

CRIS2018 extended abstract

Title:

The role of CERIF in a national research data shared service

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Abstract:

The UK is developing a research data shared service to allow researchers and institutions to meet their policy requirements for the deposit and curation of research data. The pilot service will enable researchers to easily deposit data for publication, discovery, safe storage, long term archiving and preservation. This means that they are able to provide sustainable access to research data so it can be reused. Jisc, the UK's not for profit organisation providing digital services and solutions to the higher education sector, are funding the development of this shared service and working closely with 13 universities/consortia representing a broad spectrum of institutions across the HEI sector. Further details are available at <https://www.jisc.ac.uk/rd/projects/research-data-shared-service>.

This paper describes the development of the (meta)data model underpinning the RDSS and the mapping of this model to CERIF.

The data model is canonical and sets the parameters of the taxonomy which supports the messaging layer of the service architecture. This single source of truth allows multiple services to communicate through a single point of integration. To achieve this interoperability, a mapping is performed between the service (e.g. a preservation or reporting system) and the data model to ensure messaging compliance. The data model represents a collection existing good practice and well established standards in the research domain. The model is publically available in an open Github repository <https://github.com/JiscRDSS/rdss-canonical-data-model>.

The RDSS data model is a result of codesign and pragmatism to meet the needs of the range of stakeholders involved. The decision to map this model to an open metadata standard was an obvious next step in order to (i) validate and revise the model against an established standard developed by experts in research information management and (ii) facilitate interoperability with systems and services which are CERIF-compliant.

The discussion around the mapping between the RDSS data model and CERIF was particularly helpful around the development of the Person entity. In early stages of the RDSS data model, person was a concept that included a substantial set of identity management metadata that was required for UK Access Management Federation integration. CERIF proposes a much simpler and more elegant Person entity. By focusing on the metadata elements that were important to how a person relates to the research entities around them, we were able to remove extraneous, session based metadata and assert a description of a Person much more aligned to that proposed by CERIF (present in RDSS data model 3.0.0)

Keywords:

CERIF; Open Data; Shared Service; Jisc; Metadata