Overview of ISO NP 25964

Stella G Dextre Clarke

Convenor, IDT/2/2 Working Group of BSI and Project Leader for ISO NP 25964

Project background: Thesaurus standards back in 2000

- ISO 2788-1986 Guidelines for the establishment and development of monolingual thesauri

  =   BS 5723:1987

- ISO 5964-1985 Guidelines for the establishment and development of multilingual thesauri

  =   BS 6723:1985

- ANSI/NISO Z39.19-1993 Guidelines for the construction, format and management of monolingual thesauri

Procedure

- Small UK Working Group forms the BSI drafting committee IDT/2/2/1 (Leonard Will, Alan Gilchrist, Ron Davies + convenor Stella Dextre Clarke)

- Comments have been received internationally wherever possible

- Once complete, BS 8723 gets offered for adoption as an international standard

Overview of BS 8723

BS 8723: Structured vocabularies for information retrieval – Guide

- Part 1: Definitions, symbols and abbreviations
- Part 2: Thesauri
- Part 3: Vocabularies other than thesauri
- Part 4: Interoperability between vocabularies
- Part 5: Exchange formats and protocols for interoperability

Motivation throughout is "interoperability"

Progress to date

- Parts 1 and 2 published November 2005
- Drafts of Parts 3 and 4 have gone out for public comment; comments now received and incorporated; publication expected November 2007.
- Draft of Part 5 currently in development

New features in BS 8723-2: [monolingual] Thesauri

- Clearer guidance on applying facet analysis to thesauri
- Some changes to the 'rules' for compound terms
- More guidance on managing thesaurus development and maintenance
- Functional specification for software to manage thesauri
- General overhaul in all areas

Chapters of BS 8723-3: Vocabularies other than thesauri

- Classification schemes
- Business classification schemes for records management
- Taxonomies
- Subject heading schemes
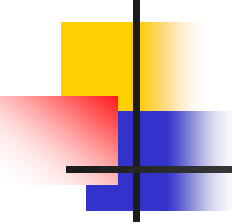- Ontologies
- Authority lists

BS 8723-4: Interoperability between vocabularies

- Covers mapping between vocabularies.
- Responds to demand for accessing information that has been indexed with another language and/or vocabulary. The Semantic Web is just one application.
- Includes multilingual thesauri as a special case of mapping between vocabularies

BS 8723-5: Exchange formats and protocols for interoperability

- In Oct 2006 a workshop was held, to seek advice from experts
- Key conclusions:
  - We need a model
  - We should recommend one standard format, not several, and it should be based on XML
  - The format should provide only for thesauri
  - We should not develop a new protocol
- It is hoped to issue a DD (Draft for Development) rather than a full BS standard, this November.

ISO NP 25964 (adoption of BS 8723 as an ISO standard)

- The proposal to revise ISO 2788 and ISO 5964, basing the work on BS 8723, was submitted to ISO TC 46/SC 9 members in April 2007

- Project now approved

- At least 9 countries participating: France, Germany, Canada, Finland, New Zealand, Sweden, UK, Ukraine, USA

Next steps

- SC9 Secretariat will convert Parts 1-4 to the ISO template, and these will constitute first working drafts. Hopefully with a draft of Part 5 too.
- Funding for meetings is very limited.
- Most communication will be by email. Any meetings are likely to piggy-back other conferences.
- We have still to assess how much variation on BS 8723 will be requested.
- One day we shall have a new ISO standard covering the whole field!