

SBL Technology and Standards Update

SBL International Meeting
Cambridge, July 20-25, 2003

Overview

- Digital Rights
- Hebrew Font
- OSIS
- The Freer Principles

Digital Rights

- Rise of Electronic Texts
- To copyright a work (most places)
 - \$0, \$5, \$10, \$???
- Fair use of a work (most places)
 - \$0, \$5, \$10, \$???
- Answer today: \$0
- Does the answer differ with digital rights systems?

Answer with Digital Rights: \$???

- Terminology Problem
 - “Rights” in digital rights
 - Common experience, right does not require permission
- Rights in “digital rights” usually means permissions
- Problem of rights (traditional understanding) difficult for computers

OASIS: Rights Language TC

- SBL Requirements
 - Default to allow access
 - Royalty free to authors
 - Fair Use preserved
 - First Sale preserved
 - Archiving allowed

Status

- Default to access – OK
- Royalty free to authors - Rejected
- Fair use – Rejected
- First sale – Rejected
- Archiving – Rejected

Future on Digital Rights

- Numerous other efforts are underway
- SBL efforts will continue but you can help:
 - How do you use electronic texts?
 - What do you expect as an author?
 - What rights are important to you?

Hebrew Font

- Product of the SBL Font Foundation
 - Supported by publishers
 - To direct future development
 - Maintain font as technology changes
 - Due for release in September
 - Greek and Western to follow

Unicode Based

- Traditional fonts only allow 256 characters
- Unicode allows for over 1,000,000 characters
- Seamless interchange of documents
 - Non-Unicode fonts – different codes for each character in a font
 - Author <-> Publisher, often get garbled files
- Unicode – Same code for each character in every font

OpenType

- Joint standard of Adobe and MS
- Adds information to font to allow sophisticated display
 - Example: hinted for screen and print display
- Support not universal but growing
- Demo

SBL Font Foundation Future

- You can help:
 - Encourage users to use the SBL fonts
 - Urge publishers to ask authors to use the font
 - Urge publishers to join the Font Foundation
 - Suggest next scripts to be added to the font set

OSIS: Open Scriptural Information Standard

- Joint project of the SBL and ABS
- XML Encoding for biblical texts
- Version 1.5 just released!
- Primarily oriented at modern editions of Bibles but additions coming
- Texts from Crosswire.org already available

OSIS: II

- Reference system allows:
 - Pointing to traditional verses
 - Pointing to words or points in a text
- Editing tools are being developed
- Stylesheets being developed to:
 - Output HTML versions
 - Output PDF versions
 - Output automatically formatted diglots

OSIS: III

- How you can help:
 - Download texts and software
 - Direct students to use OSIS texts and software for projects
 - Suggest texts (Bibles or otherwise) for encoding
 - Make suggestions for improvements, stylesheets and documentation

The Freer Principles

- Background
 - Developed by SBL
 - Freer, ISPART, SBL Project
 - 2005 AM in Washington
 - Address
 - Access
 - Preservation
 - Rights and Interests of Owners

1. Universal Access

- Manuscripts (or artifacts) of whatever nature should be accessible to anyone, consistent with the requirements of conservation, preservation, access by other users, legal rights of its holder and any restrictions placed upon the artifact(s) by its donor.
 - Freer's bequest:
 - “for the increase and diffusion of knowledge.”

2. Project Restrictions on Access

- Imaging projects should state the access conditions of the project and the restrictions, if any, will be placed on such results by the project, other than those required by the artifact holder.
 - Projects often have restrictions beyond those required by owners
 - Owners should be aware of formal or informal restrictions before agreeing to imaging
 - If owner permits access, so should projects

3. Imaging Formats

- Imaging projects should state what resulting image formats are planned and the associated metadata that will be generated by the project for such resulting images.
 - Recognition that one size does not fit all purposes
 - Low resolution for the web
 - Medium resolution for CDs
 - High resolution for scholarly workstations
 - Holder should determine the range of resolutions that reaches the largest audience

4. Reciprocal Sharing

- Imaging projects should require anyone desiring a copy of images made in such a project, to agree to allow the Freer Gallery or other participating project, to make copies of images or images of artifacts in the possession of such person, at its own expense and subject to this as well as usual and customary restrictions.
- Most innovative part of the Freer Principles

Reciprocal Sharing II

- Institutional Needs
 - Development of collection
 - Preservation
 - Service to user community
- Avoids mining of collection
- Develops greater networking and collaboration between institutions
- Greater access for scholars

5. Protection of Rights

- The right to commercial compensation for the use of any images and the licensing of such images should remain with the original owner of the artifacts and other participants in imaging projects are obligated to assist the owner in the protection of those rights.
- Licensing is an important source of income for institutions
- Participants obligate themselves to protect those rights

Freer: How To Help

- Adopt Freer Principles in new or existing imaging projects
- Discuss Freer Principles with institutions not yet imaging their collections
- Help protect the rights of holders who adhere to the Freer Principles
- Support the use of the Freer Principles at your own institutions

Conclusion

- For further information
 - Visit the SBL website: www.sbl-site.org
 - Contact Patrick Durusau,
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