

**CDWA Lite Advisory Committee Open Meeting**  
**Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007**  
**Chicago, IL**

**Introduction:** On November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007, the CDWA Lite Advisory Committee conducted an open meeting with invited guests to discuss significant developments with CDWA Lite and its growing use and acceptance within the larger cultural heritage community.

There has been significant developments since the launch of CDWA Lite: RLG formed a Museum Collections Sharing Working Group to evaluate the CDWA Lite schema, its intended use, and ease of implementation; the Getty and OCLC developed OAICatMuseum, which is software that allows object descriptions and accompanying resources to be harvested in accordance with the Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting; the CDWA Lite Advisory Committee conducted a community review of CDWA Lite 1.1; and the international community began to embrace CDWA Lite, most notably in Germany with the creation of museumdat, which extends CDWA Lite to be in accordance CIDOC CRM (ISO21127).

The CDWA Lite open meeting, held in-conjunction with MCN's Annual Conference in Chicago, was an opportunity to review these developments, and to discuss what changes should be made to CDWA Lite to allow its greater use and applicability in the larger community, while at the same time maintaining its intended use as a low barrier way to contribute collections for resource discovery.

Furthermore, it was the Advisory Committee's intent to discuss the importance of recognizing the work that had been conducted with museumdat, and to discuss suggested changes to the schema that resulted from the review and through others forums such as RLG's Museum Collections Sharing Working Group.

What follows is a summary of the meeting's proceedings, with a conclusion outlining the charge of the Advisory Committee. Full papers and presentations, in addition to other supplemental material from the meeting, are referenced within this report, and are also available for viewing at the Getty's CDWA Lite Web site at:

[http://www.getty.edu/research/conducting\\_research/standards/cdwa/cdwalite.html](http://www.getty.edu/research/conducting_research/standards/cdwa/cdwalite.html)

**CDWA Lite Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda**

*See Materials: [CDWA Lite Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda](#)*

**Hosted by:** CDWA Lite Advisory Committee, with support from the Museum Computer Network

**Meeting conducted by:** Erin Coburn, J. Paul Getty Museum

**Invited Guests and Speakers in Attendance:**

Nancy Allen, ARTstor  
Erin Coburn, J. Paul Getty Museum  
Robb Detlefs, Gallery Systems  
Monika Hagedorn-Saupe, Instiut fur Museumskunde, Berlin  
Jay Hoffman, Gallery Systems  
Michael Jenkins, Metropolitan Museum of Art  
Christian-Emil Ore, University of Oslo, Norway; Chair, CIDOC  
Regine Stein, Zuse-Institute Berlin  
Günter Waibel, RLG Programs, OCLC

There were approximately 10 people from the community who observed the meeting.

**Reports and supplemental material provided by the following not in attendance:**

Karim Boughida, Getty Research Institute  
Martin Doerr, ICS-FORTH, Heraklion, Greece  
Tony Gill, Center for Jewish History  
Kenneth Hamma, J. Paul Getty Trust  
Tim Hart, J. Paul Getty Trust  
Joe Shubitowski, Getty Research Institute

**I. Opening Remarks: Introduction to CDWA Lite**

Kenneth Hamma, J. Paul Getty Trust

*See Materials: Opening Remarks: Introduction to CDWA Lite, Ken Hamma, Getty Trust Paper and Presentation*

**Summary:** Ken Hamma provided an overview of the history of CDWA Lite; beginning with its goal to solve the need for an easier model for sharing collection information and images with aggregators, to those who made the standards based initiative a reality. The needs that helped inform and structure CDWA Lite were:

- Describe a lower the bar approach for how to catalog for resource-discovery, with a small required data set.
- Lower the bar for technology by finding existing community solutions, as well as roles for vendors and aggregators, in supporting shared technology.
- Get close to an expectation of universal discovery in which, unless everyone is participating, the real promise of cultural heritage online is simply not viable.
- Use existing standards and protocols that would be applicable for collections of unique objects across the various management styles of archives, libraries and museums.

A summary was then provided of the team involved in creating CDWA Lite, and the first successful use of CDWA Lite with the Getty Museum and the Getty Research Institute's contribution of images and metadata to ARTstor. Developments with CDWA Lite were presented, along with remarks about the significant contribution that has been made by the German community in extending CDWA Lite to be more compliant with CIDOC CRM (ISO21127) in its version museumdat.

Erin Coburn, J. Paul Getty Museum

*See Materials: Meeting Introduction, Erin Coburn, J. Paul Getty Museum Presentation*

**Summary:** After introductions, an overview of the agenda, and intended goals of the meeting, there was a brief description of CDWA Lite and its key points.

