Methodology for the Metadata Description
OF AUTHORITY DATA IN AGRICULTURE

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Why?

Issue: The multilingual FAO Bibliographic on-line Catalogue uses flat metadata lists of authority records for corporate bodies, conferences, Journals, series and FAO projects (13,000 records). A record belongs to a single form of name, so neither cross-references between variant, equivalent in languages nor authorized and out dated form of names are managed.

Consequence: Neither cataloguer nor user retrieve satisfactory results, e.g. a user searching for Food and Agriculture Organization will not find anything since the authorized form is FAO, Rome (Italy) and no variant form of names are added.

What?

Solution: Adopting a concept-based system exploiting an ontology-based structure for the metadata authority description - one record belongs to a concept.

Objective: Firstly to provide more efficient management of the several multilingual forms of a concept, use of URIs, compliancy with and use of international cataloguing guidelines, relationships between out dated forms and new forms, and hierarchical relationships when possible. Secondly to facilitate more consistency in the browsing. Thirdly to use consistent terminology, standardization in record creation and simplified maintenance.

How?

Tool: The AGROVOC Concept Server Workbench (CS WB) system was chosen as software solution for the Metadata Authority Description management since it allows the representation of semantics such as specific relationships between concepts and relationships between their multilingual forms.

Collaborative framework: In addition, it is a web-based working environment which provides tools and functionalities that facilitate the collaborative editing of multilingual terminology and semantic concept information, which includes workflows for maintenance, validation and quality assurance of the data.

Procedure: As a result, the data from the FAO Bibliographic Catalogue authority lists were cleaned up, merged, mapped to the FAO Terminology official forms, the relationships were created and finally integrated in the AGROVOC CS WB.

Next!

Web services: they will be implemented for accessing the lists and returning formatted data for repositories/data providers and search engines/service providers which would like to access to and use the Authority Data.

ILJ: To increase the number of journals with the integration of the AGRIS metadata with the objective of providing an application ontology for journals in Food, Agriculture, Development, Fisheries, Forestry and Natural Resources

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