

Breakout Group 1



Subject Area

- Processes for the convergence (or other) on Interoperability Arrangements for GEOSS, e.g. convergence on Standards and Special Arrangements,
- Feedback on the role of the SIF and ADC.

Participants

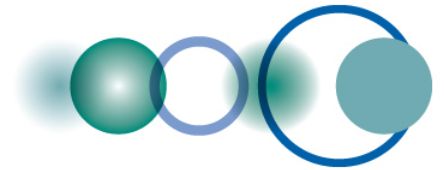
- David Arctur - Leader
- Gobe Hobona
- Max Craglia
- Jay Pearlman
- George Percivall
- Paul Eglitis - Rapporteur



Discussion

Legend. In the following notes:

- **Question?||Topic.** Open Discussion (*italics – extra comments from ed.*)
- **The SIF needs to have a full list of Standards Development Organisations and develop contacts**
 - a working list is in place; a pointer to this document exists at the Standards Registry,
 - this is an ongoing process
 - nurture more involvement of the OGC with the SIF.



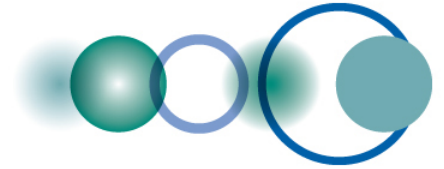
- When developing a new system would you choose to pick an interoperability arrangement from the Standards Registry? (i.e. re-using art fosters a process of convergence)
 - Developers avoid re-inventing the wheel, but first choice is to base work on existing projects and lessons learned in the local organisation.
 - GEOSS system often driven by research projects, so new ways to do things better are one of the drivers.
 - However as the registries become well-populated and known they can act as a GEOSS magnet and motivation for development! (*=> need for registration and publicity*)



- How do we ensure requirements for GEOSS interoperability are input as User Requirements?
 - This is being achieved in Europe now by legislation, the US Gov is also being approached to mandate this.
 - (European experience) the laws are in general terms and cannot make explicit reference to standards and compromises were necessary in their specification,
 - laws lead into the writing of system guidelines that include reference to standards,
 - system engineers still need exact specification,
 - even though it is understood that there is a need to adopt open standards and propagate their use, projects are still result driven: a working end product and the demonstrable achievements of results.
 - *Carbon credit?*



- How does one best apply a given standard? [Question arose during a meeting of DA with EEA on ISO 19115]
 - Demonstrate with a pilot application.
 - More pilots and demonstrations are required to highlight what works [*The SIF have an ongoing task to identify showcase examples in the Registries ... ed.*]
 - Experiences
 - one demonstration only worked if an adaptor was built for every catalogue > too much overhead < resolution by feedback to SDO to change standards (this is good evolution of the standard but changes to standards also present their own problems)
 - distributed searches cannot be the only system: need also harvesting but this has sometimes led to political conflict over cached metadata.



- If we were to focus on one problem what would it be?
 - Make one thing really work! Where there are similar standards the related services are more expected to behave similarly, however the small differences between such standards lead to big problems.
 - E.g. mapping between metadata standards (ISO 19115, Dublin Core ...)
 - Small differences cause big problems
 - Also the Standards Language is difficult to re-express to non-domain specialists
 - Particular problem if needing to translate derived concepts into many different languages.