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NZ at forefront of global internet standards

New Zealand is one of the first countries in the world to formally affiliate with the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative, the most widely used international standard for metadata description, which makes it easier to find resources on the internet.

Archives New Zealand, the National Library and the State Services Commission signed a joint agreement last week to become a national affiliate of the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI). New Zealand follows the UK and Finland in formalising its support for the influential standard.

As an affiliate, New Zealand will be formally involved in the continued development of the international standard for metadata description, ISO 15836, and promote and support the adoption of Dublin Core specifications in the national metadata community.

Makx Dekkers, Managing Director of DCMI, visited New Zealand especially for the agreement and addressed a joint seminar on Dublin Core in New Zealand, held in Wellington. Over 120 information professionals from the public and private sectors gathered for this seminar marking affiliation.

Dianne Macaskill, Chief Executive and Chief Archivist of Archives New Zealand, says, "We've been early adopters in recognising Dublin Core as a robust and common standard for government agencies to describe and make information accessible - now and when it's an archive in 25 years time. That's why it's critical that we are involved in its development and implementation, as a country and across government".

Penny Carnaby, National Librarian and Chief Executive of the National Library adds, "This affiliation with DCMI could not have come at a better time, given the recent release of the government's National Digital Strategy, the success of which will largely be based on the use of open, interoperable standards."

Dublin Core is widely used in New Zealand's knowledge sector by archivists, records managers, librarians and information managers. The standard also underpins joint projects

such as the award-winning initiatives Matapihi, EPIC and Anyquestions.govt.nz, as well as the government portal.

The mission of the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative is to make it easier to find resources on the internet by using a common standard ie Dublin Core. DCMI is dedicated to promoting the widespread adoption of interoperable metadata standards, and developing specialised metadata vocabularies for describing resources that enable more intelligent information discovery systems.

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Further information:

- Archives New Zealand (the keeper of the public record, the memory of government)
www.archives.govt.nz
- National Library of New Zealand – www.natlib.govt.nz
- State Services Commission – www.ssc.govt.nz

- Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI) - www.dublincore.org

Metadata is at the core of any internet search – they are the words that describe the content of web pages. The metadata rules need to be common to all users, otherwise information cannot be retrieved and used.

Dublin Core is named after Dublin, Ohio where it was first developed. It is now used by more than 25 countries and has been translated in 25 languages.

Caption

Signing the agreement are John Roberts, Group Manager of Archives Management at Archives New Zealand, who is New Zealand's representative affiliate in Dublin Core, with Makx Dekkers, Managing Director of the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative.