Brief Bio an (PR)²: Problems and Pitches – Rants and Raves by Dave Eichmann

Self Introduction

David Eichmann is Director and Associate Professor in the School of Library and Information Science at the University of Iowa and Interim Director of Information Science in the Iowa Graduate Program in Informatics. He co-chairs the Research Networking Collaborative (previously known as the Research Networking Affinity Group in the Clinical and Translational Science Award Consortium). He was Director of Biomedical Informatics in the Institute for Clinical and Translational Science from 2006 to 2012. Prior to returning to Iowa, he chaired the Software Engineering Program at the University of Houston - Clear Lake, where he was also Director of Research and Development for the NASA-funded Repository-Based Software Engineering project. His RBSE team developed the MORE repository system, which received a NASA Group Achievement Award in 1998 from Johnson Space Center and was nominated in 1998 by JSC for the NASA Software of the Year Award. His current research interests involve exploring the boundaries between traditional approaches to research data warehousing, information retrieval and extraction, and semantic web technologies.

Some current projects:

- Loki (research profiling) – [http://www.icts.uiowa.edu/Loki](http://www.icts.uiowa.edu/Loki)
- CTSAsearch (federated research profile search) – [http://research.icts.uiowa.edu/polyglot](http://research.icts.uiowa.edu/polyglot)

General Questions

1. Do you consider yourself a developer, platform user, idealist, creator, connector, etc.?

   Primarily a designer/developer, although I seem to be doing a fair amount of connecting this days.

2. What is (are) your main interest(s) in attending the workshop?

   The potential to integrate the various, diverse sources of information about
research and researchers to support collaboration has never been greater. The existing tools have given us a taste of what’s possible, but we’re really only using the first generation of this technology. The workshop holds promise to expand the problem scope to a degree where we can begin to see what the use cases for a next generation might be.

3. What would you like to learn / achieve at the workshop?

Access to this technology is clearly asymmetric. What hurdles exist to creating a level field of collaboration opportunities? What options do we have in overcoming these hurdles?

4. What tools, services, efforts are most relevant for the topic of the workshop?

The current state of the art in this area (semantic web technologies like VIVO and CTSAsearch) are clearly succeeding in supporting these activities. However, it is also clear from my experience with multiple institutions in the midst of attempting to adopt them, that the expertise required to successfully field and operate such a platform is substantial. My presentation will cover some incremental means of getting involved and plugged in.