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Title: Accessibility of theses and dissertation in long term. Swedish project SVEP

Authors: Eva Müller (Uppsala University)

Abstract: One of the objectives of the project funded by the Swedish Royal Library's department for National Co-ordination and Development (BIBSAM) and called SVEP (coordination of academic electronic publishing in Sweden) is to ensure the accessibility of theses and dissertations produced at Swedish universities in the long term.

The project deals with development and practical implementation of a generalized archiving workflow between a local repository and a national archive, focusing on the variety of publishing platforms and systems currently used by Swedish universities. This workflow is based on usage of URN:NBN as an unique identifier. Some other questions - for example: What is a minimal level of preservation metadata for theses and dissertations - are also explored.

As the start point for the project are solutions developed by DiVA project used. Because of a lack of practical examples of implementations of solutions supporting long term preservation and accessibility within the library community, we believe the project results will be broadly useful.

Title: Long-term Access of Theses and Dissertations: The SVEP Project in Sweden

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Abstract: The SVEP project, funded by the Swedish Royal Library's department for National Coordination and Development (BIBSAM), has as its overall mission the coordination of academic electronic publishing in Sweden.

One of the goals of the project is the development and practical implementation of a generalized archiving workflow between a local repository and a national archive. In doing this, we will attempt to accommodate the variety of publishing platforms and systems currently used by Swedish universities. This new workflow will be based on the use of URN:NBN as an unique identifier. We will also develop a basic technical infrastructure to support the transmission of dissemination and submission information packages (DIP/SIP in OAIS parlance) between university repositories and the National Library Archive.

A primary objective of SVEP is to ensure long-term access to theses and dissertations produced at Swedish universities. Therefore, we will also attempt to determine the minimum level of preservation metadata required to support archiving and subsequent discovery of these documents.

Because the DiVA Project has already produced systems to support some of these activities, these solutions will be used as a starting point for the project. Considering the lack of practical implementations of solutions supporting long-term preservation and access within the library community, we believe the results of this project will be broadly useful.

Title: From DTD generation to XML conversion: Structured ETDs at the Document and Publication Server of the Humboldt University

Authors: Uwe Müller (Humboldt University)

Abstract: Since 1997 PhD students at Humboldt University Berlin can fulfil their publishing duty concerning their dissertations by using a digital publication. While we were one of the first universities having extended the bunch of accepted publishing possibilities to this method nowadays institutional document and publication servers are regarded as a standard service provided by almost every German university. In contrast to the vast majority of domestic university libraries Humboldt's electronic publishing group has pursued a structured document approach from the very beginning of its activities in this area. The originally developed DiML (Dissertation Markup Language) derived and adapted from an SGML-DTD evolved at Virginia Tech for Electronic Theses and Dissertations has now been transformed to an XML-DTD (xDiML).

In this context a DTD generation system has been developed allowing for the compilation of individually assembled DTDs. For this purpose the elements of the DTD have been grouped into modular units. These modules which are XML files themselves are stored in the DTDBase. Using the DTDSys - a transformation system on the basis of XSLT and Java - the modules can be combined to an individual DTD - e.g. the xDiML DTD used for Theses and Dissertations. Due to its modularity the system can easily be used to supply new publication series with appropriate DTDs, which can contain special elements and which are as slim as possible and thus more easily applicable than a universal "Mega"DTD. The DTDSys also facilitates the integration of externally managed (standard) DTDs such as SVG, SMIL, MathML, or MusicML and thereby allows the generation of DTDs with multimedia extensions. The use of a controlled and centrally managed set of modules provides the advantages of shared semantics beyond the borderline of different DTDs - a feature which is used e.g. for qualified fulltext retrieval.

The XML based publishing approach is currently applied for dissertations and master theses, university serial publications, as well as a few electronic journals and conference proceedings. Different approaches have been developed for the conversion process from text processing systems to XML. They were adapted for the various requirements of the particular author groups or editors. The developed methods include styles and