

CIDOC CRM Special Interest Group

Full report from the first meeting in Barcelona,

July 5, 2001

Editor:

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Creation date:

July 9, 2001

Meeting Place:

The meeting took place at the facilities of the Institut del Teatre, Barcelona.
The space was provided by the organizers of the ICOM conference.

Beginning of the meeting: 9:30

End of the meeting: 18:00

Agenda:

9:30-9:45 Introduction

9:45-10:20 History and Scope of the CRM

10:20-11:00 Introduction to the CRM and Agios Pavlos extensions

11:30 –12:00 The ISO process, collaboration with ISO, CIDOC, CHIOS.

12:00 –13:00 SIG functions and procedures:

Statutes, membership procedure.

Collaboration with Projects ([DELOS](#), [Harmony](#), [OntoWeb...](#))

Decision procedures.

13:30 –14:00 The CRM [web-site](#)

14:00 – 15:30 Scope and requirements of the CRM

Standards, schemata to be covered

Kinds of documents.

Decision on CRM version 3.1 as base version.

16:00 – 18:00 Further activities, distribution of tasks

Next meeting: October 15-17? In Paris. Decision on committee draft.

Following meeting in Jan/Feb at RLG?

Summary of the session:

Introduction:

The meeting was held together with the members of the ISO Group and interested observers from ICOM.

Introduction to the CRM and Agios Pavlos extensions:

The [latest version 3.1 of the CRM](#) was presented. It is the integrated version of the CRM version 2.2 and the [Agios Pavlos Extensions](#). The integration of the Agios Pavlos Extensions revealed minor formal inconsistencies, that have been removed in version 3.1. This version covers at least the concepts of the CIDOC Relational Model, the [CIDOC Information Categories](#), [SPECTRUM](#), Dublin Core, the [AMICO](#) data dictionary, [EAD](#), the GENREG model of the [National Museum of Denmark](#) (NMD) and the data format of the [John Clayton Herbarium](#) London. In practical terms, this allows for data conversion from sources built in these structures into CRM instances, semantic merging of such instances and mediating queries based on the CRM to retrieve from such sources. It is also a guide for good practice of designing new data structures.

The version has been successfully tested in real data transformation experiments on data from the [NMD](#) (ethnological sample), from the [John Clayton Herbarium](#) London, from the [Science Museum of London](#) and others. These transformations could be done with available tools on the market.

The documentation consists of the "*Definition of the CIDOC object-oriented Conceptual Reference Model*" and the implemented version on SIS version 2.3 (a CD can be ordered at ICS-FORTH). The document "[CIDOC Conceptual Reference Model - Information groups](#)", version 2, reflects the [CRM version 2.1](#), but is also recommended for the better comprehension of [CRM version 3.0](#). All those documents and some test cases can be found on the Web-Site <http://cidoc.ics.forth.gr>.

Patrique Le Boeuf (BNF, FRANCE), member of the ISO TC46 SC4 WG9, has translated version 2.2 to French. Related documents to the CRM are being translated to Japanese by the [Japan Art Documentation Service](#) (JADS), under the leadership of Hidenobu Kujirai, Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art, Japan.

Decision:

The SIG accepted the CRM version 3.1 as basis for the further discussion about CRM contents. This means, that all proposals for amendments or changes will be formulated from now on with respect to CRM version 3.1, and no more with respect to CRM version 2.2 submitted to ISO last year. This decision does not imply the acceptance of all of the contents of this version by the SIG. Member of the SIG are asked from now on to formulate their observation about this version.

The ISO process, collaboration with ISO, CIDOC, CHIOS:

The point of the following discussion is to make clear, in which political way we try to form **one group** of people being responsible to different organizations in different functions, but pursuing the **same goal**.

The [CIDOC CRM SIG](#) represents the interests and requirements of the cultural heritage community to ISO in the standardization process of the CIDOC CRM. It is under the control of CIDOC/ICOM, but open to all interested parties outside ICOM. It maintains the intellectual ownership by [CIDOC/ICOM](#) of the CIDOC CRM.

The standardization of the CRM at ISO is the subject of the working group [ISO TC46 SC4 WG9](#). The CRM version 2.2 is an ISO Working Draft (stage 20.00) and has been registered as ISO/AWI 21127. The stages of the ISO process are displayed on: <http://www.iso.ch/iso/en/widepages/stagetable.html> The CRM version 3.1 becomes ISO document ISO/TC46/SC4/WG9/N2.

A comprehensive introduction to the ISO process has been given by Nick Crofts in August 2000. Nick Crofts is convener of the ISO Working Group 9, which consists of representatives of Australia, Canada, Czechia, France, Russia, USA. ISO wishes to make sure, that domain experts and interest groups are sufficiently participating in the standardization process, and that any standard is actually used.

Decision:

In order to enable an optimal collaboration between WG9 and the domain experts of the SIG, WG9 is asked to regard the SIG meetings as part of the WG9 working meetings, and all members of WG9 are automatically regarded as members of the SIG.

Members of the SIG are expected to attract funding for their work. The [CHIOS](#) project "Cultural Heritage Interchange Ontology Standardization" (IST-2000-29216) is a Thematic Network funded by the Commission of the European Community (CEC). It is recognition of the relevance the European Community assigns to this work. It started in June 2001 and covers travel and administrative expenses for several European [members](#) of the SIG in support of the CRM standardization work. The CHIOS Consortium will assist the chair of the SIG in administrative tasks by forming part of the Steering Committee. This Steering Committee is open to other interested members of the SIG. CHIOS meetings are an integral part of the SIG meetings, except when covering administrative obligations to the CEC.

