

Libri Liberi

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The Document Sea

- Google: 9 billion documents
- Email: 100 million per day
- 90 days = 1 Google
- Other documents

Document Sea Navigation

- Creation
- Revision/Review
- Interchange
- Publishing
- Archiving

Barriers to Navigation

- Proprietary formats
 - Limit competition
 - Limit freedom of users
- Under-specified XML formats
 - Limit competition
 - Limit freedom of users
- Negative Impact on navigation

Creation

- Some new composition but most:
 - Re-use parts of other documents
 - Insert spreadsheets
 - Insert data tables
 - Insert new graphics
 - Not a standalone document

Revision/Review

- Content Revision
- Legal
- Management
- Outside
- Academic

Interchange

- **Internal**
 - Intra-Department
 - Inter-Department
- **External**
 - General public
 - Other businesses
 - Regulatory and governmental bodies

Publishing

- Conversion
- Re-proofing
- Correction
- Re-proofing
- Archival copy?

Archiving

- Proprietary/Under-disclosed
 - Preserve the files, but
 - Preserve the applications as well, and
 - Their operating systems
- Well-Defined: File preservation

Historical Echoes

- Hugo Grotius (Hugo de Groot): 1583-1645



Mare Liberum

- *The Free Seas* (1609)
- Historical Context:
 - Spanish/Portuguese monopoly on trade with the West Indies, the Netherlands supported free trade
- Natural law:
 - “Every nation is free to travel to every other nation, and to trade with it.”

Mare Liberum II

- Seas cannot be occupied
- Civil law test for ownership – occupancy
- Impairs trade and commerce
- Documents can be owned
 - Does anyone “own” the format?
 - Consequences of format “ownership”

Document Ownership

- Author/creator
- Contract
- Copyright
- Inheritance
- Publication rights

Owner's Rights/Obligations

- Rights
 - Compose
 - Create
 - Sell/trade
- Obligations
 - Using particular software?
 - Interchange with only some users?
 - Re-use only some content?

Format Ownership Consequences

- Impairs commerce in documents
- Impairs competition between applications
- Reduces freedom of authors to:
 - Re-use document content
 - Freely interchange documents
- Increases cost of:
 - Interchange
 - Publishing
 - Archiving

Open Standards

- A formal definition of a document format
- Complete: All that is required to process a document (no secret sauce)
- Uses other standards as appropriate
- Developed in an open process

Innovation

- Standards impede technical innovation?
- French Civil Code, (the “other” red book) 1804
- No evidence, just the claim
- Innovation: Doesn't mean “works best with our software”

OpenDocument Format

- A complete answer?
- Unfortunately, no.
- All document seas must be open, even non-ODF ones
- ODF is a model for what must be done
- Answers the “practical objections” to an open format

Open Document Formats

- Enable:
 - Authors as owners of their documents
 - Competition between applications
 - Freedom of choice for authors
 - Interchange between document systems
 - Greater commerce in documents/applications
 - Opens markets to all, not the few

Libri Liberi in the 21st Century

- Open Seas/Open Documents
- Different times but same concepts
- Freedom, commerce, trade at stake
- Grotius/the Netherlands took the lead then
- The OpenDoc Society should take up that mantle today