

Networked Knowledge Organization Systems (NKOS) Workshop

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The goal of the NKOS activity is to develop a group of researchers and developers who are working toward creating interactive Knowledge Organization Systems accessible over the Web. This includes thesaurus and ontology developers, digital library and information infrastructure developers, information scientists, and library professionals. We spend a portion of each meeting informing one another of current relevant projects. A description of NKOS and its participants can be found at <http://www.alexandria.ucsb.edu/~lhill/nkos/>

The third workshop in a series was held at the ACM Digital Library conferences in Berkeley on August 14, 1999. There were 29 attendees. Six presentations were given:

- Update of thesaurus registry progress by Gail Hodge
- Distributed thesaurus developments at CERES by Quinn Hart
- Introduction to RDF by Ron Daniel
- Development of multi-thesauri management system by Marcia Zeng
- Terminology in ISO/IED 11179 metadata registries by Bruce Bargmeyer
- Thesauri and metadata schemas at Microsoft by Karen Eliassen

Abstracts and PowerPoint slides from these presentations are available through the NKOS web pages.

The CERES http-based distributed thesaurus standard was hailed as a great step forward and as a starting point to do

more. The NKOS group will look for ways to combine resources to further the design of the CERES standard and create test bed implementations of it. Thesaurus registries and Web-based thesaurus management systems are also important pieces of the solution, as well as defining communication standards and format schemas for representing concepts (which could include numeric representation of concepts as well as nomenclature). The workshop provided several examples of the value of controlled vocabularies in actual operations.

The NKOS group identified the following next steps for focus:

- Work on the CERES approach with testbed implementations and collaboration with thesaurus management software.
- Identify funding sources to support this work. For this we need some online brainstorming -- a good narrative and scope description, vision statement, and identification of potential partnerships.
- Encourage international collaboration for NKOS development.
- Develop links with similar/related organizational efforts (e.g., American Society of Indexers), and review existing tools and information sources (e.g., www.jelem.com)
- Find a home for the NKOS web page that is public rather than in a personal directory.
- Learn more about the Information Content Exchange (ICE) standard

and other standards needed to support NKOS interoperability.

- Develop a taxonomy of knowledge organization systems (including classifications, authority files, gazetteers, taxonomies, term lists, ontologies, thesauri, dictionaries, and glossaries).

The next formal meeting is planned for the ACM Digital Library conference in San Antonio, Texas. Other opportunities to meet will be identified during the year. Online discussions will continue through the NKOS listserv. For more information, see the NKOS web page (URL above).