

Minutes of the Joint SC4/CSC Meeting

23 June 2014, 14:00 (the meeting started at 14:10, the WebEx video conference started at about 14:45 due to technical problems)

DIN, Berlin

Chair: Andreas Witt

Co-Chair: Karl-Heinz Moerth

Andreas Witt welcomed the participants from CLARIN and TC 37/SC 4 and thanked the DIN for hosting this joint meeting.

After a short introductory round, Andreas Witt presented the agenda for this joint meeting composed of the following items:

- Introductory round (already finished)
- Liaisons with other standard communities
- CLARIN standards database and further recommendations
- DARIAH workshop proposals
- Further activities

In a short discussion about the current and future role of the CSC, Andreas Witt states that the CSC may give advice regarding standards to other CLARIN members, but not more. Daan Broeder opts for the definition of a workflow for recommending standards to CLARIN members.

Liaisons with other standard communities

Andreas Witt introduced DARIAH as European funded infrastructure project, similar to CLARIN. Laurent Romary as member of DARIAH was present and stressed that DARIAH would like to collaborate with CLARIN regarding standards, which was affirmed by the members of the CSC.

CLARIN Standards Database (currently located at IDS) and further recommendations

Jan Odijk has started a discussion about CSC's visibility and mission goals by sending a list of recommendations to the CSC mailing list. This list was harmonized by Maik Stührenberg and distributed over the mailing list as well. Both papers make it plain, that the visibility of the CSC in general and especially of one of its goals, recommending standards to CLARIN members, is poor. One of the tools that can be used to change this is the CLARIN standards database, hosted on one of the servers of the IDS Mannheim (<http://clarin.ids-mannheim.de/standards/>).

The CLARIN standards database, which was presented by Andreas Witt at the last CSC meeting, offers an insight into a wide range of standards.

However, there is no information about the use of a specification in CLARIN, and similar databases are available at other CLARIN centres, e.g. at CLARIN-NL.

Several issues were discussed. Andreas Witt mentioned that he wanted to move the database to a more neutral URL such as <http://standards.clarin.eu> (suggested by Menzo

Windhouwer) instead of the current location to make it clear that it is a general CLARIN service.

Daan Broeder suggested that it would be important to make the database (or a similar offer) sustainable. In addition, he asked about defining a process to recommend standards to CLARIN members.

The current iteration of the database is missing some vital information, which could be helpful in recommending a specification. Amongst these, links to the standard documents are often missing due to copyright restrictions and cannot be added easily. However, adding further explanations and especially introductory material could be a real benefit. Therefore, it was discussed if a resource pool related to the standards mentioned in the database would be possible.

To end the vivid discussion and to harmonize the content (and the underlying technology) the following procedure was agreed upon:

- Every national body will send its material regarding standards (including the information if the specification is currently being used in CLARIN) to the IDS until August. These information items are not restricted to CLARIN-internal documents, e.g. Maria Gavrilidou mentioned to send a document originated in the FLARENET project (the document was received on 26 June 2014 and will be circulated to the list).
- The IDS will set up a tabular list with standards that are described in its current database and will then circulate this list so that other centres can contribute to the list (including the level, e.g. introductory, and type of material).
- As a next step, members of the CSC will gather the different information about a specific standard and distil a unified information sheet (together with naming a person responsible for unifying the information based on expertise) and – if applicable – example resources and introductory material.

Daan Broeder suggested that the currently flat list needs more structure especially to express the CLARIN recommendation status which is currently lacking, therefore, a technical solution was discussed, including options such as a wiki or adopting (a similar solution as) the Drupal-based CLARIN-NL Services list located at <http://dev.clarin.nl/clarin-resource-list-fs> and demonstrated by Daan Broeder.

Daan Broeder and Jan Odijk will examine if this service can somehow be adapted to the CSC's needs and can be made available as a basis for the afore-mentioned standards database. One of the key aspects is a role based access system (RBAS), that allows some user to act as experts that are allowed to edit information and other users that are allowed to add material or state that they use the specification. Nominating experts for a given standard should not be a problem, since the expertise is either already present in CLARIN or CLARIN members can name and contact external experts.

Regarding a possible extension of the database to cover DH standards as well, it would be possible that DARIAH members could participate in the process as well – after such as process is clearly defined internally.

Thorsten Trippel indicated that the CSC should not only endorse the use of standards but identify different scenarios and purposes of the community as well.

Regarding the other recommendations in Jan's and Maik's papers, further actions of the CSC such as extending tool support for other file formats (including zip files), the group decided to stick with the database at the time being.

DARIAH workshop proposal (CLARIN as community of practice)

DARIAH-EU's 4th General Virtual Competency Centre (VCC) will take place in Rome, 17-19 September 2014. CLARIN was asked to propose a session.

In a short discussion the group decided to make such a proposal, since a more vivid cooperation with DARIAH regarding standards was already agreed upon. Andreas Witt, Charly Wörth and Maik Stührenberg will send a short proposal regarding the current state of standards in CLARIN and the proposed recommendation process to the organizers (Since the proposal deadline was 25 June 2014, the proposal was already sent).

Further Activities

Andreas Witt explained that CLARIN and ISO are in a discussion about an agreement, where CLARIN is allowed to publish the text content of a standard in an open way to make it available/accessible to the community – similar to the agreement between TEI and ISO.

Up to now, it is uncertain if it can be achieved to open up this agreement to cover all CLARIN-related standards (including already published International Standards). The final agreement has to be signed by the CLARIN Board of Directors.

Standards that are produced within CLARIN can be published as PAS (publicly available specification) to enable Open Access.

Since many CSC members will miss the annual CLARIN ERIC meeting, it is planned to have a virtual CSC meeting shortly before the CLARIN meeting in November in the Netherlands regarding the work plan for next year.