



AgNIC: a Model for a National Digital Library for Agriculture – *Building Collaborative Partnerships Through Technology to Meet Global Needs for Agricultural Information*

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AgNIC

- Alliance of partners with common goals –
 - Offer quick and reliable access to quality information in the agricultural sciences and related fields
 - Operate by consensus
 - Voluntary
 - “Standards”-based

AgNIC Technology

- Technology is catching up to our ideas!
- Moving to “Service Oriented Architecture” – which means connecting multiple remote repositories of information using technology standards
- HTML to XML
- Role of standards
 - Services such as SOAP, REST, RMI, etc.
 - Metadata
 - Vocabulary
 - Digital imaging/Preservation
 - OAI for harvesting from “trusted sources”

AgNIC Services

- CURRENT

- Browse by topic –

- dependent on standardized vocabulary and Web Services

- Calendar RSS –

- dependent on RSS standard

- News RSS –

- standard

- Resources –

- Metadata
- Vocabulary
- RSS or Web Service
- Database structure

- FUTURE

- Offer “services” through “true portal” with SOA as both “provider” and “consumer”

AgNIC and the NDLA

- Serves as a suitable model for establishing the kinds of partnerships necessary for the NDLA
- Moving to standards-based functionality – AgNIC began before many of these standards were finalized!
- Work with a variety of partnership models

Exploring Opportunities



- Reinventing AgNIC Technology – to provide and consume services
- Harvesting
- Cross searching
- Metadata
- Repositories

Harvesting

- Harvest other institution's records – standards are very important!
 - University of Minnesota
 - SIDALC
 - American Farmland Trust
 - Michigan State University KR
- Issues?
 - “live” harvest load on systems
 - Control of the search query
 - Establishing protocols & schedules
 - Technologies may not be compatible

Exploring Cross Searching

- Standards are essential!
 - IFPRI Virtual Library
 - SIDALC Agri2000
 - NAL databases such as Food Safety Research Database
- Issues?
 - Technology is not dependable
 - System outages
 - Slow connections
 - Controlling the query

Metadata

- General issues with metadata
 - Inconsistencies
 - Keeping to standards
 - Generating cross-walks
- International Project to translate metadata from USDA publication series – USDA Home and Garden Publication series
 - Historical – over 50 years
 - Full-text, digitized collection
 - Couple thousand titles
- Issues?
 - Huge project
 - Time consuming
 - Multi-lingual issues
 - Character encoding – UTF8 vs UTF16 vs. ASCII

Repositories

- Establish a way to house “cast-off” full-text collections
- Issues?
 - AgNIC role is ...?
 - Keeping up with current technology
 - Today’s solution ... tomorrow’s problem?

AgNIC Technology - supporting the vision

Questions? Comments?

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