zetoc: a Dublin Core Based Current Awareness Service

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Abstract

zetoc is a current awareness service for UK Higher and Further Education providing Z39.50 access to the British Library’s Electronic Table of Contents database of journal articles and conference papers. The zetoc database, updated daily, may also be searched via a World Wide Web interface. An alerting service provides tables of contents by email for new journal issues when they are loaded. The current version of zetoc is Z39.50 Bath Profile compliant and can provide Dublin Core records encoded in XML in answer to Z39.50 search requests. An enhanced version of zetoc, currently a prototype under development, will hold the data within an XML repository, using Dublin Core as the basis of the metadata schema. This paper describes the encoding of bibliographic records for journal articles and conference papers in Dublin Core, and the interoperability between Dublin Core and other bibliographic standards.

Keywords: Dublin Core, bibliographic citations, metadata standards, current awareness.

1 Introduction

The zetoc [1] current awareness service provides access to the British Library’s [2] Electronic Table of Contents, primarily for researchers, teachers and learners in UK Higher and Further Education. Access may be via the World Wide Web, or via the NISO Z39.50 [3,4] standard for information retrieval which defines a protocol for two computers to communicate and share information. It is compliant with the Bath Profile [5], an international Z39.50 specification for library applications and resource discovery. A prototype of an enhanced version of zetoc, with the data encoded using the Dublin Core Metadata Element Set [6,7] within an XML [8] syntax, is now under development. The enhancements include document delivery to provide ordering of the discovered documents from the British Library. The enhanced version of zetoc is based on open standards and uses open software. As well as being a significant quantity of data, it provides a platform to explore the use of Dublin Core for bibliographic records and to investigate the interoperability between several standard metadata systems.

2 The zetoc Service

The zetoc database contains details of approximately 20,000 current journals and 16,000 conference proceedings published per year and is updated daily. With almost 15 million article and conference records from 1993 to date, the database covers every imaginable subject in science, technology, medicine, engineering, business, law, finance and the humanities. Copies of all the articles recorded in the database are available from the British Library’s Document Supply Centre. The service was developed, and is hosted, by MIMAS [9] at the University of Manchester, UK. The zetoc Web-Z gateway is based on that developed for the COPAC [10] research library online catalogue service. The zetoc data is held in a Dataware BRS/Search [11] database. BRS/Search is a longstanding and reliable, but proprietary, information retrieval system. The database is updated daily with 5000-10000 records by automatic FTP download, data conversion and loading each night. Data is supplied by the British Library in SGML format which is translated by conversion programs, written in-house, into the required data load format for BRS.

As an example, a search in zetoc for articles by an author “apps a”, results in a list of brief search results including:

Dublin Core Metadata for Electronic Journals / Apps, A; MacIntyre, R
LECTURE NOTES IN COMPUTER SCIENCE – 2000; VOL 1923; Page(s) : 93-102 [Research and Advanced Technology for Digital Libraries]

Following a link beside this brief record displays a more detailed record for the article:

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https://doi.org/10.23106/dcmi.952196632
Article Title: Dublin Core Metadata for Electronic Journals
Author(s): Apps, A; MacIntyre, R
Journal Title: LECTURE NOTES IN COMPUTER SCIENCE
ISSN: 0302-9743
Volume: 1923
Year: 2000
Issue Title: Research and Advanced Technology for Digital Libraries
Page(s): 93-102
Editor(s): Borbinha, J; Baker, T
Publisher: Germany: Springer-Verlag
Language: English
Dewey Class: 004
LC Class: TP372.5
BLDSC shelfmark: 5180.185000
ZETOC ID: RN085008791

End-users may request discovered records to be emailed to them. Similar records can be discovered via the Z39.50 Simple Unstructured Text Record Syntax (SUTRS) interface.

zetoc includes a journal issue alerting service. Users may request email table of contents alerts to be sent to them when issues of their chosen journals are loaded into zetoc. These email journal issue alerts, which are in plain text at present, list the articles and their authors within the journal issue in addition to the journal issue information. Currently about 3500 alerts are sent out every night, and there are more than 6000 registered users of the alerting service.

