Work items: problem statement and goal of work

URNBIS BOF

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General goals and non-goals

• URNBIS WG would
  – Evaluate the existing URN-related RFCs in the light of changes in relevant Internet standards (such as URI General Syntax), new digital library applications and existing URN implementations
  – Revise the RFCs if and when needed
    • Phased approach: start from syntax, proceed to services and namespace registrations, and finally discuss resolution
  – Put the key RFCs on the standards track

• URNBIS WG would not
  – Change the basis of the URN system
  – Make the existing implementations non-compliant
Core URN documents

• RFC 2141 URN syntax
  – The RFC is from 1997 and is not compliant with / does not refer to RFC 3986
  – the new I-D fixes this problem
  – Use of Query and Fragment?

• RFC 2483 Resolution services
  – Need for new services (such as URN list)

• RFC 3406 namespace registration
  – No major changes anticipated; currently there are 40 formal and 7 informal namespaces
URN namespaces for bibliographic identifiers

- Three key namespaces: ISBN for books, ISSN for serials and National Bibliography Number for anything else in National Libraries’ collections
  - RFC 3044 (ISSN namespace) revision has been discussed with the ISSN Int. Center; no decision yet to proceed (ISSN has been updated in 2007)
  - RFC 3187 (ISBN namespace) has been revised to make it compliant with the ISBN of 2006 & RFC 3406
  - RFC 3188 (NBN namespace) revision takes into account the implementation experiences of the last 10 years & RFC 3406 and URN syntax I-D
Other URN namespaces

• There can be various reasons for updating the namespace registration:
  – Revision of the identifier standard
    • ISSN & Linking ISSN (ISSN-L)
  – Amendment of the base URN standards
    • Possible use of query / fragment in URN syntax
  – Implementation experiences & changes in the technical environment

• It is not clear if further updates are needed
Staging of work: proposal

• Three levels of urgency:
  – Revision of RFCs which are not in synch with standards (from IETF and elsewhere)
    • E. g. RFCs 2141, 3044, 3187 and 3188
  – Review and possible extension of RFCs which are not in synch with existing implementations of URNs & recent development of digital library applications
    • E. g. RFCs 2483 may require more sophisticated handling of descriptive and administrative metadata
  – Review of other URN related RFCs
    • Evaluation of persistent identifier systems?