

# Resource Infrastructures What is needed now?

A view from the BarcelonaFLaReNet  
Forum

11-12 February 2010

# How was this input gathered

- Barcelona Forum, esp. Session 1, 2 and 3
- FLaReNet Poll, “How do you consider the shareability of LRs?”

# The general feeling

- Less enthusiasm and more realism
- Awareness that going from conception to implementation is a big step.
- Details and concepts to be thought in closed detail

# Open Resource Infrastructure

- Yes, but...
- Evangelization is over, now deeper and more self-conscious approach needed
- From the “moral principle” to practical aspects
- How to define the meaning of concepts such “resources”, “infrastructure”, “open”, “free”
- Who are the addressees of the services and functionalities of the infrastructure?
- Which exact services and functionalities?
- What does “open” mean, in terms of licensing, membership, etc.

# Metadata and documentation

- Difficulty with which resources can be found
- Need awareness about existing resources and better visibility of new ones
- Interoperability of Metadata schemas is a must
- Metadata should be machine-readable
- Metadata should have a formal syntax and clear semantics
- A Universal Infrastructure is needed: common and uniform and/or interoperable metadata sets
- Resource documentations should be enforced

# Services and functionalities for an Open Resource Infrastructure

- The development and availability of tools for building repositories where metadata (and resources) reside
- Mechanisms for communication between repositories and aggregation of metadata
- Simple mechanisms for accessing such a repository net to search/retrieve/exchange info about and the actual resources
- The description of the resources (along a number of dimensions and properties, metadata (type, size, format, purpose and usage, persistence, provenance, rights of use, etc))

# Services and functionalities for an Open Resource Infrastructure

- Let's do not forget the preservation and archiving aspect
- Incentives to ensure sustainability should be provided
- Too many infrastructures can lead to fragmentation
- How to make I. desirable and attractive so as to overcome current (mostly academic) reluctance to join existing infrastructures?

# Sharing resources—results from the Barcelona session

- Sharing or not sharing: availability and legal issues
- Different business models proposed
  - Sharing, as for translation services → sharing as a means to get better coverage
  - Traditional companies for content production feel the pressure of adopting basic free access/sharing models although not necessarily leading to economic benefits despite the high cost of LR development
  - Some publicly funded initiatives propose a minimal price
  - Totally free access:  
enormously improves usability of resources



# Sharing resources—results from the Barcelona session

- Is the sharing model actually possible to be adopted, and how easily?
  - Sharing model tied to current legislation because some works protected by copyright law
  - Derivatives can also be protected
- The legal framework not yet fully adequate to support sharing of resources
- Prior to any possibility of sharing, many legal issues have to be taken into consideration and solved.
- The operability of LRs production and distribution to be improved
- Invest in web services and training of LR producers
- Sharing resources or sharing efforts?

# Other voices from the community

- Publicly funded resources should be given free access in order to maximise their use: a very popular idea
- Industry considers resources a competitive advantage and in many respects is not willing to share it unless a new, rewarding business model substitutes the current one.
- Manually constructed resources will disappear if the community is not able to pay for them. Too high costs
- **Creation** of resources should either be sponsored by local government or community-sustained in some way or
- Durables shortage of some type of high quality resources should be created
- Throw away the “old” model of proprietary material, and involve a large number of volunteers to enrich a common collection. The material will evolve and will be used in unpredictable ways, thus increasing its usefulness and value.