
Statements Working Group

Work Plan 2019

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

Note of requirements derived from the governance structure

The Rights Statements Working Group (the “Statements WG”) is responsible for maintaining and developing the suite of rights statements offered by rightsstatements.org. This includes adding new rights statements, updating existing statements and retiring rights statements that are no longer deemed desirable for use. In addition the Statements WG also coordinates translations of the rights statements, provides advice on implementing the rights statements and ensures that the rights statements are properly documented.

The Statements WG is open for participation, but members must have professional expertise either in the field of copyright law or in the field of collections management and rights clearance. It is expected that the working group members are working for a cultural heritage institution, an international cultural heritage aggregator, university or similar agency. A chair and a co-chair of the working group is elected by the members of the working group of a period of 2 years, renewable once.

Role of the Rights Statements Working Group

The Statements WG maintains the suite of rights statements. In doing so it is responsible for approving new rights statements, issuing new versions of the rights statements, approving translations and assuring the overall integrity and consistency of the rights statements. The Statements Working Group operates by consensus; if it cannot achieve consensus on an issue that issue will be presented to the Steering Committee for resolution.

The Statements WG operates on a 12 month cycle ending at the time of the annual physical Steering Committee meeting. The Statements WG (or a subset of active members) meets once a year in person and 2 times virtually. The in-person meeting precedes the annual meeting of the Steering Committee by about two months and is reserved for discussing and approving proposals for new rights statements or proposals for a new version of the suite of rights statements. New rights statements can be proposed by interested parties during a Request for Proposals period. Proposals that have been received during the RFP period will

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be screened by the Statements WG and those deemed to be viable candidates will be forwarded for consideration during the in person meeting of the Statements WG.

The following table provides a schematic overview of the activity cycle of the Statements WG and its interaction with the Steering Committee:

Virtual meeting 1	Virtual Meeting 2	In person meeting	Steering Committee meeting
Issue RFP and collect responses	Screen RFP responses and select viable candidates. Provide opportunity for additional feedback from proposers	Discuss (and refine) candidate rights statements, select new rights statements to be added (and propose them to Steering Committee)	Steering Committee reviews rights statements proposed for addition by Statements WG and approves them (or not)
Validate implementation of new rights statements		Review existing rights statements for fitness for purpose	Reviews overall suite of rights statements for strategic fit.

Independent of the process above the Statements WG can initiate and approve translations of the Rights Statements in line with the rightsstatements.org translation policy at any point in time.

The Statements WG closely coordinates its activities with the Technical Working Group.

2019 Proposals for work

1. Traditional Knowledge Statements Investigation

Description

In 2019, the consortium will start a concerted work effort to better understand the challenges faced by GLAM institutions wanting to express traditional knowledge concerns (status/restrictions on reuse) as part of or alongside of standardized rights statements. Based on this work, we will develop a proposal for expressing such concerns via the tools offered by rightsstatements.org. This work will be led primarily by Trove and supported by the Working Group.

Initial work will consist of Trove making an inventory of existing approaches and relevant stakeholders for discussion at the March 2019 steering committee meeting. Based on this, Trove, together with the Statements WG and Technical WG, will work to develop a technical approach.

This activity is expected to continue beyond the 2019 calendar year. The final outcome (an agreed upon approach to communicating traditional knowledge concerns) is projected to be achieved in 2020.

Working Group Work

To complete this work, the Statements WG will:

- review the output of Trove's research efforts
- develop approaches to address traditional cultural concerns
- If needed, collaborate with the Technical WG and stakeholders to develop technical requirements and a proposal to implement a solution to address concerns

2. Implementation Package

Description

Other than the two founding partners, DPLA and Europeana, there are currently no structural uses of the rights statements by large aggregation projects. In order to demonstrate the viability of Rights Statements as a global standard in this field, it is crucial that additional aggregation platforms start using the statements. The three other consortium members, NDLI, Trove and NHDS, are all candidates for implementing the statements, but are in different stages of readiness to implement the statements.

The consortium does not yet have a clearly defined methodology for implementation support. Development and pilot of such an implementation support package will need to be undertaken by the Statements WG in collaboration with a candidate for implementation.

Initial work will consist of identifying a consortium partner that can serve as a candidate for implementation at the steering committee meeting in March. Once an implementation partner has been identified, the Statements WG, together with the implementation partner, will develop an implementation methodology by June. This needs to be followed up by an implementation pilot, most likely in a form of a on-site visit, at the implementation partner before October.

This activity is expected to continue beyond the 2019 calendar year. A review of the pilot and the final design of an implementation package will take place in 2020.

Working Group Work

To complete this work, the Statements WG will:

- collaborate with the implementation partner to develop an implementation methodology by June
- create and prepare materials for an implementation pilot
- undertake an implementation pilot, most likely in a form of a on-site visit, at the implementation partner before October

[Background document](#)

3. Creative Commons GLAM Certificate Program

Description

The Statements WG will continue to work with Creative Commons as part of Creative Commons effort to develop a version of the CC certificate aimed at the GLAM sector. In the ideal case scenario, this would become a joint rightstatements.org and Creative Commons effort with rs.org likely acting as the junior partner. Once developed the GLAM certificate should become an important element of the implementation toolkit and efforts undertaken by rightstatements.org as part of this activity must ensure that it would work as part of the implementation process.

The objective for 2019 is to develop the existing outline for a CC GLAM certificate into a fully fledged online course that is hosted and offered by Creative Commons. Timing will be dependent on the timeline foreseen by Creative Commons. The outlines of a possible collaboration should be identified ahead of the 2019 CC summit in May in Lisbon. A decision to engage in a structured collaboration should be taken at the CC summit. If a structured collaboration with CC fails to materialize, then the development of online training materials should be continued as part of the implementation package.

Depending on the path taken this activity, it may continue beyond the 2019 calendar year.

Working Group Work

To complete this work, the Statements WG will:

- support the Steering Committee as it works with Creative Commons to formalize the relationship between CC and Rights Statements for the GLAM certificate
- monitor the development of the curriculum and delivery materials for the GLAM certificate
- depending on relationship established between CC and RS, work with CC to include RS in certificate or develop training materials

4. Process for Adding, Revising and Retiring Statements

Description

The Statements WG has not developed a formal process for consortium members to propose additions, revisions and the retiring of statements. Developing and implementing this process is critical to fulfilling the Working Group's charge.

Working Group Work

To complete this work, the Statements WG will:

- research comparable models (e.g., W3C, CC, NISO)

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- develop a process with timeline to solicit, review and propose additions, revisions and retirements of statements

5. Working Group Membership

Description

The Statements WG membership was originally determined by the founding partners. New members to the group have been added as new members join the consortium, but the process has not been well-defined or documented. The Statements WG is inspired by the membership openness of the Technical WG. The Statements WG would like to review and formalize the process to add new members to the Working Group.

Working Group Work

To complete this work, the Statements WG will:

- explore opening committee
- develop process to add new members to WG
- publish process to add new members to WG