Introduction to the OAI Protocol for Metadata Harvesting Version 2.0

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Version 2.0

- Already?
- Why? What are you guys thinking?
- But we didn't implemented version 1.1 yet!
- OK, so what is it anyway?

Already?

- Released 14 June 2002
- Detailed schedule
 - Alpha test since 1 March 2002
 - Beta test 1 April 2002
 - Expected release 1 June 2002
- Many alpha and beta testers

Why?

- v1.0/v1.1 was experimental
 - v2.0 should be stable
- Some minor shortcomings in semantics of v1.1
- Encoding issues that could be fixed

But we didn't implement v1.1 yet

- That's OK!
- v2.0 is not very different and in fact simpler for some things
- Existing archives need not upgrade as long as harvesters understand multiple versions of the protocol!

Some New "Features"

- Single schema
- ListIdentifiers changes
- Provenance containers
- Granularity of harvesting
- Orthogonality of setSpecs
- More flow control
- > XML error codes
- **Timezones**
- resumptionToken idempotency

XML Error Codes

- <error code="badArgument">... </error>
 - badArgument, badResumptionToken, badVerb, cannotDisseminateFormat, idDoesNotExist, noRecordsMatch, noMetadataFormats, noSetHierarchy
- Errors within the regular responses no more HTTP 404s
- Philosophy: separation of PMH and HTTP

Slide 7

Single Schema

- Use standard schemas where available e.g.,
 Dublin Core from DCMI and MARC from
 LoC
- Use single namespace and schema for all requests/responses
- No more arbitrary restrictions on format of metadataPrefix, setSpec, etc.

New Response Format

```
<>> <OAT-PMH>
     <responseDate>...
     <request parm1="..." parm2="...">...
     <GetRecord>
     <GetRecord>
  </OAI-PMH>
SO <OAT-PMH>
     <responseDate>...
     <request parm1="..." parm2="...">...
     <error code="">
  </OAI-PMH>
```

Orthogonality of setSpecs

- Previously you could not find the sets that an item belonged to
- Now, every record header must include setSpecs

ListIdentifiers Changes

- metadataPrefix is a required parameter
 - the records in different formats may be updated independently
- More information returned complete headers instead of identifiers
 - datestamp, identifier, status, setSpec

Provenance Containers

- <about> is now a repeatable field
- Special provenance container for historical information esp. w.r.t hierarchical harvesting

Granularity of Harvesting

- Now supports times in addition to dates!
- Finest granularity in Identify response
- Se Formats:
 - YYYY-MM-DD
 - YYYY-MM-DDThh:mm:ssZ
- Must support coarser granularities
- Error on finer granularities

More Flow Control

- resumptionTokens now take additional optional parameters for better flow control
 - completeListSize
 - cursor
 - expirationDate

Timezones

- Everything is now explicitly GMT
- If you use local dates, you may need to delay new entries to ensure stable harvesting
- If all sites use GMT, there will be no need to overlap dates by 1 day to cater for timezone differences

resumptionToken idempotency

- resumptionTokens can be sent repeatedly to a server and the response should be identical (or supersets)
- This helps with mid-stream errors in harvesting from large archives

Now What?

- Updated toolkits are gradually being announced on OAI-Implementers list
- Repository Explorer/ARC/OAIA were all compliant before release!
- Future Work
 - Experiments and Extensions
 - SOAPification
 - Other protocols