

Announcement of a Comment Period for the Five Year Review of the Reference Model for an Open Archival Information System (OAIS) and ISO 16363.

OAIS Overview

The Reference Model for an Open Archival Information System (OAIS) was developed for use in facilitating a broad, discipline independent, consensus on the requirements for an archive or repository to provide long-term, preservation of digital information. It was also intended to support the development of additional digital preservation standards.

An OAIS is an archive consisting of an organization of people and systems that has accepted the responsibility to preserve information and make it available to a Designated Community. The standard defines a set of responsibilities that an OAIS archive must fulfill and this allows an OAIS archive to be distinguished from other uses of the term archive.

Since its adoption as both a Consultative Committee for Space Data Systems (CCSDS) and an ISO standard, the OAIS Reference Model has been welcomed and widely adopted by virtually all types of digital preservation communities. Most modern digital preservation initiatives reference the OAIS Reference Model standard. It has also been widely used by organizations to inform their implementations of new or upgraded preservation systems.

Five Year Review

In compliance with ISO and CCSDS procedures, a standard must be reviewed every five years and a determination made to reaffirm, modify, or withdraw the existing standard. The Reference Model for an Open Archival Information System (OAIS) standard was approved as CCSDS 650.0-B-1 in January 2002 and was approved as ISO standard 14721 in 2003. A comment period for that first issue of the OAIS standard was held at the end of 2006. Based on the comments received, CCSDS began work on a new issue of OAIS. Issue 2 of OAIS, CCSDS 650.0-M-2, was published in June 2012 and was approved as an update to ISO 14721 in August 2012.

The Issue 2 updates include clarifications to many concepts, in particular Authenticity with the concept of Transformational Information Property introduced; corrections and improvements in diagrams; addition of Access Rights Information to Preservation Description Information. With those updates the OAIS standard continues to garner widespread and growing recognition and acceptance in the digital preservation communities.

While the current issue of the standard can be reaffirmed given its wide usage, it may also be appropriate to begin another revision process. As with the previous update, our view is that any revision must remain backward compatible with regard to major terminology and concepts. Further, we do not plan to expand the general level of detail nor will the standard be changed

from a reference model to an implementation design. Archive implementation standards or implementation profiles or detailed archival process standards or protocols should be addressed but they would become separate standards and would be developed through separate CCSDS projects. A particular interest for the current OAIS update is to reduce ambiguities and to fill in any missing or weak concepts and to add useful terminology. To this end, a comment period has been established.

Comment Process

We are soliciting recommendations for updates that will reduce ambiguities or improve missing or weak concepts. We also want to know if you prefer that no changes be made. Please categorize your comments for changes under one of the following:

- Editorial
- Corrections to matters of fact
- Updates to add useful terminology
- Updates needed for clarification
- Updates to add missing concepts or strengthen weak concepts
- Identification of any outdated material
- Recommended change for other considerations

In addition, any backward compatibility issues should be indicated.

Please be as specific as possible with your suggestions. If possible, comments should be received by 7 October, 2016, but additional comments will be accepted up to 31st December 2016.

Comments may be submitted via: <http://review.oais.info>

Before submitting comments, please review the guidelines on the review page, such as checking to see if your comment has already been made.

Note that CCSDS 652.0-B-1 – *Audit and Certification of Trustworthy Digital Repositories. Magenta Book. Issue 1. September 2011*, (ISO 16363:2012) a follow-on standard closely related to the OAIS standard, is also due for its five-year review. Please follow the same procedure to provide comments for that standard submitting those comments to <http://review.oais.info>. Please ensure you select the correct product (document) on the review page when providing your comments.

If you have problems using the web form, then please email david@giaretta.org with the Subject: beginning with “OAIS/ISO16363 review”.

If you wish to participate in the discussions of the suggested changes to OAIS and ISO 16363, please join the MOIMS_DAI mailing list at <https://mailman.ccsds.org/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/moims-dai>. This mailing list will be used to co-ordinate discussions and meetings.