CDWA Lite has proven to be successful in serving as a low-barrier way to contribute collections to union resources, which utilizes accepted data content, data structure, and data technical standards, specifically: Categories for the Description of Works of Art, Cataloging Cultural Objects, and the Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting. CDWA Lite is not intended to be a full complement of data for research, but rather to be the minimal amount of information needed to ensure effective resource discovery and access. Furthermore, CDWA Lite strives to reduce the overhead and labor involved in contributing to union catalogs and digital repositories; to provide a method for ensuring accurate and current information about works of art accessible in the online environment; and to allow for a way to bring users back to a resource in its native home environment.

## II. **CDWA Lite Version 1.1 Community Review**

Community Review Survey Results (Report provided by Tim Hart, J. Paul Getty Trust)

In May, the CDWA Lite Advisory Committee conducted a broad community review of the schema from a technical viewpoint, as well as its value in collection cataloging and access/sharing.

The CDWA Lite Web survey received 144 responses representing fields as diverse as Metadata Librarians, Architectural Historians, Professors, Catalogers and Curators, to name just a few. Most of the respondents were from libraries or museums, with almost an equal amount between the two groups. Only a small percentage of the 144 completed the whole survey, which suggests that there is still unfamiliarity in the community with CDWA Lite and its intended use.

The results of this survey have given us an improved understanding of user community, institutional, and individual needs.

### Community Feedback

The substantive feedback the Committee received about CDWA Lite came from individuals who directly sent in comments and suggestions. Discussions were had about some of this feedback, such as how much technical and administrative metadata about the resource the schema should allow for. Additional qualifiers were offered as appropriate for providing greater clarity about the resource, but in general it was agreed that the schema should continue to support minimal descriptive and administrative information about objects and its accompanying resources.

There was a suggestion to add credit line in the schema as part of the information associated with the object, not just the resource. It was agreed that this was a relevant and necessary addition to the schema.

Tony Gill, from the Center for Jewish History, submitted a thorough synopsis of CDWA Lite. Tony made the argument to reduce the amount of required fields; to add workID as a required field since it can play an instrumental role as a unique identifier; to add elements for recording more geographical information about an item; and to have less focus on creator information. Tony also strongly encouraged the schema to allow for a more events-based approach for documenting cultural materials. It was acknowledged that this assessment was a great pre-cursor to discussions about museumdat, and recommendations to modify CDWA Lite to be more compliant with CIDOC CRM (ISO21127). The Advisory Committee agreed to further review Tony's recommendations when determining changes to be made to CDWA Lite.

### **III. Major Contributions to CDWA Lite**

#### RLG Museum Collections Sharing Working Group

Presentation by Günter Waibel, RLG Programs, OCLC

*Materials:*

<http://www.oclc.org/programs/ourwork/collectivecoll/sharecoll/museumcollwg.htm>;

<http://www.oclc.org/research/software/oai/oaiatmuseum.htm>

**Summary:** Günter Waibel introduced the Museum Collections Sharing Working Group, which investigates new mechanisms for sharing digital images and descriptions of collection items in the museum community. Since its inception, this working group has played an instrumental role in identifying and mitigating obstacles to understanding and implementing CDWA Lite.

Günter also announced the public release of OAICatMuseumBETA, open-source software which allows museums to disclose descriptions of collection items as well as pointers to digital surrogates. The software used for this prototype was a modified version of OCLC Research open source software OAICat, and inspired by the Getty modifications of the original software to tailor it to museum needs. OAICatMuseum is particularly unique in that it can be used to efficiently share digital images with trusted partners.

#### Museumdat

Presentation by Regine Stein, Zuse-Institute Berlin

*See Materials: Museumdat, Regine Stein, Zuse-Institute Berlin Presentation;*

*Documentation: museumdat – Harvesting Format for Providing Core Data from Museum Holdings, and Documentation: museumdat – XML Schema Definition*

**Summary:** Regina Stein presented on the work of the German Documentation

Standards Working Group to create museumdat, which re-arranges CDWA Lite elements to allow for documenting events, bringing it into accordance with the principles established in CIDOC CRM (ISO21127)

Regine successfully outlined the differences between the presentation of elements in CDWA Lite versus museumdat, and the value added by allowing for information to be organized around the life of an object rather than exclusively about the description of the object.

The work by the German community with museumdat received unilateral applause and support from those in attendance for its practical incorporation of the event-oriented approach. It was agreed that CDWA Lite could become a more universally adopted standard, and one that is more open to non-fine art objects by building off of this work.

#### Vendor Implementation

Presentation by Robb Detlefs, Gallery Systems

Gallery Systems was one of the first vendors to create a CDWA Lite export with their software Embark. The University of Miami is testing this CDWA Lite export for contributing their collection to ARTstor. Robb Detlefs shared how he created the CDWA Lite export with Embark, discussed challenges and possibilities with the expressions of CDWA Lite XML records, and touched upon the work involved in creating a similar export for museumdat.

