Towards Interoperable Preservation Repositories (TIPR)

Caplan, Priscilla; Kehoe, William; Pawletko , Joseph

The TIPR Project, Towards Interoperable Preservation Repositories, was begun in October 2008, its participants being the Florida Center for Library Automation, the Bobst Library at New York University, and Cornell University Library. Our goal has been to develop, test, and promote a standard format for exchanging information packages among dissimilar preservation repositories – an intermediary information package that all repositories can read and write, overcoming the mismatch between repository types.

During the past two years, the we have succeeded in creating a package of metadata files, the Repository Exchange Package (RXP), designed to accompany the contents of a digital object during transfer. Based on the METS and PREMIS standards, the RXP describes the provenance and structure of one or more versions of a digital object. To ingest and disseminate an object described and carried in an RXP, each repository has had to deconstruct or transform the RXP's information to and from the local AIP mechanism. For Cornell, that transformation is between RXP and FOXML.

In this paper we review the RXP – its structure and its manner of describing an object and the object's provenance. Then we point out the conceptual similarities and differences between RXP and FOXML. Some of the issues emphasized are how events in the object lifecycle are recorded, how agency and ownership in serial tranfers are handled, and how Content Models affect the transformation from the RXP.