The only use of Dublin Core in the current service is the Z39.50 XML option which returns simple Dublin Core records encoded according to the CIMI Dublin Core Document Type Definition [12] as the result of a search on the zetoc database, as required for Z39.50 Bath Profile compliance. The mapping of most of the fields in a zetoc record is obvious, but there are issues with returning bibliographic citation information in this format which are discussed in more detail below.

3 An Enhanced Version of zetoc

MIMAS and the British Library are now working on an enhanced version of zetoc, which is currently a prototype. It was decided to investigate a solution based on open standards and using open software. Within this version of zetoc the data is stored as Dublin Core records, using an XML syntax, generated by bespoke programs from the supplied British Library SGML. This XML is indexed using the Cheshire [13] open source software developed at the University of Berkeley. Cheshire II is a next generation online catalogue and full text information retrieval system. It was developed using advanced information retrieval techniques and provides customisable World Wide Web and Z39.50 interfaces. It is the intention to use this prototype version of zetoc to trial enhancements to the service, such as the facility to order, or link to, the full text of discovered articles, and subject-based alert requests.

Within an Internet cross-referencing paradigm of ‘discover – locate – request – deliver’ the present zetoc current awareness service provides discovery of research articles in a timely fashion. Early enhancements to zetoc will provide ‘request and deliver’ through document supply from the British Library. Future enhancements may include ‘locate’ of the appropriate copy, possibly through an initiative such as SFX Content Sensitive Reference Linking [14] or other resolution services, and ‘request’ and ‘deliver’ via internet linking mechanisms, including Digital Object Identifiers [15] and CrossRef [16], to freely available articles or those covered by an institutional subscription. It should be simpler to implement these, and future, enhancements with the data held in open standard formats such as Dublin Core and XML.

4 Data Mapping to Dublin Core

Most of the fields of the zetoc records map obviously to Dublin Core elements. They include article title, authors, subject codings using Library of Congress and Dewey classifications and the publication year (‘issued’ date). For a conference paper there are some additional conference subject keywords. Some fields contain identification specific to the British Library such as the shelf location. Where appropriate, Dublin Core qualifiers [17] are used, but some additional zetoc-specific qualifiers are employed. In some cases, sub-elements within a zetoc namespace are used, for instance to capture the separate parts of an author’s name. Because the syntax used for the zetoc data is XML, Dublin Core element refinements are encoded as attributes of the simple element name, rather than using the more verbose ‘dot’ notation which would imply multiple similar elements in the XML Document Type Definition. For example, the issued date is encoded as:

```
<dc:date refine="issued">2001</dc:date>
```

rather than:

```
<dc:date.Issued>2001</dc:date.Issued>
```

4.1 Bibliographic Citation Information

It is not immediately apparent how to capture the bibliographic citation elements of a zetoc record. These are the items indicating the article’s position within a containing journal issue or conference proceedings. This bibliographic information identifies an article for citation and location purposes.

For the journal articles it was decided to follow the recommendation from the Dublin Core Citation Working Group [18] made following the 8th Dublin Core Workshop in October 2000 [19], encoded in XML. This is also the method used in other...
electronic journal applications developed by MIMAS [20,21]. Thus sub-elements of dc:identifier, qualified as a citation, are used within a dc:cite namespace to capture the conference title, the journal volume number, the issue or part number and the start page of the article within the journal issue. A further sub-element, within a zetoc namespace, is used to capture any special journal issue title, an item not considered by the DC-Citation Working Group. It should be noted that the dc:cite namespace is specific to this application and has not been ratified by Dublin Core Metadata Initiative. The ISSN of the journal is captured by dc:relation with an isPartOf refinement.

