

Music Research Data Management project

C4DM, Queen Mary University of London

Monthly report – Month 4 – January 2012

- DSpace has been chosen as the software solution to build the data management system for C4DM. Although DataFlow satisfies almost all the requirements set following the interviews, the release of a beta version was delayed until the end of January. Because of time constraints, we decided to choose the safest solution. See the blog post for more details: http://rdm.c4dm.eecs.qmul.ac.uk/platform_choice
- The installation of DSpace on a test server has been carried out (<http://rdm.c4dm.eecs.qmul.ac.uk/content/installing-dspace>). Some delays caused by the school's IT services have pushed the start of the testing back a few days. Testing (e.g. deposit of test datasets) should start at the beginning of February, at first by the project's team members, in order to try different submission workflows, as well as metadata schemas. After this first phase, some users, selected from those that took part in the interviews and online survey, will be asked to try the system and give feedback.
- Extension modules for DSpace have been produced to automatically extract descriptive metadata from file headers of file types commonly used at C4DM (e.g. wav/mp3, matlab), and save them as serialized metadata files for indexing.
- An online survey has been used to collect more data regarding data management practices at C4DM, as well as possible additional requirements for the data management system. 19 people answered the 10 questions in the survey. An informal analysis of the results can be found on the blog: <http://rdm.c4dm.eecs.qmul.ac.uk/online-survey>
- A draft policies document has been produced and circulated among the project's team for review. As explained in this blog post (<http://rdm.c4dm.eecs.qmul.ac.uk/dmp-and-policies>), writing such a document for a research group faces some challenges. First, it should be half way between institutional policies and a project's data management plan. Second, it should be dictated by how the data management system works: this is problematic since the data management system is still under development.
- Blogging has continued during January, with very positive reactions and comments.