Development of the next DDI Tools Catalog

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Background

- 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) is a flat web page ... 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
  - Design idea influence by former IMAP Products Database (http://web.archive.org/web/19991013070236/imap.org/products.html)
- 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
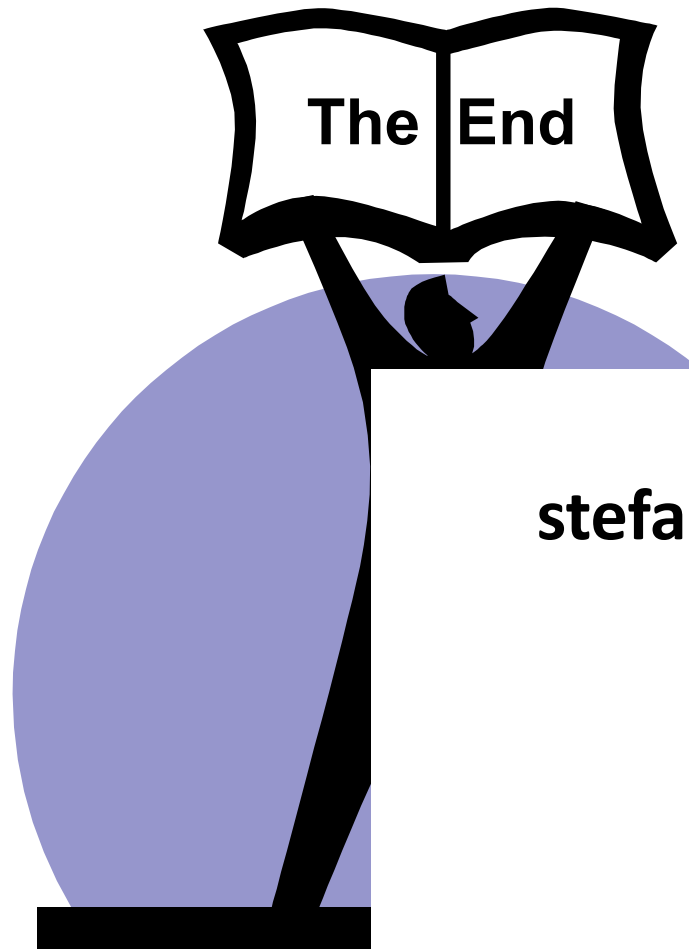 - Yes, No, Unknown

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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