CC Tech Summit

Government Information Licensing Framework - a multidisciplinary project improving access to Public Sector Information

Date 12 December 2008
GILF Project Participants

- Funding Cooperative Research Centre for Spatial Information
- Queensland Government - Economic and Policy
- Queensland University of Technology - Legal & Policy
- Australian Bureau of Statistics - Technical
- Landgate Corporation - Spatial Implementation –
- Acknowledge the work of colleagues but views expressed here are not necessarily those of any of these organisations.
- Split between research and Government Implementation
What types of information does government hold?

- Reports, bulletins, briefs
- Statistical or factual profiles, data tables
- Technical reports
- Research
- Maps
- Satellite imagery
- Property boundaries
- Images
- Web pages
- Recordings (audio, video)
- Administrative Collections
Tech Capability to Publish & Disseminate outstripping Licensing & other Legal Obligations
Government Service Channel Delivery Demands Clearer and Simpler Management of Rights of Access and Sharing
AIM of GILF Implementation Project

• Deliver a standard set of terms and conditions for information licensing.
• That will work effectively and legally in practice.
• But must fit within a national and internationally recognised environment.
Why Government needs to License

• Australian Governments have copyright on works
• Copyright in Australia extends to works with relatively small creative components such as databases eg white pages directory.
• This has some positive impact in that Government must be attributed, but it raises the need for a clear licensing model
GILF Components

Creative Commons

DLM

Information Management

Legal Review
Restrictive Licence (RL)

• Many public sector transactions involve information that can only be used in a restricted way
  – Personal and confidential information
  – Legislative and statutory restrictions
  – Security and Commercial in Confidence

• Restrictive Licence
  – Based on copyright and contract law
Surface Water Database

- Australia Yellow Waters Billabong by Pedro Lopez
Population projections 2006-2056
Queensland and Statistical Divisions

- Queensland 1/5 of the area of the USA
- 65% of the 4 million population live in the SE
- We have an aging population
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders (Census 2006 Bulletin no. 4)

Aurukun indigenous community, Copyright Google Maps
Digital Licence Management

• The primary purpose of the DLM is to embed license metadata
• Also does visible markings on some file formats
• Developed in Java
• Australian Bureau of Statistics are leading development
• Why the name?
Benefits of Digital Licence Management

• Easy link from data to licence
• Find information based on its license
  – Eg: free to use or share
• Clear licence branding on data
More Software??

• When DLM was started a suitable alternative was unavailable for the technical environment
• Liblicense is a current alternative. We will work with Creative Commons to determine the fit
• Initial discussions see a role for DLM in Java environment
DLM Design

• The software has been designed for extensibility and integration
• New licenses can be added
• New file formats supported as injectors
• Basic API which can be called from other applications such as CMS
Current Functionality

• Supported file types for metadata injection and visible elements
  – PDF
  – HTML
  – XML
  – MS Office 2002
  – JPG
Future Functionality

- Resolve some design issues
  - Eg Licenses in XML same approach as liblicense
- Support for web services specifically spatial
  - Standards based approach
- Support for additional file types eg images & GML
- Investigate additional metadata fields eg Dublin Core
- Get the application in a collaborative environment
Planned implementations

• Office of Economic and Statistical Research
  – Integration with the Electronic Document Records Management System and Content Management System
  – Extract metadata from attachments and store in CMS
  – Inject metadata into attachments
  – Inclusion of HTML CC License and optionally RDFa
Planned implementation

- Western Australian Shared Land Information Platform (SLIP)
- 23 Agencies
- 350 datasets
  - Roads
  - Land boundaries
  - Geology
  - Agriculture
- Need clear licence metadata
SLIP

- Information delivered via Open GIS Consortium format WebMap & WebFeature Services

- Need to amend standards to support insertion of license metadata into the services and or outputs
What’s after licensing

- Metadata catalogues
- We’re looking for an approach were:
  - Agencies are responsible – manage with metadata
  - Information is broadly discoverable through web search engines
  - The catalogues can participate in specific metadata networks
Information Discovery

• Current approach in government is mixed:
  – Registers of metadata – deep web
  – Unstructured descriptions on web pages – good for web search
  – Investigating an alternative approach using RDFa
DataList example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Overview</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This site is a pilot metadata site for the Office of Economic and Statistical Research (OESR). It's been setup to experiment with the new PDFa metadata tagging standard. The live metadata system is available on the OESR Metadata search page.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Home</th>
<th>Metadata examples</th>
<th>Search</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Births Data, Queensland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Custodian</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rights</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Source</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mandate</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Geographic Coverage</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time Period Covered by Data</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Start Date</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>End Date</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dataset Creation Date</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Publisher</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Position</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phone</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fax</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Address</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>State</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Email</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
  <ns0:title>Births Data, Queensland</ns0:title>
</rdf:Description>

  <ns0:creator>OE SR - Queensland Treasury</ns0:creator>
</rdf:Description>

  <ns0:rights>Restricted - Unit record data can not be released without the Government Statisticians approval.</ns0:rights>
</rdf:Description>

  <ns0:source>Australian Bureau of Statistics</ns0:source>
</rdf:Description>
Structured for Google

- Use of heading tags eg <H1>
- Description metadata tag rather than dc.description
- Sitemaps
Structured for Search Monkey

- Include RDFa Dublin Core and Australian Government Locator Service
- Search result is more appealing and useful
- Does not improve discoverability at this stage
Summary

• The purpose of the GILF project is to improve access to Government Information
• The information is not that different to private sector and research data
• We would like to collaborate.
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