

Developing publishing process support system with Fedora and Orbeon Forms - A case study

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In University of Oulu, almost ready dissertation theses are processed to follow local ACTA templates and conventions. This process can take many iterations between dissertants, series editors and the print. Also, a lot of data about the publication and creators should be gathered in order to create cover pages, abstracts, and other informational pieces related to the publication. Since this kind of process is hard to manage via e-mail, some kind of supporting software for this publication process is necessary. This article (and presentation) describes a work-in-progress case study of this publishing process support system development. Only selected parts of the implementation are described, notably the XForms-based metadata editor and autocompletion of metadata blocks. The XForms editor is autogenerated from a simple XML metadata instance by using a XSL transform. Currently, the editor is multilanguage, tabbed and may contain repeatable and hierarchical metadata fields. Also, the author, organization, or series information can be filled automatically if the relevant information is already inputted in previous cases. Used software consists of Fedora and Orbeon Forms, which has proven to be fairly good combination. The benefits of this architecture are light-weight implementation, rapid development, and small amount of code. Also, the interoperability between Fedora and Orbeon Forms is good because both support REST-style connections. In the future, the system can be easily expanded by using other REST-based services.