The encoding of bibliographic citation information for conference papers in Dublin Core has not yet been considered in detail by a Dublin Core working group, so a zetoc-specific encoding is used. Similar to the encoding for journal article citations, the information is captured by sub-elements of dc:identifier qualified as a citation, but within a zetoc namespace. These sub-elements can record the conference title, type and venue, and the name of the conference proceedings. The conference date is captured as a dc:date, qualified as conference, in a simple text string reflecting how the data is supplied. Any additional information about the conference is captured in dc:description. The ISBN of the conference proceedings is included in a dc:relation element with an isPartOf qualifier.

An example zetoc record for a journal article is:

```xml
<zetocrec>
  <dc:title>Dublin Core Metadata for Electronic Journals</dc:title>
  <dc:creator scheme="zetoc">Baker, John</dc:creator>
  <dc:creator scheme="zetoc">Borbinha, Jane</dc:creator>
  <dc:creator scheme="zetoc">MacIntyre, Robert</dc:creator>
  <dc:creator scheme="zetoc">Apps, App</dc:creator>
  <dc:contributor scheme="zetoc" role="editor">Borbinha, Jane</dc:contributor>
  <dc:contributor scheme="zetoc" role="editor">Baker, John</dc:contributor>
  <dc:publisher>Springer-Verlag</dc:publisher>
  <dc:country>Germany</dc:country>
  <dc:date refine="issued" scheme="W3CDTF">2000</dc:date>
</zetocrec>
```

The full zetoc record includes some extra fields for internal use, such as the zetoc record creation date, which are omitted from this example.

This particular journal article citation does not include an issue or part number, but for citations where this is necessary it would be included as a dc:identifier qualified as a citation, taking advantage of the fact that all Dublin Core elements are repeatable. The additional conference fields are:

```xml
<dc:subject scheme="keyword">digital libraries</dc:subject>
<dc:date refine="conference">2000; Sep</dc:date>
<dc:identifier refine="citation">RN085008791</dc:identifier>
<dc:language scheme="RFC1766">en</dc:language>
<dc:relation refine="isPartOf" scheme="ISSN">0302-9743</dc:relation>
```

5 Mapping to Z39.50

In addition to a Web search interface, zetoc has a Z39.50 interface. It allows for searching via the Z39.50 Bib-1 Attribute Set [22], and will return information as SUTRS (both brief and full records), GRS-1 (Generic Record Syntax) and a simple tagged reference format [23]. In order to be Bath Profile compliant, zetoc also has the option to return Dublin
Core within XML records. The SUTRS format is similar to that displayed as the result of a search using the Web interface, but as plain text without the HTML tags. The simple tagged format returns fields of the record preceded by a token, eg. ‘TI:’ precedes a title, again in plain text. This format may be used for importing citations into a personal bibliographic database, and will be extended in the future to include several standard reference formats. Within the zetoc enhancement prototype the Z39.50 interface is provided by the enabling Cheshire software. The SUTRS and simple tagged reference formats are returned to the requesting Z39.50 client via a bespoke filter program which transforms the raw XML zetoc records.

5.1 Mapping to Bib-1

The indexes generated by the Cheshire software from the XML data files are mapped to Z39.50 Bib-1 attributes within the configuration file for the database. This allows a Z39.50 client to request a search on specific fields of a zetoc record. Because the zetoc data is held as Dublin Core, this is effectively a mapping from Dublin Core to Bib-1. Some of the significant detailed mappings are shown in Table 1. It should be noted that Bib-1 does not provide attributes for capturing article-level information such as journal volume and issue number and page numbers, and locally defined attribute values were required for these.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Tagset-G</th>
<th>zetoc DC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conference name</td>
<td>3 zetoc</td>
<td>conference sub-elements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>4 dc:title</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title series</td>
<td>5 dc:cite:</td>
<td>journalTitleFull</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISSN</td>
<td>8 dc:relation/ISSN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library of Congress</td>
<td>9 dc:subject/LCC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dewey classification</td>
<td>13 dc:subject/DDC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject heading</td>
<td>21 dc:subject/Keyword</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Publication</td>
<td>31 dc:date/Issued</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code-Language</td>
<td>54 dc:language</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author</td>
<td>1003 dc:creator</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Editor</td>
<td>1020 dc:contributor/Editor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country-publication</td>
<td>1053 zetoc:country</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of conference</td>
<td>1054 dc:date/conference</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place of conference</td>
<td>1067 zetoc:confVenue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.2 Mapping to GRS-1

