Development of the next DDI Tools Catalog

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Assumptions:

- Adoption of the DDI metadata standard by a broader community of users can and will only happen through good tools that support the standard.
- Potential and actual users need to be able to easily find and identify DDI-supporting tools for their needs – requires being able to select them using relevant attributes.
- Developers need to have a way to submit and update information on DDI tools they are working on.

The present DDI Tools catalog ([http://www.ddialliance.org/resources/tools](http://www.ddialliance.org/resources/tools)) is a flat webpage ... listing also things that may not be considered “tools”.
Background

• At its annual meeting on May 31, 2010, the DDI Alliance Expert Committee agreed to charge a newly formed group with the revision of the DDI Tools Catalog

• Current members of the Tools Catalog Group (under http://www.ddialliance.org/alliance/working-groups):
  – Stefan Kramer, Cornell U. (Chair)
  – Katherine McNeill, MIT
  – Jannik Jensen, Danish Data Archive
Approach to developing new catalog

• Desirable to keep the new catalog within DDI Alliance web site (Drupal-based), rather than external, given desired functionalities

• DDI Tools Catalog working group used Google Group and Google Docs to develop and discuss needed fields and field values for new catalog

• Developers will be able to request Drupal accounts to submit/edit info on their tools

• Catalog editors will review before publication
The new DDI Tools Catalog: preview

In following slides, [M] marks mandatory fields to be completed in catalog records, [F] marks fields by which a catalog user can filter (narrow) search results.
Fields for the new DDI Tools Catalog

• Tools catalog record last updated - date [M]
• Tools catalog record last updated – by who [M]
• Name (of tool) [M]
• Description
• Purpose [M] [F]
  – Group was originally disinclined to have this field for reasons of maintainability, but now intends to include it, with a controlled vocabulary – examples: editor, converter (between DDI versions), creator (from software to DDI), transformer (from DDI to other display formats)
Fields for the new DDI Tools Catalog

• External URL [M]
  – of web site describing tool, maintained by creator

• Creator(s) [M]
  – Name(s) and contact info of author(s), programmer(s), institution(s) developing the tool

• Availability [M] [F]
  – Unknown, Planned, In development, Alpha release, Beta release, In production, No longer developed, but still available, No longer available

• Latest version
Fields for the new DDI Tools Catalog

• Operating system requirements [M] [F]
  – Win32, Win64, Linux, Macintosh, Other: describe

• Other system requirements
  – e.g., Apache web server, STATA, C-compiler, Java ver. N.N, SPSS, .NET framework

• Programming/scripting languages used

• License [M] [F]
  – Freeware, GNU Lesser General Public License (LGPL), Commercial, Other, Unknown
Fields for the new DDI Tools Catalog

• Available support from Creator(s)
  – None; Free, to any user; Free, to paying users; For-fee (separate from any product cost)

• DDI version(s) supported [M] [F]
  – 1.x, 2.0, 2.1, 2.5 (future), 3.0, 3.1, 3.2 (future)

• Exports DDI XML
  – Yes, No, Unknown

• Imports DDI XML
  – Yes, No, Unknown
Questions for the community

• Will this proposed structure for the catalog be useful for end users?
• Will developers be (sufficiently) motivated to submit information about their tools, and update it?
• Any volunteers to help edit and maintain the catalog’s contents?
• Mary Vardigan & Justin Todd
• Bill Block
• Jannik Jensen & Kate McNeill
• the DDI tools developers
Thank you for your time & attention!

The End

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