

211: Advancing the Provincial Consolidated System Information Resources Working Group Minutes, June 7, 2005

Present Christine Berry (Information Oakville), Ross Cooling (Community Connection, Collingwood), Barb McLachlan (Information Windsor), , Ian Kellogg (Findhelp Information Services), John Allec (Findhelp Information Services)

Regrets: Julie Giesbrecht (Information Niagara)

1. Minutes of April 6th and May 19th meetings

- Minutes accepted as distributed.
- Agreed to add another point to the Guidelines for Data Standards Decisions, that besides the final decision, the other options or choices that were considered should be documented, so that those outside the group can assess whether they agree with the final choice. John is hoping there might be funds available to hire an outside “auditor” to evaluate the results of our work.

2. Agency/Service/Site data model

- Because of the wide-ranging implications even a far-in-the-future recommendation to move toward this model would have, this group has been asked to fast-track a recommendation rather than wait until the end of its term in December.
- Barb is visiting Dick Manikowski in Detroit on Tuesday, June 21st (anyone welcome to come along!)
- Brian Bell and Kate Ladniak of CIOC were sent the notes of our last meeting but hadn't commented yet. Christine pointed out that CIOC had early on seriously considered the agency/service/site model and done some work on it before abandoning the idea. Decision to try to get them into a discussion in the near future, though both are apparently extremely busy..

3. Thesaurus/Taxonomy update

- Someone from the federal government has joined the Taxonomy team thanks to lobbying from Deb Woods -- Sylvie Régimbal, Portal Information Management Analyst at Seniors Canada On-line / Seniors Cluster. Sylvie was asked to be a federal representative by Nancy Brodie of Treasury Board who was at the April presentation in Ottawa convened by Library and Archives Canada. She is a metadata expert working on the Collaborative Seniors Portal Network (CICs in Hamilton and Windsor are being asked to contribute information for this federal/provincial initiative), and is experienced in translating/interpreting classification systems/terms French/English.
- Concern from several people in the group about the apparently unresolved issues pending with INFO LINE Los Angeles around this work. In particular, the CCACs are not contributing to this process but will be benefiting directly from 211Ontario's Canadianization of the Taxonomy. (And, as another example, the entire CCAC system only pays for one subscription, while CICs may likely have to each purchase their own

subscription. John will report back what he can find out on the progress of a memo of understanding and other negotiations.

- Findhelp is to meet with Joan Hill and Janice Whyte of the CCACs sometime in June. Brian Bell and others apparently talked to the CCACs a year ago about XML importing/exporting with CIOC, and Ross did some work in that area.
- The whole area of incorporating the Taxonomy into CIOC and setting CIOC up for Taxonomy updating still to be resolved.

4. Data sharing developments

- Ian reported that Kate is ploughing through all the import/export issues, should have a testing version perhaps by June 11th. It looks like it will be quite sophisticated, although maybe relatively slow at first.
- Ottawa is officially switching to CIOC next week, and major work has been done on the bilingual functionality.
- Of the three major centres that are not CIOC-based:
 - Waterloo will be working on matching CIOC's import/export function from their end;
 - London's HealthLine.ca will not be switching to CIOC (did they have reservations about CIOC not -- then -- being a bilingual tool?) but the data transfer is working okay via Excel; having them fragment their address data along the lines of CIOC would solve 80% of the issues;
 - Findhelp is likely starting a phased transition to CIOC very soon; Lesley Russell has been hired for a full day of super-user training next week.
- Of the several smaller centres who are not CIOC-based (eg Sarnia, Stratford), Ian is encouraging them to piggy-back their data with those of larger centres, to simplify things for everybody.

5. Inclusion Policy

- Barb found an online version of Dick Manikowski's article on constructing the perfect inclusion policy (remembering its part of the materials for the CRS training) and will distribute to all.
- John suggested we aim to draft at least what we all consider the top priority services at the next meeting.

6. Name authority

- Consensus that from what people remember and have seen of the very early Name Authority used about twenty or so years ago, it likely won't be much help in the current environment (re online public listings, shared data, etc).
- Barb and Christine will do some preliminary research.
- It would be very useful for all of us to have direct access to looking at the Ontario-wide data collection (30,000 records?) specifically to investigate naming practices. Ian will think about (Virtual Private Network?).....

7. Next meeting

- Thursday, June 23rd, 10:30 am. Call 1-866-613-5220 (toll free) or 416-204-1403; participant code is 1671710 followed by # sign.