



The CISTRANA Workshop on
Portals for information dissemination and taxonomies for classification
 organised by CCLRC (Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, UK)

Location:

The Cosener's House,
 Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 3JD
 UK

Date and time:

Monday 20th February 2006 (start 10:00) to Tuesday 21st February 2006 (finish 16:00)

Information update 14th February 2006
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It has been found that there are important barriers to accessing information about research and development activities in Information Society Technologies (IST) across Europe. These barriers include lack of consistent thematic search possibilities, lack of relevant information and lack of comparability between information sources. One valuable approach to overcoming these barriers is through the use of portals, allowing access in a uniform way to such information, thus increasing its visibility and usefulness. For example, a portal may offer the ability to search for countries with national research programmes in nanoelectronics, or nationally funded projects in the same area, or to present a display of institutes in different countries that are working together.

For maximum benefit, there should be a well developed taxonomy of the IST domain underlying such portals, allowing comparability between diverse content, for example, information about national projects in particular areas.

About CISTRANA

The strategic aim of CISTRANA (*Coordination of **IST** Research and National Activities*) is to achieve coordination of national programmes with each other and with European RTD programmes in the sector of information and communication technologies, in order to improve the impact of all RTD efforts in Europe and to reinforce European competitiveness.

CISTRANA's main objectives are to develop a map of the national research landscape in the area, pinpoint research topics and strategic themes where cooperation is essential, and provide sustainable mechanisms to set up trans-national coordination initiatives between several EU Member and Associated States. A key element is a public IST Research Portal on national research activities.

The workshop

The CISTRANA project is organising a two-day workshop devoted to portals and taxonomies for the IST domain. The primary aims of the workshop are twofold:

- 1) To exchange information and increase the understanding of the needs, realities and future prospects of portals for giving access to information at national and European level on research and development in IST.
- 2) To advance the understanding of the principles and practice of taxonomies underlying such portals.

A report will be produced, synthesizing the results of the workshop, which it is expected will be influential in establishing visions, goals and strategies for future development of portals and taxonomies in the European research landscape.

The workshop will be a forum for exchanging ideas as well as learning about relevant developments, both within and beyond the CISTRANA project itself. It is not intended as a highly technical meeting for discussion or advancement of standards, ontologies, etc., but rather to allow those with an interest in portals for dissemination of IST information to develop their knowledge of the issues, meet others in the field, and discuss requirements and strategies. There will be ample opportunity for discussion and sharing of experience.

Some typical questions that will stimulate the workshop include:

- How is it possible for a portal to accommodate a large number of users with diverse needs?
- What are the relations between national and international portals?
- How to obtain buy-in from information providers?
- Is there scope for a hierarchy of portals?
- How important are multilingual taxonomies in the European IST environment?
- How can taxonomies be kept up to date with the evolving field?
- Do different users have different needs for taxonomies? How to reconcile them?
- How to work with multiple established taxonomies?
- What basis is needed for portals: taxonomy, thesaurus, controlled vocabulary, ontology, ...?
- What motivates the choice of depth of a taxonomy?

The participants

The workshop will be of interest to programme managers of national IST research and development programmes, national policy makers, developers and users of portals and Current Research Information Systems, and those working with taxonomies and classification schemes in the IST domain.

Speakers have been invited to talk about current portals and related systems and about future prospects, as well as about practice and experience in using taxonomies and issues such as their maintenance.

Schedule of the workshop

Monday 20th February 2006	
9:30–10:00	Arrival (for those not staying the night before)
10:00–10:30	Welcome, aims and methods of workshop, <i>Simon Lambert, CCLRC</i>
<i>Facilitator for morning session: Keith Jeffery, CCLRC</i>	
10:30–11:30	The CISTRANA IST Research Portal, <i>Simon Lambert, CCLRC</i>
11:30–12:30	IST World: European RTD Information and Service Portal, <i>Brigitte Joerg, DFKI</i>
12:30–14:00	Lunch (provided)
<i>Facilitator for afternoon session: Michael Wilson, CCLRC</i>	
14:00–15:00	Portals as Current Research Information Systems, <i>Geert Van Grootel, Ministry of Flanders</i>
15:00–16:00	The Hungarian national research information system, <i>Adam Tichy-Racs, Budapest University of Technology & Economics</i>
16:00–17:00	The future of portals: semantic portals, <i>Alistair Miles, CCLRC</i>
17:00–17:30	Wrap-up discussion
17:30	Close of day
18:30	Drinks followed by dinner (provided) Keith Jeffery (Director of IT at CCLRC and President of ERCIM) will speak during the dinner
Tuesday 21st February 2006	
<i>Facilitator for day: Simon Lambert</i>	
09:30–10:00	Introduction to the day, <i>Simon Lambert, CCLRC</i>
10:00–10:30	Informal talk on CORDIS, <i>Michael Rogers, EC – CORDIS</i>
10:30–11:30	Taxonomies, thesauri, classification schemes: ways of structuring concepts and navigating structures, <i>Leonard Will, Willpower Information</i>
11:30–12:30	Issues in taxonomy development and application, <i>Stella Dextre-Clarke, Information Consultant</i>
12:30–14:00	Lunch (provided)
14:00–15:00	Taxonomies and the Semantic Web, <i>Alistair Miles, CCLRC</i>
15:00–16:00	Wrap-up discussion
16:00	Close of workshop

How to find us

The Cosener's House is located in the town of Abingdon, about 10 km south of Oxford. It is easily accessible from London and from Heathrow airport. Full directions may be found at <http://www.cclrc.ac.uk/Activity/CosenersHouse>.

The map below shows the location of the Cosener's House in Abingdon, with the approach route marked when driving.

