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Meeting of the SEM group of UNM and LANL (part of the Karst Information Portal) with the University of Minho

Attending: Ana Alice Babbista (U Minho), Linn Marks Collins (E-science group at LANL), Diana Northup (Karst Scientist and UNM Library), Dale Hendrikson (UNM Libraries Library Information Technology), Christy Crowley (UL Coordinator for Scholarly Publishing), Brian Freels Stendel (UL Dspace and other developments), Zhiwu Xie (UL Latin American Grant and LANL Prototyping Group), Johann van Reenen (UL).

Reviews were provided of the Karst Information Portal (KIP) served by our partners at the University of South Florida (USF), the Scanning Electron Micrographs collection of geo-microbiology images in the DSpace KARST community, the Drupal community content management system developed for the SEM group by the LANL Partners, and an overview of U.Minho's plans for developing an interoperable set of services for Institutional Repositories to capture comments (including social tagging) and communication patterns between end-users.

At lunch the formal part of the meeting ended and members of the group attended a talk or to leave for their next destination! In the afternoon Ana, Zhiwu, and Johann continued an informal brainstorming meeting.

Issues arising:

- The UNM Dspace instance has successfully implemented the commenting system but this does not fully meet the challenge of creating relationships between objects and comments. A system of backwards and forwards tagging and archiving value-added comments with pointers to referred digital objects (or related clusters of such objects) need a more complex solution.
 - o Ana's ideas capture some of the needed steps and the LANL Drupal work provides a way to create communities of interaction that could capture the discussions, joint agreements, and tags . But how do we archive these and make the forward and backward relationships in archival system such as Dspace, ContentDM, E-prints, Fedora and the like?
 - o Content DM can handle complex digital object but has end-user desktop requirements
 - o Dspace can handle many files of different types in one digital object with a handle URL but once submitted should not be changed other than the added comments which are currently not searchable
 - o The Web of Communication can track user relationships and behaviors but this needs to be archived as proposed by Minho
 - o ACTIONS so far:
 - Comments should be searchable. The UNM Dspace student working on making comments searchable should have a teleconference with Ana's group to explain work so far and brainstorm
 - Ana will investigate why Brian cannot make the WoC work at UNM (Brian's notes: The WoC add-on was implemented on PapaDocs

alongside the Commenting add-on; it requires some functionality from the Commenting add-on. The Commenting add-on that was submitted to the DSpace community via its Sourceforge site was retooled to fit into the regular DSpace code tree. This was probably done so that it would be easier to integrate into the core code. The effect, though, is that the WoC code is looking for some things in the wrong place. I believe I could alter the WoC add-on to work. The question for me is whether it's worth the time to do this. My understanding is that none of us are going to be working on that particular add-on in the future, that Ana and her team are going to work on a different (and expanded) implementation of this functionality.)

- Ana and Christy will meet in San Antonio to talk more about this and other smaller implementation issues
 - Linn and Diana worked on the paper for the HCI conference in China while they were waiting for the meeting to begin. Linn will also open a Drupal web-book instance for the SEM grant group to work together on the Whitepaper we have to prepare for AISTI (aisti.org), our current grant provider. They will make a presentation for the AISTI Board meeting of February 9.
 - Johann asked Linn to create an introductory slide for the above to give board members a context of how Drupal fit in our plans and how it could be used at their organizations.
- Ana, Zhiwu and Johann continued the brainstorming in the afternoon. This was very useful and provided possible solutions to the archiving of comments. Zhiwu placed this in context of the CORE Pathways research currently underway at LANL and had a very good idea for a Comments Archive in Dspace. He and Ana will elaborate on this more but in the meantime I have asked him to summarize his and Ana's ideas to this point to be sent to the three of us initially.
- ACTIONS so far:
 - Zhiwu to summarize
 - Ana to discuss these ideas with her group
 - Johann to arrange a teleconference with Minh

- COMMENTS:

These are Johann's preliminary insights into how we can move ahead.

- We need grant monies as the work we discussed in the afternoon is beyond the capacity of our current work at UNM
- UNM Dspace should continue to work on the commenting feature, esp. searching
- The SEM group should re-do the metadata for the current collection of images as planned
- Diana, please send the scenarios for how scientists might work in a KIP collaboratory to Ana and Dale (I believe the rest of us have seen them)
- The large NSF Cyber Infrastructure and E-science collaborative grants are out of our league at this time

- Johann and Diana will make an internal UNM proposal to the Threat Reduction Agency group (the first meeting is next week)
- Christy, Linn and Diana will work on a third small grant proposal for the SEM work from AISTI
- In all the above grants we should add travel and local expenses for at least one of Ana's grad students to work with us
- Zhiwu suggested: "I remember people from UK universities can apply for travel and matching grants from the Leverhulme Trust
<http://www.leverhulme.ac.uk>"