Registry Working Group

Closing Plenary
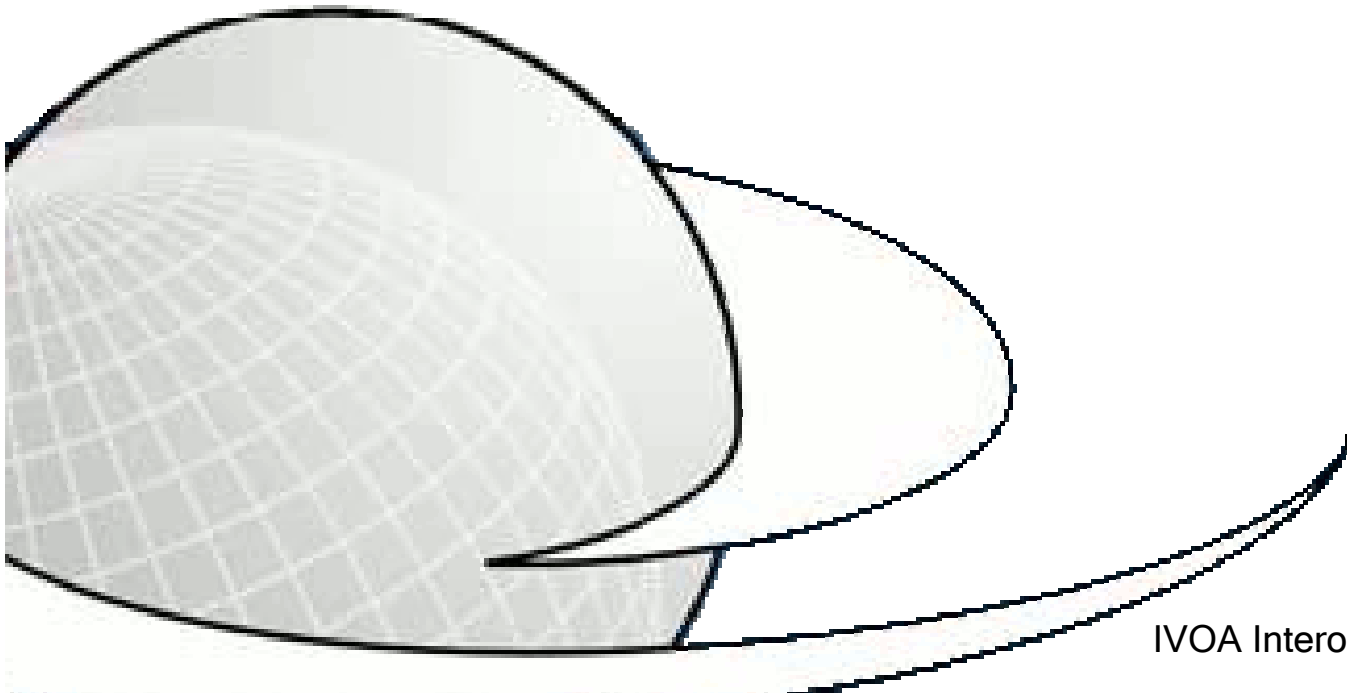
29 May 2009
IVOA Interoperability Meeting -- Strasbourg

Status of standards

- Call to TCG to complete review of Registry Interfaces v1.0
- It was agreed to move VODataService to RFC
  - Recommended some naming changes
  - Add utype, description tags to foreign key descriptions
  - RFC to begin by end of next week
- VOStandard:
  - sufficient to support VOSpace
  - Question if VOEvent's plans for using IVOA identifiers is compliant

Interoperability Issues

- Harvesting
  - For the most, part things are working well
  - Most issues are dealt with easily on case-by-case basis
  - Noticed some registries have fallen out of compliance; need regular validation
  - Not all registries are using RofR in an automated, regular way
    - Human latency for adding new registry
  - Call for convention on use of spaces with certain metadata (identifier)

- Searching
  - Need for search interoperability is now
    - applications want to maintain a list of searchable registries
    - When primary registry is not available, can fail over to next one in list
    - Need to support interoperable advanced search
  - Need to document list of common searches, be sure we support them
  - Need automated search validater

Action: create document of conventions and tips for registry providers

Curation Practices and Tools

- FM-19A, study of registry and service curation made recommendations
  - *Called for curation tools to check compliance*
  - *Non-compliant resources differentiated in registry*
  - Some progress made but not full progress
  - Usage metrics are very helpful, critical
  - Projects are planning for comprehensive evaluation of resource descriptions and underlying services (ESAVO, NVO)

- Service Validaters are important
  - Some are now available
    - SIA, CSC, Registry Harvesting; services, library available
  - Others are planned
    - SSA, Registry Search
    - ESAVO: plans for a scriptable library
  - Publishers have found them very valuable
  - Note: Validaters can and do have errors in them
    - Having redundant validaters is good!

Curation Practices and Tools

- NVO has been monitoring standard services across all of the VO over the last year
  - < 7% pass as fully compliant
  - Large number of failed services have a few easily fixed errors
  - Beginning to converse with publishers; they appreciate it!
  - Sometimes validater is wrong, sometimes the protocol is "wrong" (or ambiguous).
- Discussion Points
  - Need to make use of validationLevel in registry
  - Encouraging Full Compliance is paramount
    - Can we identify useful but slightly non-compliant services?
  - Can we incorporate development of validaters into the standardization process for service protocols?
  - We need to develop shared quality standards *on the IVOA Level*
  - We need to develop metrics for success *on the IVOA Level*

Future Directions

- Need to revamp the advanced interface
  - Other ways to do constraint-based queries?
  - VOTable output?

- Need contributors
  - Several documents in queue; need writers
    - Identified a liason to outreach community for AVM
  - Need brains with innovative ideas

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    - Identified a liason to outreach community for AVM
  - Need brains with innovative ideas
  - Need a new chair – cheers!