Background

Institutional and thematic repositories often face a number of challenges concerning to the creation, management and exchange of stored metadata. Firstly, they need to provide several workflows for manual (e.g. by authors or library staff) or automatic (e.g. from citation databases or notification services) metadata ingest and second when it comes to metadata provision they need to comply with several guidelines from different initiatives on a local, national and international level which often are not aligned.

Controlled vocabularies are a means to standardize specific properties of metadata values. Some properties are well recognized and maintained like date and time format (ISO-8601), language codes (ISO-639), subject headings or are supported by authoritative services (e.g. author identifiers). Others are not standardized or valid in a specific application profile context only like resource types, status and version of a resource, access rights. This limits the quality of value added services that operate on bibliographic metadata and target the discovery (by aggregation and de-duplication), enrichment (by text-mining) and monitoring (by e.g. quantitative indicators) of repository content.

The Confederation of Open Access Repositories started an effort to overcome those deficiencies by help of semantic products and standards.

Topics

- Overview of the methodology used to review existing work and define new vocabularies
- usage of SKOS in the context of the COAR Vocabularies
- VocBench as a collaborative editing and workflow tool
- integration of the vocabularies in repository software
- open questions
○ flat or hierarchical structure of a vocabulary
○ strategies of version control of vocabularies
○ alternate formats (rdf, json, xml) of vocabulary representation
○ mappings and crosswalks with other vocabularies

References:

- COAR Controlled Vocabularies: https://www.coar-repositories.org/activities/repository-interoperability/ig-controlled-vocabularies-for-repository-assets/coar-vocabularies/
- info:eu-repo: https://wiki.surfnet.nl/display/standards/info-eu-repo
- Resource Type Vocabulary: http://vocabularies.coar-repositories.org/documentation/resource_types/
- SKOS: https://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/
- VocBench: http://vocbench.uniroma2.it/
- Phaidra Classification Server: http://vocab.phaidra.org/skosmos/en/
  ○ Documentation: https://phaidra.gitbooks.io/components/content/Classification_server/classification_server.html