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- Many key documents are out of date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

URNBIS WG

- 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