The Business Agreements Behind Technology Interoperability
CASRAI
Consortia Advancing Standards in Research Administration Information

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The Business Agreements Behind Technology Interoperability

http://casrai.org/node/3
Agenda

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CASRAI Foundations

- What is Research Information?
- Users, Requirements, Pain-points

CASRAI Approach

- Glossary Terms
- Document Templates
- CASRAI & euroCRIS

CASRAI in the UK

- Background
- Priorities in 2017

CASRAI in Europe

- Status & Next Steps
What is Research Information?
The Research Lifecycle is like a Logic Model

Caveat: Research is messier (on purpose); less linear; results are not always intended (that’s the whole point) - but you get the idea...
Research Information is the record of it all

All the information created by all users during the entire research lifecycle - past and present.

Information about:

- **Inputs**: People, Orgs, Funding, Equipment, Infrastructure
- **Activities**: Projects/studies, Collaborations, Citations
- **Outputs**: Publications, *Datasets*, Artworks, New Companies, etc
- **Outcomes/Impacts**: Case Studies, Indicators

Other common names in the research information area:

Metadata, research-administration-information, current-research information-systems (CRIS), research-information-management (RIM), repositories, scholarly-communications - and many more
Users, Requirements, Pain-points
Who are the USERS? Who are the AGENTS?

Information Users: the people who **know** about the information they can **provide** and the information they **require** throughout the research logic model:

- Researchers, students, research admins, librarians, finance officers, funding program officers, stakeholder executives

Information Agents: the **software systems** (and the various **technologists** who manage them) that ‘store/secure/process/display’ the information **for the Users**:

- Database managers, modellers, programmers, software integrators
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Information Pain-Points - it only hurts when we share

- **Complexity**: Granularity higher than warranted by business step
- **Feasibility**: Info clearly useful but very hard to collect
- **Change**: Too frequent changes to info needs + across multiple user groups
- **Duplication**: Can’t reuse existing info - must re-key + across multiple user groups
- **Maturity**: Meaning/relevance of info needs more shared analysis
- **Comparability**: Info cannot be compared across key users groups (stakeholders)
Summing up

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CASRAI aims to increase the quality, availability and impact of research information without forever increasing the burden of data capture/collection.

We - as stakeholders - need to understand each other and define the scope/use cases for information exchange clearly AT the business level first BEFORE worrying about the technology.
MY WORDS CAME OUT FINE!
THEY WERE PROCESSED INCORRECTLY
BY YOUR BRAIN !!!
CASRAI is an open community of Users agreeing common requirements - together
What are research information (USER) requirements?

Non-technical outlines of what information is needed by any given user at any given point in the research lifecycle. These outlines (or specifications) must include:

1) **Glossary** of terms and definitions
2) Document Templates including **data elements** needed, eg:
   - Principal Investigator/Last Name
   - Project/Start Date
   - Manuscript/Co-authors
3) **Rules** (or filters) for what to include and what to exclude, eg:
   - No more than 2 years of work history information
   - Expenditures greater than $100.00 only
CASRAI & euroCRIS

CASRAI produces the **business requirements**

Openly available for all to use free of charge from the CASRAI dictionary

(New) CERIF-XML profile is well suited to represent those requirements in a standard **data exchange format**

Openly available for all to use free of charge from euroCRIS
CASRAI Annual Process

1. Steering Committees (SC) develop draft priorities
2. Open Call is issued to gather feedback & new ideas from wider community
3. SCs compile results and create a set of integrated Working Groups (WG)
4. WGs (Users) start Agreement Sprints (4-6 months) including open review & final publication
5. Online & in-person conferences to promote and learn about the new standard agreements
Examples
Take a look at the dictionary

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Report formats

http://dictionary.casrai.org/CV_-_Full_Academic
http://dictionary.casrai.org/Open_Access_APC_Report
http://dictionary.casrai.org/Research_Dataset/Ethics_Compliance

Glossaries

http://dictionary.casrai.org/Category:Research_Data_Domain

Picklists

http://dictionary.casrai.org/Contributor_Roles
First chapter outside of Canada

Jisc sponsored pilot 2013-2015
  Open Access Reporting
  Organisational Identifiers
  Data Management Plans

Raised profile in UK
HEIs, Funders, others working collaboratively

Learnt from this
  Need clear scope & Need clear process
CASRAI-UK

First meeting held 16th May 2016
>50 universities, funders & suppliers

Blog post @
http://symplectic.co.uk/events-conferences/hosted-casrai-uk-chapter-meeting/

More details incl current members @
http://ref.casrai.org/United_Kingdom_Chapter
Open Call 2017

Issued on behalf of Canadian and UK Chapters

http://casrai.org/opencall17

Had over 80 endorsements - these now being reviewed in order to agree work plan for 2017

- Reporting outcomes to funders partic to Researchfish
  - PILOT looking only at publications with DOIs or PubMedIDs
- OA reporting harmonisation
- Career levels - clear definitions
Get involved
Multiple levels of engagement

- Universities can join as members and sit on steering group
- Funders and Suppliers can join as partners
- Members and partners can propose work, and be involved in working groups
- Review of work is open to anyone, whether a member or not
- Products are freely available for anyone to use
A European Chapter of CASRAI

• In the Open Call, expressions of interest for a chapter in Europe

• **Seeking Universities**: Research Offices, Research Libraries, IT Teams, Institutional Planning Units

• **Seeking Partners**: Vendors, Publishers/Journals, Funders

• Interested? Email us at europe@casrai.org
Thank you

We hope you will get involved

www.casrai.org

‘More research, less paperwork, better information’

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