Applying the complementarities of SKOS and RSS to Create a General and Unified Search User Interface over Multiple Existing Information Sources: the case of ASKOSI/GLISP

Christophe Dupriez

DESTIN-Informatique.com

dupriez@destin.be

Abstract. This paper presents one of our developments to provide knowledge building tools for a Community of Practice (e.g. musicians of WindMusic.org, medical doctors of PoisonCentre.be). It is a "search results browser" that allows browsing of multiple databases, that bridges them whenever the indexing of their vocabularies matches and that provides private and collaborative annotation possibilities (selecting, tagging, commenting) on every record or set retrieved. In this paper, Agile Development methods were used (Analysis, Development, User Experimentation and Observation, Specification Update, and so on). The tool conforms to existing standard, such as SKOS, VoID, Atom/Pub and RSS, and it was tested with existing sources of information, such as PubMed, Europeana, WorldCat, Wikipedia, Catalog of Life, various DSpace repositories, etc. The paper will report the underlying development work within the frame of the ASKOSI.org project, which involves a SKOS and a VoID harvester (SPARQL, RDF, XML, SQL, CSV), MEMO, which is an API for user activity logging and collaborative annotation, and GLISP, which is a sophisticated JavaScript Search User Interface.

This paper is relevant to themes of NKOS as it uses KOSes as hubs between diverse information sources in both monolingual and multilingual environments, such as the case of Belgium Poison Centre. The paper will demonstrate also how WindMusic.org is linked to Europeana, a functionality that recently took part in the Hack4Europe competition and it will provide live exhibitions of the CoP collaborative annotation tool operation. Finally issues of user interface design are addressed and most specifically how to visualize vocabularies and their use in different applications.