GRS-1 (Generic Record Syntax) is a defined record retrieval syntax within the Z39.50 protocol. Mappings from the zetoc Dublin Core elements to GRS-1 Tagset-G elements [24] are defined in the Cheshire configuration file for the zetoc database and are shown in the Table 2. Cheshire uses this configuration information to return GRS-1 to a requesting Z39.50 client.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Tagset-G</th>
<th>zetoc DC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>title</td>
<td>1 dc:title</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>author</td>
<td>2 dc:creator</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>publicationPlace</td>
<td>3 zetoc:country</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dateTime</td>
<td>8 dc:date/issued and conference</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>language</td>
<td>20 dc:language</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>subject</td>
<td>21 dc:subject</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>identifier</td>
<td>28 dc:identifier/ZETOC and shelfMark</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>publisher</td>
<td>31 zetoc:pmn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>contributor</td>
<td>32 dc:contributor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>source</td>
<td>33 citation information</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.3 Bath Profile Dublin Core

The Bath Profile of Z39.50 requires results returned as Dublin Core when a search request specifies XML. The returned XML must conform to the prescribed CIMI Document Type Definition [12] for simple Dublin Core. Within zetoc this XML is provided by returning search results to the requesting Z39.50 client via a bespoke filter program which translates zetoc XML to CIMI XML. Because zetoc records are held as Dublin Core, the transformation is very simple in most cases. But the problem again recurs of how to return the bibliographic citation information, especially as qualified Dublin Core may not be used if Bath Profile compliancy is to be retained. This has been resolved for zetoc by employing a Dublin Core Structured Value (DCSV) [25] within an instance of an Identifier element to return the citation information contained within zetoc records. Although DCSV uses a defined syntax, making it machine parsable, it is sufficiently ‘uncryptic’ to be human readable. But the interoperability of this approach is questionable when there is no ratified best practice for the labels used within the DCSV which capture this citation information. Another option would have been to construct a SICI [26] for the article to encode the citation information, but a SICI cannot record the journal title. The returned Z39.50 XML search result display for the previous example record would be:
Again, if a journal part number were included it would be held as a JournalIssueNumber within the citation identifier DCSV. The additional information which would be included for a conference paper record is:

- **subject**: digital libraries
- **identifier**: 3540410236
- **identifier**: ISSN
- **identifier**: Conftitle: European conference, 4th Digital Libraries ECDL 2000; ConfVenue: Lisbon; ConfDate: 2000, Sep

It may be noted that much of the richness of the information in the zetoc qualified Dublin Core records has been lost.

### 6 Future zetoc Interfaces

It is expected that other standard interfaces to zetoc will be developed in the zetoc enhancement prototype. In particular, zetoc will provide OpenURL [27] enabled links as a step towards providing access to the full text of discovered articles for end-users, and maybe Digital Object Identifiers for the same purpose. OpenURL is an emerging standard currently undergoing NISO discussions.

#### 6.1 Mapping to OpenURL

Within the zetoc enhancement prototype, a link to Articles Direct [28] at the British Library Document Supply Centre has been implemented as a ‘proof of concept’, which would enable end-user ordering of discovered articles. The link from the full search results page to this facility is enabled using the ‘Object-Metadata-Zone’ of the OpenURL protocol. The mapping from the zetoc data to the OpenURL fields is shown in Table 3. A more general crosswalk between Dublin Core and OpenURL is given in [29].

