Special Topics

What is a Special Topic?

"Special Topics" definition: Special topics are those which often address in-depth issues, large scale redesigns or large scoped projects within DSpace software or the community as a whole. Although these larger scale topics come up during discussions from time to time, often they are set aside as they require more in-depth analysis or discussion before a decision can be made.

"Special Topics" versus "Proposals"

- Special Topics are higher level topics/questions/problems which need to be addressed or discussed. They may include some details or background about the problem domain, but should not suggest any solutions to the problem.
- Development Proposals should present potential solutions to the problem. One Special Topic (e.g. "How can we better handle Preservation Metadata?") may result in many Proposals (e.g. "Option #1", "Option #2", "Combo of Option #1 and #2", etc.)

Special Topics Meetings

Special Topic Meetings: Just after the DSpace Committer's meeting on 2009-Nov-04 (discussion archives) a proposal was made to occasionally designate Committer's meetings as "Special Topic Meetings", in order to begin to tackle these in-depth topics. It was proposed that Special Topic Meetings be held on the following schedule:

- The **first Committer Meeting of the month** (see Developer Meetings) will be devoted towards special topics.
- As with all Committer Meetings, Special Topic Meetings are open to the public. This means that *anyone and everyone is welcome to attend, speak their opinions or just listen in on the discussions*.

Special Topics To Be Discussed

Below are a list of "Special Topics" (requiring more detailed discussion) which have come up in various Developer Meetings, conference discussions, etc. This list will and should change. *Feel free to add to it, add comments, etc. If comments or discussion becomes more detailed, please create a new wiki page devoted to that topic's discussion.*

- Dealing with Robots, Spiders, etc.