
Technical Working Group

Work Plan 2019

The technical framework will be developed to meet the expectations and needs of members.

Note of requirements derived from the governance structure

The Technical Working Group (Tech WG) is responsible for strategy, oversight, implementation, and management of the technology that supports RightsStatements.org, including the data model and vocabulary for the rights statements, and their supporting infrastructure. In addition, the Tech WG may oversee the work of external contractors. The Tech WG is open for participation, but members must have demonstrated expertise in one or more of the following areas: web application development, technology strategy, semantic web technologies, controlled vocabulary development.

With an eye on our resourcing problem, the Tech WG will seek to better involve the current members and start discussions with the Steering Committee (SC) about having a wider scope of members who could contribute. Of course balance should be kept and external participants still feel welcome to contribute.

Role of the Technical Working Group

- Technical stewardship of the rights statements, including revision to existing statements and addition of new statements
- Maintenance of data model, controlled vocabulary, and supporting infrastructure
- Expanding functionality as needed, in the data model, the technical implementation, or supporting infrastructure
- Integration with other standards and outreach to additional, external technical communities

The Tech WG will coordinate with the Statements WG to discuss the implementation of any proposed statements and/or deletions or modifications of current statements.

2019 proposals for work

At the moment, and for several months now, the primary new set of requirements identified relates to the adoption of a translation management system. However, because of resourcing challenges, no additional analysis work has yet happened. Otherwise, no new

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requirements for must-have technical features has emerged from the work of other stakeholders, esp. the Rights Statements WG.

In the process of writing the technical white paper¹ and developing the rightsstatements.org service, a backlog with a number of issues² has been maintained. These issues relate to the web service and website, the data model, and more broadly about facilitating the implementation of our rights statements in the most interoperable way. For 2019 we make an attempt here at prioritizing some issues from this backlog, together with listing new areas of work, not necessarily related to the functionality of rightsstatements.org itself, which we expect to be relevant.

NB: we do not intend to preempt future decisions of the Technical Working group here. Especially, we expect to accept that individual WG members prioritize their own work areas if they bring the resources to work on them and it doesn't impact key development.

Support for implementation of the statements by members

The Tech WG will continue to document patterns for using rights statements in metadata, and will explore the backlog of modelling issues where they present an opportunity to improve the functionality of the statements. We will also implement the changes agreed with the Statements working group and support the translation process.

- Support consortium members overseeing training and implementation by contributing to relevant training material (together with the Rights Statements WG)
 - **Provide feedback and resourcing requirements on implementation package under development, especially in regard to technical guidance** (must be complete by June 2019)
- Implement translations as part of the rightsstatements.org service.
 - **Support the implementation of a translation management system (e.g. Transifex), depending on resourcing**
- Continue documenting patterns for using rights statements in metadata
 - **Museum usage (see MCN work, and “Maintain and develop” below)**
- Discuss and implement changes detected by the Rights Statements WG to meet the need of all our stakeholders, in accordance with our editorial policy (together with the Rights Statements Working Group), esp. on CNE and Jurisdictional PD
- Prioritize modeling issues from our backlog, and determine whether there is an opportunity to provide new relevant functionality for our data services
- Maintain documentation on the rightsstatements.org website (together with the Rights Statements Working Group)

Maintain and develop the statements as an interoperable framework

¹ <https://rightsstatements.org/en/documentation/technical-white-paper/>

² <https://github.com/orgs/rightsstatements/projects/1/>

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We will develop and maintain a set of semantic correspondences between our statements and related statements found in other frameworks. To ensure that our statements and framework receive the desired technical accreditation, we will maintain alignment to other data patterns.

Technical Alignment

- **Develop and maintain a metadata application profile documenting the properties and vocabularies used by the rightsstatements.org data model.**
- **Support technical work required by efforts of the SC and Rights Statements WG for the 2019 work plan (e.g. on traditional knowledge and jurisdiction-specific statements)**
- Identify semantic correspondences between rightsstatements.org statements and related statements in other frameworks.
- Develop and implement changes in the existing set of rights statements to better align them with other relevant frameworks, in accordance with our editorial policy (together with the Rights Statements WG) (e.g. Wikidata properties, Schema.org, OpenGraph)
- Maintain alignment to other data patterns, vocabularies, standards and communities; (e.g. **MARC Advisory Committee Proposal, Linked Art and CIDOC-CRM**)
- Coordinate with relevant bodies for formalization (NISO, W3C) (together with the Rights Statements WG); (e.g. **ISO/NP 22038 (Description and presentation of rights information in digital collections)**)

Technical Outreach

- Advocate to ensure our use cases to appear in the associated 'cookbooks'
- Identify other communities for adoption, e.g. Schema.org (see [here](#) and [here](#)) and Wikimedia Commons / Structured Data (together with the Rights Statements WG; see [collaboration strategy document](#))

Organization and support

We will seek to develop an optimal relation between the consortium and potential providers for maintenance, development and/or hosting, and ensure we maintain our editorial and translation policies.

- Ensure that the Technical WG convenes at a suitable schedule, and members provide the needed input in the appropriate communication channel. Onboarding of new members representatives in WG. (together with the Rights Statements WG)
- Call for and appoint volunteer(s) to chair the WG in 2020, after the terms of current chairs end
- Maintain our editorial and translation policies, e.g on canonical versions of translations, or language/translations of blog posts (together with the Rights Statements WG)

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- **Document the translation implementation process**
 - **Review existing editorial process with Rights Statements WG**
- **Redistribute technical operations of infrastructure supporting rightsstatements.org**
 - Develop the relation between maintenance and (potentially) development and/or hosting providers and the consortium to be optimal in terms of service and administration.
 - Explore a fully fledged service level agreement for the rightsstatements.org service and hosting environments for the rightsstatements.org service, together with consortium members
 - **Improve deployment processes around website content and translations**
 - Delegation of support work (e.g., for future updates of rights statements)
 - Assess the need for additional development contracts (based on input from other stakeholders for various areas of this BP, e.g. on comms)
 - **Communicate changes to translations, data model and infrastructure via the blog and Twitter**
- Develop rightsstatements.org website
- Develop reporting and usage statistics for the rightsstatements.org service (website and statements-as-data). Investigate whether our services are GDPR-compliant and, if not, specify pathways to make them compliant.
- **Serve as a point of contact for incoming queries (e.g. via info@rightsstatements.org) resource allowing**

Measures of progress

- Continue engaging the technical working group, so that they can answer questions as they arise
- Delegation of support work (e.g., for future updates of rights statements)
- Assess the need for additional development contracts in 2019 (based on input from other stakeholders for various areas, e.g. on translations)