211: Advancing the Provincial Consolidated System
Information Resources Working Group
Minutes, October 12, 2005

Present: Christine Berry (Information Oakville), , Julie Giesbrecht (Information Niagara),
           Barb McLachlan (Information Windsor), John Allec (Findhelp Information
           Services)
Regrets: Ross Cooling (Community Connection, Collingwood), Ian Kellogg (Findhelp
           Information Services)
Guest: Deb Woods, Consultant

A special meeting to share the progress on the Taxonomy project to date. The development of the English version of the Canadian starter Taxonomy is going well, and is providing a solid basis for further fundraising.

There are as yet no funds for the French work, which is unfortunate as it should ideally be developed at the same time. Also, this will have an impact on the launching of even the English version in Ontario, because many of the shared data projects require both languages. It is likely the French work (which unlike the English work would of course need to be started from scratch) would require about 12-18 months, so we are likely looking at 2007.

Negotiations are proceeding on an agreement with INFO LINE LA (now 211 L.A. County), with a pro bono lawyer in Montreal specializing in international copyright representing InformCanada's interests. A draft agreement has been submitted which will see Info Line retain copyright and ultimate ownership of the Taxonomy, but give InformCanada perpetual use. (And in the very unlikely case that Info Line was ever deemed not to be supporting the Taxonomy, ownership would revert to InformCanada.) Indications are very positive that this will be signed in the next few months.

InformCanada is likely to share in the proceeds from Canadian subscriptions to the Taxonomy.

The Taxonomy continues to garner more and more interest (if not cash) from academics and the federal government, including two invitations to Ottawa from Library & Archives Canada for wide-ranging meetings including Service Canada, Public Works, etc. There does not seem to be anything available to them at the moment that is better than the Taxonomy at indexing services. One necessary step is to get the Taxonomy registered as a tool that can be used within the federal government (until now only internally-created resources could be registered but that rule has now changed).

Also Findhelp has some proposals in the works with the provincial government that incorporate the further stages of Taxonomy work as key components, and there may be news on this by January. Findhelp is also hoping, pending resources being found, to incorporate the Taxonomy into 211Toronto.ca and its Blue Book in 2006 as a demonstration project.

Kate Lambacher has almost completed the second stage of planning required to incorporate the Taxonomy into the CIOC software.