The group proposes to produce a Committee Draft (CD) by October 2001, in order to enter stage 30.00 in early 2002.

SIG functions and procedures:

Decision:

The CIDOC CRM SIG adopts the Status and proposed Operation (http://cidoc.ics.forth.gr/crmgroup_status.html). Decisions will be taken in the meetings or by e-mail in order not to delay urgent decisions. New members will be proposed to the chair and accepted by group decisions.

The group invites five new active members:

Jon Holmen, [The Museum Project](#), Norway, jon.holmen@muspro.uio.no

Leonard Hirsch, [Smithsonian](#), USA, lhirsch@si.edu

Jorgen Wadum, [Mauritshuis Foundation](#), The Hague, wadum@mauritshuis.nl

Regine Stein, [Konrad-Zuse-Zentrum fuer Informationstechnik](#) Berlin, stein@zib.de

Remigius Wagner, [Kulturinformatik](#), Bern, Switzerland, info@kulturinformatik.com

and as observer:

Monika Hagedorn-Saupe, [Institut fuer Museumskunde](http://www.institut-fuer-museumskunde.de), Berlin, Germany,
m.hagedorn@smb.spk-berlin.de

Further the following members of WG9:

Patrick le Boeuf, National Expert of SC4 for France, PATRICK.LE-BOEUF@bnf.fr

Josef Tykac, National Expert of SC4 for the Czech Republic

Victor Beloozerov, National Expert of SC4 for the Russian Federation

(Janifer Gatenby represented Australia for SC4,
as Adrian Finney could not participate.)

SIG collaborations:

There are several ongoing activities that justify collaboration, even though their focus may be peripheral to the primary focus of the SIG:

The [Harmony Project](#) takes a very similar approach to metadata interoperability as the CIDOC CRM, but from a Digital Libraries perspective. The [DELOS Network of Excellence](#) is a European funded project, which investigates research topics in Digital Libraries. [DELOS](#) and [Harmony](#) is funding a Working Group chaired by Martin Doerr on Ontology Harmonization, with a particular focus on the CIDOC CRM and the ABC Harmony model. SIG members have been invited to this group. Harmony is collaborating with CIMI on data transformation tests of cultural data. ICS-FORTH has supported these actions by testing the CIDOC CRM with the test data.

Decision:

The CIDOC CRM SIG is strongly interested in collaborating with Harmony on a common model, without being able to commit to which degree the results can be taken into the ISO process for the CRM. The SIG supports the CRM tests carried out within the CIMI-Harmony collaboration.

The [OntoWeb](#) project is a very large CEC funded thematic network, which investigates ontology languages, tools and content standardisation for the Semantic Web, with a focus on e-commerce. It has a strong industrial participation, and has expressed its interest in collaborating with the CRM group. Concepts developed by the CRM may be reusable in other domains. Harmonization with other domains may turn out to be beneficial for the cultural heritage community in areas currently not looked at by the CRM. Compatibility of the CRM with general-purpose market tools lies in the direct interests of the cultural community.

Decision:

The CIDOC CRM SIG is interested in collaborating with [OntoWeb](#) on contents standardization. A memorandum of understanding should be developed.

Scope and requirements of the CRM:

Several data standards the CRM should cover have been identified. A list will be prepared for ratification by the Group. The method to verify the coverage of a data standard is by [mapping it to the CRM](#) without loss of meaning. As the CRM is not a prescription of what needs documenting, but an explanation of what is documented, it is intrinsically less complex than the total of standards it covers. Several participants of the meeting have committed to undertake such mappings, in order to further verify the CRM and formulate eventual additional requirements. This will be done in parallel to the preparation of the Committee Draft, as the ISO Enquiry Stage foresees the introduction of necessary modifications.

Further activities:

The Enquiry Stage should be reached by spring 2002. Therefore the working document must be prepared following ISO prescriptions and be submitted as Committee Draft Proposal no later than October 2001. In order to meet that dead-line, the respective document (CRM version 3.2), making editorial improvements on version 3.1, will be prepared by the steering committee in July, proposed to the SIG via e-mail vote as Committee Draft Proposal, and then reformatted following ISO guidelines by October.

The SIG will meet again October 15-18, in Paris, before the next [ISO TC46](#) meeting. Its task will be:

- to make a final decision on the [scope of the CRM](#)
- to elaborate the contents amendments for the Enquiry stage from the further mapping experiences
- to begin with the editorial work on scope notes and other descriptions
- to organize further validating applications
- to organize dissemination and training.

A training course for members not yet familiar with the CRM will be offered.

A detailed agenda will be sent out prior to the meeting. The local organizer will be Patrick le Boeuf from the Bibliotheque National de France.

All active members are asked to confirm their participation as soon as possible.

Those familiar with the CRM need not take part in the training course. If there is interest, a three days intensive training course can be organized separately from SIG meetings, e.g. in Crete.

Conclusion:

This first meeting has met all expectations. It has increased the interest and active participation in the community. New validation tests by an increasing user base are undertaken. There has been a perfect consensus on all decisions taken. We hope for a strong participation in the next meeting, which will be a 3-days working meeting devoted to the finalization of requirements. Requirements raised at a later stage may be difficult to take into account.

I hope to see you all in Paris.

Martin Doerr,
chair.