July 2013 Documentation Telecon

Attendees: Ted Haberman, Ed Armstrong, Curt Tilmes, Kelly Monteleone, Erin Robinson, Mike McCann, Bob Simon, Phil Jones, Lindsay, Walt Baskin

* Documentation had sessions at the ESIP summer meeting last week – they went well
	+ 1st – lessons learned included GRIST, G6, CF & Data issues
	+ 2nd – ACDD – need to get Dave’s presentation up as there were technical problems on webex.
		- Ted and Ed presented real world examples
	+ Dave’s presentation suggested that documentation might move towards CF, but Ed though we had agreed to move to OGC standards
* ACDD – needs steering committee meeting to discuss name changes (suggested by John)
	+ Minimized changes in names in ACDD 1.2 and address these in 2.0
* Bob – stresses the need for backwards compatibility
	+ Avoid duplicating or replacing names
* Mike – focus on clarity/meaning of terms (need to work on definitions) because people come at this terms from different directions
	+ Ex. contributor is principle investigator (PI) in ISO
	+ Need better fit in ACDD for people
* Bob – ‘contributor role’ is gone from website
	+ Ted – John added a “information” field and removed ‘contributor role’
* Mike – want to flatten into ACDD
	+ Gulf of Mexico Research group has a tool for ISO metadata that has 3 ‘roles’
	+ Ted – there are a large number of roles in ISO, ~20
	+ In ACDD need 20 x 3 attribute names (name, email, url)
	+ Ed – groups will help organize ‘role’ into discrete ‘objects’
	+ ACDD 2.0 will have objects
* Mike – what about legacy data like NetCDF3
	+ If flatten, all people can be put into ‘ResponsibleParty\_role\_name’ (or email, organization, etc).
	+ To have organization in NetCDF3 – need all roles clarified
		- If the attribute is PI\_name then parser won’t know that this is a person
		- Also a problem if there are more than 1 PI or user support person
		- HDF has unique names
* Walt – attribute values in ACDD of a name can be an array of strings
	+ - Ted – then have to match an array of strings across attributes (… email, position name, institution) – properties of people
		- (primary is 1st in list)
	+ Ted – if information designed with delimiters in items – it causes problems with the design (Ed – it gets messy fast)
* Mike – there are real limitations in flat data models – want a simple flat model
	+ New HDF conversion – when group node – can have multiple instances in group with same name
	+ ‘groupname\_attribute’
* Ted – maybe ‘\_’ is a problem, could use “.” – Mike or “\_\_”…. These all cause other issues
* When is OceanSite going to use NetCDF4 (asked to Mike)?
	+ It isn’t even on the radar – looking at NetCDF3
	+ Will have to live with a flat data model
	+ Strategy is to use a dumbed down ACDD that might spur a move to NetCDF4
* Bob – does this mean we need to either flatten ACDD or not support other file types – because groups are only in HDF5 or NetCDF4 extended.
	+ do we need a list of other file types?
* ACDD 1.2 will be a flat model
* ACDD 2.0 will have objects (there will be a separate ACDD 2.0 that is flattened)
* Walt – if 1st had list of group (like a group parameter) that listed prefixes – then could clearly see different between groups and attributes
	+ Even if 100s of groups – would be able to decode the structure
	+ Like a map of how groups are put together
* Ted – in terms of flattening mechanisms – we need 3 – 4 to start testing (hopefully not 40-50)
	+ Bob – need only 1 flattening method
	+ Ted – yes, but need 4 or 5 so we can find the best
* Mike – need to ensure “lineage” information is not lost when move
	+ Ted’s example last week had 9+ objects … all of them are needed
	+ xml and Json have methods to parse
	+ currently only have object (which is “group”), but need type for group – such as role, lineage, identities.
* Bob – has 3 issues
	+ Want statement of “backwards compatibility” from this group
	+ Limit versions of ACDD
	+ Are we really just moving to HDF5 or will ACDD remain for file that do not include groups
* Mike – felt that ACDD 1.2 is gong backwards
* Ted – only Ted has commented on John’s discussion and ACDD edits
	+ Bob – we need a system to review edits like CF so we can propose changes
	+ Such as minicode changes are not added until formal agreement is reached… something like Jira (sp?)
	+ Link to ACDD discussion on wiki - [http://wiki.esipfed.org/index.php/Talk:Attribute\_Convention\_for\_Data\_Discovery\_(ACDD)\_Working](http://wiki.esipfed.org/index.php/Talk%3AAttribute_Convention_for_Data_Discovery_%28ACDD%29_Working)
* On the ACDD page – the definitions say “an include any information as ISO 19139 or free text”. This is not helpful, need more information
* Currently the ‘watch” function on the wiki is not working… but recommend watching the ACDD discussion
* Next meeting
	+ Rich
	+ Maybe discussion – ACDD 1.2 finalize and definitions
	+ Algorithums for flattening – may need wiki page
	+ Other file formats – think about if we don’t need formal discussion of this
* Next meeting Aug 21 – noon EDT

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