The link to Articles Direct is for journal articles only but the OpenURL protocol also includes a ‘conference proceeding’ genre.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>OpenURL</th>
<th>zetoc DC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Record type</td>
<td>genre</td>
<td>article</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal title</td>
<td>title</td>
<td>dccite:journaltitleFull</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article title</td>
<td>dctype:title</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First author family name</td>
<td>aufirst</td>
<td>zetoc:sm for first creator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First author initials</td>
<td>auinit</td>
<td>zetoc:inits for first creator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication Year</td>
<td>date</td>
<td>dctype:issueDate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal volume</td>
<td>vol</td>
<td>dccite:journaltVolume</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal issue/part number</td>
<td>part</td>
<td>dccite:journaltIssueNumber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pagination</td>
<td>pages</td>
<td>zetoc:ppf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISSN</td>
<td>issn</td>
<td>dctype:relation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>isPartOF / ISSN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The fields of the zetoc records shown in Table 4 are not currently included in the OpenURL specification so they are included in the article ordering URL link using the ‘Local-Identifier-Zone’ part of an OpenURL. The last of these, the British Library shelf-mark, is really a local identifier.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>zetoc DC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Publisher</td>
<td>zetoc:pnm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country of publication</td>
<td>zetoc:country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelfmark</td>
<td>dctype:identifier / shelfMark</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 7 zetoc Alerts

The popular zetoc Alert service currently sends out email tables of contents of new journal issues to requesting users. In the initial zetoc implementation the data feed for the alert service was the BRS-format zetoc update file. This data feed has now been changed to an XML file with Dublin Core zetoc records, as for the zetoc enhancement prototype database. The alert email messages are currently in plain text. Changing the alert data feed into an open standard format opens up possibilities of offering zetoc alerts in several standard formats such as XML, Dublin Core, and RDF Site Summary (RSS) [30], as well as tagged bibliographic formats. It is also planned to provide subject-based alerts, implemented via a simple keyword search on the zetoc update data, which again could be offered in several standard formats.
8 Interoperability Issues

8.1 Standard Interface Formats

It is not strictly necessary for the data within zetoc to use Dublin Core or to adhere to an open standard, though it seems good practice to encode data in a standard way. For the zetoc Web display, the internal zetoc data records are converted to HTML, so the format of the base data is irrelevant. The same is true for some of the Z39.50 formats provided, where the internal zetoc data is filtered before being returned to the requesting Z39.50 client. Thus the internal zetoc data encoding could have used element names different from Dublin Core, with appropriate transformation used for data delivery in most cases. But it was decided that, as well as reinforcing good practice, holding the data in Dublin Core would simplify these and any future data transformations. However, standard data formats are required for interoperability where open standard interfaces are used. This is the case for the Z39.50 GRS-1 and XML interfaces.

8.2 Dublin Core for Resource Discovery

There is a significant body of opinion within the Dublin Core community that Dublin Core should be used primarily for simple resource discovery [31], thus making the definition of compound element values undesirable. It is certainly true that the take up of Dublin Core has been aided by its simplicity of concept for everyone, rather than being just for subject specialists. When used for resource discovery, whether by general searching over the World Wide Web, or using more specific resource discovery services such as zetoc, it would seem essential that a human-readable record be returned. zetoc provides textual brief and full search results through its Web interface and the SUTRS Z39.50 format. But this does not mean that all fields of the record which do not fit obviously into a Dublin Core element should be included within an unstructured Description element, because there may also be a requirement, in the future if not now, for further machine processing of the returned record.

8.3 Dublin Core for Resource Description

Although Dublin Core was originally conceived for resource discovery it is increasingly being used for resource description. It is necessary to balance the desirability of maintaining the simplicity of Dublin Core against the wish for more complexity to capture information about real systems. Dublin Core should remain a ‘core’ set of metadata elements, with domain-specific metadata recorded according to more complex standards, whether extensions to Dublin Core or separate standards. For instance, replicating a full library catalogue within simple Dublin Core elements would not necessarily be an acceptable use for Dublin Core. However, the bibliographic citation of a journal article seems to be fairly fundamental information, required within many subject areas, at least for academia and researchers. How to capture such citation information is a problem which many people have already encountered when trying to use Dublin Core for resource description. Thus it would seem sensible to have a recommended best practice method for capturing this information in Dublin Core.

