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People Profile: Bryan Beecher

Editor

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these hooks are designed to interface with the Dataverse libraries in order to navigate the click-through style authentication used in the DVN.

- The plugin can process metadata schemas other than OAI-DC, when an appropriate library is supplied. We have supplied a library for DDI version 2.0 metadata. This preserves the metadata, and harvests any URI's listed as resources in it. We have also included performance enhancements for handling portions of large metadata objects.

Discussion

The ability to express replication requirements and inter-archival replication commitments using a formal schema, and to automatically audit a LOCKSS network for dynamic consistency with these requirements is a significant advance. This provides an organization with automatic, continuous and compelling evidence that accurate, timely, and complete replicas are being maintained. Moreover this approach does not require a central administrator or homogenous configuration of the LOCKSS network, or create a single point of failure, either in terms of individual machines or entire institutions.

This work is in a prototype stage, and two questions remain before it could be used in production: First, the LOCKSS cache manager, which plays a much more prominent role in a PLN than it does in the public LOCKSS network, is still in a "beta" stage, and in our experience, must be manually triggered regularly in order to update its state — this can trigger "false alarms" when the state of the cache manager database becomes stale, and does not reflect the actual network state. It is unclear when the cache manager will be robust enough to support automated auditing. Second, we are investigating the extent to which the PLN architecture can support reconfiguration of host nodes by a source that is not completely trusted.

In future work, we plan to investigate how the network might adapt automatically to changes to commitments through harvesting requests to participating hosts to perform additional harvesting. We also intend to identify ways to make the network self-repairing, so that deviations from policy commitments are repaired using the same request mechanism. That said, having the ability to audit the network against a formal policy is a useful innovation on its own. Our prototype serves as a proof-of-concept of the ability of LOCKSS to accommodate the institutional needs of archives as well as libraries. For more information on Data-PASS's approach to archival replication, including our policies and practices, software,¹³ and schemas see the Data-PASS Website: <http://data-pass.org>. 🌱

endnotes on page 49

against the grain people profile

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WHERE DOES MICAH SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: The next five years will see a further application of **Melvin Kranzberg's** second law of technology: "Invention is the mother of necessity." We are now seeing a flood of new inventions for the individual and social creation, recording, and dissemination of knowledge. Information is becoming ambient — continually created, and recorded. Libraries, by necessity, will need to take a larger role in integrating with the workflows around this knowledge, and especially around tagging, social annotation, and other forms of social creation of secondary data.



BRYAN BEECHER is Director of Computing & Network Services in **ICPSR**. **Mr. Beecher** is responsible for the delivery of information technology systems to support the mission of **ICPSR**, and for the ongoing support of those systems. He supervises staff responsible for the day-to-day support of **Windows**, **Macintosh**, and **UNIX** computing systems, common business applications, and specialized data analysis applications, as well as staff responsible for designing and developing customized internal data systems, and Web-based software systems used by the member community.



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