to contribute to workshop discussions and share relevant knowledge and experiences, analysis, or work related to the workshop problem or an aspect of the problem.

Costs

There is no cost for attendance. All participants are responsible for their own travel arrangements and related expenses. Continental breakfast will be available on both days, and lunch will be provided on day 1 of the workshop.

Registration

To register for the Global Digital Format Registry Governance Workshop please email: richard.steinbacher@nara.gov

Workshop Coordinator:

Richard J. Steinbacher, PMP
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National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Rd. Room B-520
College Park, MD 20740-6001

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Organization

Sponsors

The National Archives and Records Administration Electronic Records Archives (ERA) Program will host this workshop.

Venue

The workshop will be held at the following location:

Jefferson Conference Room,
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001

Directions and information about options for lodging will be included with acceptance notification.

Dates

Date	Event
July 2007	Call for Participation sent
TBD	Draft agenda sent
TBD	Program released
14 November 2007	Workshop begins
15 November 2007	Workshop ends

Contacts

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