



Networking Event for European Research Infrastructures + Standards Workshop

NEERI 09

Workshop: Wednesday,
2009 September 30
Event: Thursday – Friday
2009 October 1 – 2

Location: University of Helsinki, Finland

Organizers: Peter Wittenburg, Gerhard Budin, Erhard Hinrichs,
Kimmo Koskenniemi, Pirjo-Leena Forsström, Per Öster

Organizing initiatives and Organizations: CLARIN Consortium, CSC - IT-Center for Science and the University of Helsinki
Supporting Initiatives and Organizations: FLARENET, Alliance of Permanent Access, DEISA, EGEE, TERENA

Workshop Context:

In 2008 quite a number of European research infrastructure initiatives have started mostly as a result of the ESFRI roadmap process. Most of them are domain specific; however, there are also a number of horizontal initiatives such as EGEE, TERENA, Alliance for Permanent Access and e-IRG. Some of these initiatives have already been working for several years. After the first year of intensive discussions in the newly started infrastructure initiatives we can assume that towards the end of 2009 also these initiatives have established a joint vision for their activities in the preparatory phase including architecture essentials, important building blocks and other non-technological aspects such as intellectual property right issues.

Intensive discussions with colleagues from a few other initiatives have revealed that there is some thematic overlap and that there are mutual interests. To mention a concrete example: CLARIN (Common Language Resources and Technology INfrastructure) as many other infrastructures needs to implement an organization that will provide services for researchers from various disciplines and that will make contracts with the emerging national organizations that are currently creating domains of trust to finally implement single login capability. TERENA/eduGAIN are the initiatives that try to solve the harmonization between the various approaches at European level which is essential for the success of research infrastructures such as CLARIN. Yet these contacts between the initiatives were dictated by direct needs and have been unsystematic. Despite some activities by horizontal organizations we miss a more comprehensive picture which will be essential for moving to a more coherent European eInfrastructure scenario.

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Workshop Goals:

Therefore, CLARIN would like to invite all interested infrastructures to exchange information to get a more comprehensive view and more harmonization where necessary. It is impossible to follow the activities of all initiatives in detail and to read the elaborated documents. We suggest organizing “Networking Events for Research Infrastructures” where we focus on a few topics to come to cross-fertilization among initiatives. The upcoming event in Helsinki in September wants to fill this gap and will have two parts:

- a 1-day workshop about standards as they emerge in our domain
- a 2-days conference that is meant to serve as a forum for cross-fertilization

The workshop will be organized more like a tutorial about important standards that are being worked out in particular together with International Standardization Organization (ISO). It will cover topics such as generic formats for semi-structured texts, concept registries enabling semantic interoperability, persistent identifier systems that are an alternative to the widely used instable URLs allowing preserving semantic links, checking resource authenticity and others more. All these topics are not just relevant for CLARIN, but may be of use by other disciplines as well. This workshop will allow us to go into more detail.

Conference site and contact:

www.csc.fi/neeri09

Email: neeri09@csc.fi

Conference Goals:

For the conference a number of topics are selected from which we assume that they are relevant for other research infrastructures as well and where CLARIN would like to know how other infrastructures intend to tackle the problems. We should not exclude that others have already solved some of them or have better ideas about solutions. Possible themes are:

- Current trends in the registration of concepts and terminology to overcome semantic interoperability problems
- Flexible metadata frameworks to register resources and services in large infrastructures and to make them visible to a large group of researchers
- State of federation technologies and European infrastructure roadmap (access, authentication, authorization, grids, web services etc.)
- Nature and relevance of persistent identifiers that replace instable URLs
- Current state, requirements and perspectives for long term storage and preservation
- Finding stream-lined ways to handle legal and ethical issues: identifying common positions and goals on the European level

CLARIN is open for other suggestions and we will ensure that recognized experts will introduce the topics. There will be sufficient time reserved for short contributions and discussions so that all initiatives can bring in their views. A Wiki will be setup to start the interaction early enough via Web techniques. CLARIN is not expecting that the selected topics can be discussed in all detail, but we expect that awareness will increase, that where useful task forces can be built or that simply solutions from colleagues will be taken over. With these two offerings we want to address both decision makers in the initiatives as well as experts working on these issues.

CLARIN sees that this Networking Event could be the first in a series of meetings, which could be hosted and organized by other infrastructures and initiatives tackling similar problems.

Responsible:

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