



International Conference on Dublin Core and Metadata Applications 2004

Shanghai, China, 11-14 October 2004

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PREFACE

It is the first time that the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative Annual Conference is held in China. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all participants, colleagues and friends all over the world to Shanghai, a city known as the Oriental Pearl.

Shanghai is the city of the mixture of Chinese and Western cultures and it has a reputation for absorbing the advanced culture and technology. To cope with the growing Chinese resources on the Internet, the Shanghai Library has focused its efforts on metadata development over the past several years. The Library organized a metadata seminar with the cooperation of OCLC Institute in 2000 and held the first International Seminar on the Chinese Metadata Application in 2001 with the assistance of DCMI experts from America, Australia and Japan. In the past years, China has seen a rapid development in the field of metadata research and application. Numerous works and articles on the subject have been published and new systems and databases on the basis of metadata application have been developed in Chinese libraries and institutions. The Dublin Core Metadata Initiative 2004 Conference will be an excellent forum for exchanging views on metadata research and application, while allowing us to learn from our international colleagues.

As a long standing partner of DCMI and OCLC, the Shanghai Library values highly the cooperation and exchange and attaches great importance to the DCMI 2004 event in Shanghai. I would like to express our gratitude to Makx Dekkers, Thomas Baker, Miao Qihao and Liu Wei who helped prepare for the proceedings and the meeting, and to our co-sponsors Yuan Haibo (National Science and Technology Library of China) and Zhang Xiaolin (Library of Chinese Academy of Sciences). Thanks also to all of those who contributed their papers and attended the conference. Without their support and participation the conference will not be successful.

There is a Chinese saying, *you peng zi yuan fang lai bu yi yue hu*. It means that welcoming friends from afar gives one great delight. I want to thank you for bringing in good ideas and valuable experience and I believe the meeting will be useful, fruitful and wonderful to all of us.

Wu Jianzhong

Chair, Organizing Committee, DC-2004

Director, Shanghai Library and Institute of Scientific and Technical Information of Shanghai



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PREFACE

On behalf of all of us at the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative, I would like to express my happiness about the fact that this year's event DC-2004 takes place in Shanghai, this fascinating city developing at light speed. Our annual event has a history of taking place in beautiful and interesting locations, and Shanghai is again in the top category.

Our gratitude goes out to the Shanghai Library for providing the facilities for our event this year and to the co-sponsors, the Library of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the National Science and Technology Library of China. Our special thanks go out to Dr. Wu Jianzhong, the Director of the Shanghai Library and chair of the Organizing Committee, and to Liu Wei, the coordinator of the DC-2004 with his team.

The theme of this year's conference is "Metadata across languages and cultures". This highlights the international coverage of DCMI and the people who make this all happen. Today, participants in DCMI represent any professional, linguistic and cultural backgrounds in more than fifty countries around the world.

Paying attention to both innovation and stability, the program of the Conference track includes contributions from research work as well as from practical perspectives. Researchers and practitioners have the opportunity to learn from each other and to exchange ideas for improvement of current work and directions for future work.

In the Workshop track, many working groups will meet and offer other participants the opportunity to help in setting the technical agenda for DCMI activities in the next year. Last but not least, the Tutorial track allows people who are new to the subject of Dublin Core metadata to learn first-hand from experienced implementers.

It is my hope and expectation that DC-2004 will prove an excellent opportunity for dialogue between the Chinese metadata community and the international community on matters related to metadata and management of information that affect us all. As the motto of one of our previous events said: "None of us is as smart as all of us": the exchange of ideas and the sharing of experiences help us to better serve our communities and to reach our goal of "Making it easier to find information".

I wish all participants of DC-2004 a very pleasant and fruitful event!

Makx Dekker

Managing Director, Dublin Core Metadata Initiative