ANU DSpace Dissemination Service

RIFF S5

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Context

Objects stored in a digital repository may be accessed, rendered or displayed in any number of ways. Images may be searched for and then viewed online; or they may be printed or downloaded as high-resolution for layout in a print magazine. Film may be streamed; data tables may be queried in situ; humans may search the repository or machines may interrogate it.

There are multiple repository applications and multiple “levels” of repository: long-term archives, CVS trees, streaming servers (to name just a few).

Clearly, there is a need for a standardised object or template which any dissemination mechanism could expect to receive when requesting content from a repository.

Philosophically, this concept is the flip side to the APSR RIFF Submission service.

Approach

Develop a cross-platform rendering template for use with any repository application. For our purposes, the tests were conducted against DSpace and Fez+Fedora. The template implementation was to be open source, robust, standards compliant (where appropriate) and lightweight.

This implementation would not cover every possible dissemination scenario: additional work would be required after the project to develop specific extensions.

The application would be a web service, written in Java and XSLT. It was to be lightweight, robust and deployable on any platform. It must be based around the Manakin XML user interface framework but able to be applied to multiple repository types and demonstrated by an implementation for DSpace and Fez+Fedora.

Outcomes

- Developed the cross-platform rendering templates for the Manakin

environment to render the RIFF Workflow outputs so they work equally well with Fez+Fedora and DSpace.

- Developed an initial version of a rendering environment for DSpace and Fedora
- Core Manakin stylesheets retained with repository-specific templates where required
- Theme Editor based on Chameleon CSS Editor from Moodle
- Developed Manakin themes for workflow projects (DSpace and Fedora)
- Created Fedora DRI generation
- Open Source Distribution (DSpace); bundled with Fez 2.0 (Fedora) as experimental feature

Further work

Specific genres will require more work to develop appropriate models. Some of this was undertaken by APSR partners in 2007. Other areas were discontinued due to staffing constraints.

These include:

- Conferences and journals
- Wordprocessing
- Images
- Music (cancelled)
- Mapping (cancelled)