

Recommendation of: ORCID Works Metadata Working Group

A working group was formed in February 2013 with a charge¹ to examine the works metadata with respect to fitness for purpose in the ORCID registry and utility to producers and consumers of such metadata. The group membership represented a good cross-section of the ORCID constituency, with publishers, metadata experts, academic libraries, service providers, identifier experts, etc. all contributing. Discussions were held in a series of 7 conference calls over approximately as many months, together with commentary posted to a project site between calls.

The specific recommendations appear in summary below, but a few broad themes emerged. The first was that machine-to-machine, 'M2M', use cases (registry interoperability with supplying or consuming automated information systems) furnished important drivers to metadata representations. They strongly argued for actionable (resolvable) identifiers, rather than opaque strings. For example, a parsable BibTeX citation would possess much higher value in this context than an unstructured text representation, as would a DOI over an article title.

A second, related point was that works metadata interoperability rose in proportion to its alignment with standard, recognized, published and maintained vocabularies (ontologies). Several specific efforts were cited, e.g. the European CERIF/EuroCRIS (<http://www.eurocris.org>) family of standards and the SPAR (<http://sempublishing.sourceforge.net/>) ontologies, but the central insight was that where defined and relevant (e.g. in work type taxonomies, or contributor roles), use of standard terms could greatly enhance the semantic reach and reuse of ORCID registry metadata.

In the near term, these recommendations will help inform the ongoing process of improving registry services, as well as provide a roadmap for future analysis and directions in ORCID works metadata.

Specific Recommendations

Actionable External Identifiers

- All works should have an actionable external identifier that links the work to other data about the work
- When possible, the identifier should allow for machine-actionable links that lead to parsable data about the work
- Data that is entered via the member API should always include an external ID and/or a parsable standard citation (BibTeX)

¹ <http://www.slideshare.net/ORCIDSlides/orcid-works-metadata-working-group-charge>

Citations

- Citations should remain a single open text field, though end users and those using the API should be encouraged to use a parsable format (BibTeX)
- The length of the citation should not be limited, can be truncated in the display if very long. The API should always include the full citation
- If there is both a citation and description included for a work, both fields should be displayed

Work Types

- The list of work types should be terms drawn from and aligned with a controlled list from a published ontology (Exact alignment determined by the ORCID team; CERIF vocabulary is recommended)
- A small subset of common work types should be significantly easiest to select within the interface, though users may select other types.
- To better support localization, avoid type-in values for this field whenever possible. Users should be able to add additional custom types in a text field when needed; ORCID should work with published ontology to add popular typed-in values to the published ontology/vocabulary.
- Include help link for retrieving the full definition for each term

Internationalization

- Add a field for translated title (allow for one translated version, i.e. include title in published language plus one translation)
- There does not need to be translated fields for other information
- Add a field to specify the language that information about the work is in (i.e. language that the title and other data are written in)

Contribution types and roles

- The list of contribution types/roles should be terms drawn from and aligned with a published ontology. (Exact alignment determined by the ORCID team; CERIF vocabulary is recommended)
- Allow individuals to identify with multiple roles; Continue including sequence for contributors as it is now
- Allow works to have multiple contributors
- Have a contributor role list that includes the value, "other." if "other" is selected require the user to type a value; collaborate with ontology publisher to add popular "other" values to the published ontology. Have the default role for a work be set to "Author" or equivalent
- Investigate feasibility of capturing role(s) and type of contribution separately
- Add a help link for retrieving the full definition for each term

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