#### **IV. Discussion of technical difference between CDWA Lite and Museumdat (Jay Hoffman, Gallery Systems; additional feedback submitted by Joe Shubitowski, Getty Research Institute and Karim Boughida, Getty Research Institute)**

Jay Hoffman, Gallery Systems

**Summary:** Gallery Systems has experience in working with the documentation and schemas for both CDWA Lite and museumdat. Jay Hoffman was able to provide a helpful and practical comparative analysis of CDWA-Lite and museumdat, and a vendor based perspective of implementing these schemas. Jay provided assurance that the changes we had been discussing with CDWA Lite would not be technically difficult to incorporate. Jay also reiterated the importance of a model like CDWA Lite to the museum community; the value in recognizing the events-based approach as presented in museumdat; and the benefits of having one shared standard as opposed to different manifestations of CDWA Lite.

Joe Shubitowski and Karim Boughida, Getty Research Institute

**Summary:** The Getty Research Institute's Library Information Systems was one of the major contributors to developing the CDWA Lite schema, specifications, and documentations. Joe Shubitowski and Karim Boughida provided feedback on the comparisons between CDWA Lite and museumdat, in addition to comments on the report

provided by Martin Doerr, one of the fathers of CIDOC CRM (ISO21127). Joe and Karim advocated for there being one schema as opposed to multiple versions. They acknowledged advantages for having CDWA Lite recognize the event-oriented approach, and the principles of an RDF semantic model.

They shared their views that both CDWA Lite and museumdat may be difficult to understand from a general user's point of view; but neither is hard to understand from a technical point of view. The points of view expressed by Martin Doerr were complemented, and it was suggested that while Martin's recommendations are more consistent with CIDOC CRM (ISO21127), the work of museumdat is a fair and practical incorporation of the events based concepts. They provided the following recommendations:

- Requested to see a backwards-compatible museumdat record: take a complex record in museumdat and show it as a CDWA Lite record.
- Requested that a record be created in accordance with the recommendations made by Martin Doerr.
- Suggested CDWA Lite move towards museumdat, but also evaluate Martin's proposal further to see if some suggestions should be adopted.
- Suggested the updated version of CDWA Lite have a new name all together.

## **V. Review of CDWA Lite, museumdat, and their relationship with CIDOC CRM (ISO21127)**

**Summary:** Martin Doerr is the chair of the CIDOC CRM Special Interest Group, which emerged from the CIDOC Documentation Standards Group when the approach for documenting museum information shifted from an entity-relationship model to an object-oriented modeling methodology. CIDOC CRM is a reference model that provides definitions and structure for describing the implicit and explicit concepts and relationships in cultural heritage and museum documentation.

Martin was invited to comment on CDWA Lite, and in particular to provide recommendations for how the schema could be more aligned with CIDOC CRM (ISO21127). Martin submitted a proposal for minimal changes to the schema that were seen as most substantial to help bring it in alignment with CIDOC CRM (ISO21127), without causing too much disruption. The proposal provided insight into CDWA Lite and museumdat, and how they compare to the concepts in CIDOC CRM (ISO21127). Martin concluded that museumdat provides a very good rearrangement of CDWA Lite elements, and that it is compliant with CIDOC CRM (ISO21127) compatible.

## **VI. Implementations of CDWA Lite; Impact changes to CDWA Lite has on current activities**

While there have been advancements in the field pertaining to CDWA Lite since its launch (many discussed in the meeting), the Advisory Committee and participants all

agreed that the time was right to commit to updating CDWA Lite to incorporate the needs of the greater community, and to create one shared schema.

## **VII. Next Steps: Roles and Responsibilities**

It was agreed that the CDWA Lite Advisory Committee would establish a charge that reflected the outcome of this meeting and the larger efforts that contributed to its convergence. It was agreed by all that the Advisory Committee should lead the effort to update the CDWA Lite scheme version 1.1 to be more compliant with CIDOC CRM (ISO21127) by primarily building off of the work achieved in museumdat.

It was agreed and acknowledged that the schema must be kept practical, and preserve the principles that the standard was initially built upon. Everyone understood that it would not be wise or useful to try and re-invent the wheel, and that a significant amount of excellent work has already gone into this effort, which should be expanded on or re-structured. It was also agreed that the expected outcome would be a new version of CDWA Lite, which would have a new name, and would replace both CDWA Lite 1.1 and museumdat. The new version of the schema will carry with it proper documentation and attributions for the work that preceded it, both with CDWA Lite and museumdat.