8.4 Metadata for Citations

There is currently no mechanism formally recommended by the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative for encoding bibliographic citation within the Dublin Core Element Set. The Dublin Core Citation Working Group has discussed the capture of bibliographic citations for journal articles [29]. This is still an open issue, though they are likely to suggest a recommendation similar to that used within zetoc for journal articles, encoding sub-elements in some way within dc:identifier. Using the Identifier element recognises the fact that the set of citation information effectively identifies the article, and could be used for discovery of the indicated full article.

The Dublin Core community has not yet investigated encoding bibliographic citations for other genre. Possibly recommendations for conference papers, book chapters and other scholarly literature will become work items for a future working group. Some other metadata initiatives have made recommendations in this area. OpenURL includes metadata for conference papers. A standard specification for conference title pages has recently been published by NISO [32] which should aid the standardisation of metadata in this area.

8.5 Citations within Simple Dublin Core

As indicated above the requirement for Z39.50 Bath Profile interoperability raises the question of how to provide the bibliographic citation information for the articles and conference papers within zetoc in an interoperable way through the prescribed simple Dublin Core XML format. The citation information includes the containing journal, volume, issue or part number and pagination for a journal article, and similar information for a conference paper. zetoc has chosen to hold this information internally in sub-elements of dc:identifier, and to provide this information via the Z39.50 interface using a Dublin Core Structured Value (DCSV) within an instance of the Identifier element. DCSV is a ratified syntax, but
there are as yet no recommendations for the labels for the citation ‘sub-elements’ within this DCSV.

8.6 Hierarchical Metadata

Most of the information required for a journal article citation, as opposed to the information about the article itself such as its title and authors, is information about the containing journal volume and issue. The exception to this is the pagination information which records the location of the article within the printed version of the journal issue and thus is pertinent to the particular article. In future, and some current, electronic journal publishing models, this pagination information will become irrelevant, though would by necessity be replaced by some other numbering. But, at the present time, recording the position of an article within a printed journal is the generally used model and a requirement for reference linking.

Some may argue that information about the journal issue should be pointed to from the article’s metadata, for instance using a dc:relation element with an isPartOf refinement, and likewise metadata for the journal issue or volume should point to metadata about the journal itself. This mechanism is in fact used in zetoc to record the ISSN of a journal. Theoretically this approach is correct, but it is probably not viable in all practical environments. Within a current awareness application like zetoc, all the information about the article including its citation, which records its whereabouts within a journal issue, is held in one record, with little knowledge of, or ability to access, information about the journal. The end-user will expect to see all the information about a discovered article within one search result.

8.7 Application Specific Schema

It has been suggested that the bibliographic citation for an article is application specific information, and so should be captured within application specific elements and qualifiers according to an application profile [33]. To some extent this approach has been explored within zetoc. Information which is specific to zetoc, such as identifiers and location codes, is recorded according to schemes within a zetoc namespace. However, capturing bibliographic citation information seems to be a more generic, cross-domain problem. It is information which is becoming increasingly significant with the implementation of linking technologies [34] and the requirement to be able to locate appropriate copies of articles for end-users [14]. Possibly the mechanism for recording this information within a dc:identifier element should become part of a ‘citation profile’ but it appears to be a general enough requirement for it to become Dublin Core best practice. Whether a citation is a sufficiently generally used mechanism to merit a new element within a ‘citation’ namespace, or whether there should be a more general, hierarchical ‘container’ element within Dublin Core are open questions.

9 Conclusion

The zetoc current awareness service has provided a platform, with a significant amount of data, to investigate mechanisms for capturing journal article and conference paper records using the Dublin Core metadata element set, and displaying such records as discovered search results. Although the use of Dublin Core for encoding the internal zetoc data was not strictly necessary it has highlighted areas where Dublin Core mechanisms and best practice recommendations would assist resource description and hence resource discovery, location and acquisition. In particular, recommendations are seen to be lacking in the area of metadata for the bibliographic citation of journal articles and conference papers.

zetoc has also provided a case study to explore interoperability between several open standard formats, in particular between Dublin Core and some of the Z39.50 attribute and syntax codes, within a service environment.

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