Ad Hoc DSpace Steering Committee Meeting

June 16, 2016

Dublin, Ireland

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The following are my notes of conversations near the end of OR16 largely at lunch on June 16 and in transit to and from lunch. The conversation was largely informal though there was good participation of the Steering Group members at OR16 and other interested parties.

1. It is clear from activity in the DSpace community that was generally unknown to the people involved in the governance of the project that the project needs to find a better way to keep the developers of DSpace better informed and coordinated. The work of the Chinese and the Spanish peer review projects are examples. Good and interesting work is being done, but in is not well coordinated or often even generally known across the community. If this activity could be coordinated the project would be able to advance more quickly.
2. Jonathan will arrange a call to the Chinese group for the first half of July. Jonathan, David, and Tim will be on the call. On the Steering Group members are invited to join. The idea is to see what would be involved in bringing the Chinese project back into the DSpace project and code base. They have some strong additions to the code and seem interested in moving back into the main DSpace project, but this will be a complex process. It would be good to get them back for the 7.0 release, especially if some of their work could be included in that release. We will want to explore what seems possible.
3. The Spanish peer review project indicates that it would be good to have a better understanding of the work the services providers are doing. One suggestion would be to create a registry where service providers would list in general terms the projects they were working on. Another suggestion was to regularly have a meeting where service providers would talk to each other so as to keep their work visible in the project. The Steering Group might also regularly invite a service provider to present their work to the Steering Committee as a way to share information. It was suggested we start by trying this with Avro and the peer review project.
4. It is clear that a great effort to engage the wider DSpace community would be useful, especially that part of the community not represented by the governance structure. We should begin work of the Engagement Working Group. David will take the lead and will be looking for 2-4 volunteers. A county-by-country review of places with strong DSpace adoption that are generally unfamiliar to us will be the first priority. Jonathan and Michele have already done some work that can be built on.
5. It was suggested that registering users on system install as the default would be good. Our current user registration system is old and flawed and not up to this task. Lievine suggested some help from service providers might be available to fix this.
6. We need to work to get good people to move into the three open positions on the Steering Group. Jonathan will shortly send out an announcement on the election process. Everyone should think about good people and recruit them.