

Structure

1. The IAFA templates

Reading

iafa.txt on web page

## The IAFA templates

expired Internet draft for a metadata format to describe resources in Internet Anonymous Ftp Archive (now you see where the name comes from).

Still used in ROADS but nowhere else.

IMHO, very good ideas about metadata. There ideas have been taken up in the RedIF format that is used in the RePEc and RELIS digital libraries.

## data elements

"data element" is a discrete—though not necessarily atomic—piece of information. For example, a name, telephone number or postal address would all be considered a "data element". The granularity at which a data element is defined is determined by the purpose for which it is intended. The term "field" is interchangeable with "data element".

"Templates" are logical groupings of one or more data elements.

A "resource" is any network object being described. This could be a "physical" object like a file, document or printer, or it may be a "service" such as a weather or Domain Name System server. A "record" is an instance of the template with the appropriate fields filled in for a particular resource.

## Clusters and variants

Clusters are common element names that appear together as groups in many template types. The IAFA draft knows about clusters for individuals (USER) and organizations (ORGANIZATION).

Variants allow to have multiple alternatives for groups of fields. These are indicated by *-vnumber* at the end of the field name.

All this is best understood through an example:

Example

DOCUMENT  
Title: The Function of Homeoboxes in Yeast Chromosome 1  
Author-Name: John Doe  
Author-Email: jdoe@yeast.foo.bar.com  
Author-Home-Phone: +1 898 555 1212  
Author-Name: Jane Buck  
Author-Email: jane@fungus.newu.edu  
Last-Revision-Date: 27 Nov 1991  
Category: Conference paper, Yeastcon, January 1992, Mushroom Rock, CA, USA  
Description: Homeoboxes have been shown to have a significant impact on the expressions of genes in Chromosome 1 of Baker's Yeast.  
Citation: J. Doe, J. Buck, The function of homeoboxes in Yeast Chromosome 1, Conf. proc. Yeastcon, January 1992, Mushroom Rock, pp. 33-50

Example cont

Publication-Status: Published  
Publisher-Organization-Name: Yeast-Hall  
Publisher-Organization-Postal: 1212 5th Avenue NY, NY, 12001  
Copyright: The copyright on this document is held by the authors. It may be freely copied and quoted as long as the contribution of the authors is acknowledged  
Library-Catalog: LCC 1701D  
Keywords: homeobox, yeast, chromosome, DNA, sequencing, yeastcon  
Format-URL: ftp://ftp.fungus.newu.edu/pub/yeast/homeobox1.ps  
Format-URL: ftp://ftp.fungus.newu.edu/pub/yeast/homeobox1.txt  
Size-URL: 18 pages  
Format-URL: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII  
URI-URL: ftp://ftp.fungus.newu.edu/pub/yeast/homeobox1.ps  
Size-URL: 13 pages  
Language-URL: Russian