The need for up-to-date URN Standard documents

URNBIS BOF
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Background

• Uniform resource names WG 1996-2002
  – Created a solid basis for the URN system: syntax, services and resolution mechanism
  – There is no need to change the fundament of the system built more than a decade ago

• URN usage
  – URN is one of the most widely used persistent identifier (PID) systems
    • Probably the largest implementer group are the national libraries, although there are national libraries using other systems including Handles, PURLs and ARKs
    • Co-operation between the implementers somewhat lacking
Issues

• Most key documents are not on standards track
  – RFC 2141 (syntax) is informational
  – RFC 2483 (services) is experimental
  – What status for namespace registrations?
• Many key documents are out of date
  – RFC 2141 is not compliant with the RFC 3986
  – RFC 2483 does not take into account the recent developments in the digital library systems
The main task of the WG is to give the URN system a face lift: update all the key documents and put them on standards track if necessary.

As a proof of concept, revision have already started from RFC 2141 and two namespace registrations (RFCs 3187 and 3188).

Given the scale and nature of the work, re-establishing the URN WG is the most efficient way of getting things done.