

ACAP Newsletter: January/February 2008

You have been sent this email because you have previously indicated an interest in being kept informed about the ACAP Project (see <http://www.the-acap.org>). If you do not wish to receive any further mailings from the ACAP Project, please let us know by emailing info@the-acap.org. We will immediately remove your name from our mailing list.

The ACAP team has been working hard since the successful November launch to roll out the new protocol to everyone with an interest in managing online content.

Press coverage

Press coverage of the launch was for the most part very positive (articles can be seen on the website: www.the-acap.org) although we inevitably experienced some negative blogging. We responded directly to the most high-profile bloggers and at the same time created a document entitled “ACAP answers its critics” which is intended to answer all the serious objections raised in the press and blogger coverage to date. This document is on the website and we are confident will be of use to anyone needing answers to questions put to them on ACAP (either inside their organisations or in public forums). We will add to this document if and when any additional negative feedback comes our way. Whilst it is sometimes a little irksome to read critical coverage, particularly if as is often the case it is misdirected or ill informed, we are confident that we have been able to answer all our critics fully (or, in the case of those bloggers who see the internet as spelling the end of copyright, must simply agree to differ).

Implementation

You should now have received a personal letter from ACAP Chairman Gavin O’Reilly calling on everyone to implement ACAP. We cannot stress enough how important implementation is at this stage – to put out the message that we all care about how our content is used online. The simple level of implementation which we are asking everyone to undertake is a quick and entirely painless process and has no impact on the functionality or use of your site(s).

The implementation guide is online at <http://www.the-acap.org/implement-acap.php>

Implementation in general is starting to happen. What we need as soon as possible, however, is to develop a critical mass, to bring all the players on board and to make ACAP an effective communications tool of your permissions information.

New Use Cases

We are starting work on two new groups of Use Cases – one on content syndication, the other on online permissioning. Any member who might be interested in participating in either of these areas of activity is encouraged to contact the Project Director [mark.bide@rightscom.com] very promptly.

European Commission

ACAP has met with the European Commission to discuss a possible collaboration in an eContentPlus project to start in 2009. ACAP is considering making a preliminary submission.

The eContentPlus programme supports, among other things, EU-wide co-ordination of collections in libraries, museums and archives and the preservation of digital collections so as to ensure availability of cultural, scholarly and scientific assets for future use.

The programme aims at facilitating access to digital content, its use and exploitation, enhancing quality of content with well-defined metadata, and reinforcing cooperation between digital content stakeholders.

Promotion

The ACAP team has been busy presenting at events internationally.

We are finalising a comprehensive PowerPoint “slide deck” which will be available for download from the website and which can be used by anyone who needs to make a presentation on ACAP. We will of course help to tailor slides for particular presentations.

We expect to launch an ACAP blog before the end of March, to ensure that we can communicate to all our audiences using the most appropriate vehicle.

Meanwhile, please do what you can to help to get the ACAP message out:

- Implement ACAP on your website
- provide us with speaking platforms
- distribute our information as widely as possible inside and outside your organisations
- publish our articles in your newsletters/publications
- link to us on your website
- carry editorial on us on your website

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SPREAD THE WORD...

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us:

Heidi Lambert, ACAP Marketing Manager [heidilambert@hlcltd.demon.co.uk]

Mark Bide, ACAP Project Director [mark.bide@rightscom.com]