

FIG Educational Portal – A Method and User Interface to Manage Surveying Educational Curricula

Prof. Kirsi VIRRANTAUS and Prof. Henrik HAGGRÉN, Finland

Key words: surveying, university, curriculum, education, portal, metadata.

ABSTRACT

University curricula in surveying differ from one country to another. The differences appear both in the structure and the educational levels as well as in the contents. Surveying curricula can be measurement/geodesy oriented, land management/business oriented or nowadays even geoinformatics/information technology oriented. In some cultures surveying is a practical profession, not so much a field of academic science. However, there is a strong pressure to give more emphasis on scientific research and development. This pressure comes, among others, from information technology oriented instruments and technology as well as the growing role of spatial information management and spatial infrastructures in the society in whole.

FIG Commission 2 has been working for several years on topics associated with university curricula description as well as development of learning and teaching methods. Surveying Educational Database is a collection of surveying curricula descriptions and the web sites of the Educational Members of FIG that are linked to FIG site give an easy access even to virtual universities. However more systematic approach to the management of educational metadata and materials is needed.

In this article we introduce the concept of Surveying Educational Portal that could be one solution. Surveying Educational Portal is based on distributed data management organized by the individual universities. The primary requirement is that universities have web sites in Internet and that they publish information on their courses based on professional keywords. Information retrieval is based on automatic search engines and created user profiles. User profiles can be created by universities as the metadata description of their curricula or for example by a student or teacher for a temporary use. User profile is the central tool of SEP and it is based on the collection of keywords that make the lowest level of curricula description.

In Commission 2 a prototype has been created for introducing the principles of SEP as well as in order to better define the user requirements and design the implementation. The prototype is described in another article in this Congress.

CONTACT

Professor Kirsi Virrantaus
Helsinki University of Technology
Department of Surveying
P.O.Box 1200
FIN-02015 HUT
Espoo
FINLAND
Tel. + 358 9 451 3912
Fax + 358 9 465 077
E-mail: Kirsi.Virrantaus@hut.fi
Web site: www.hut.fi/Units/Cartography

Professor Henrik Haggrén
Helsinki University of Technology
Department of Surveying
P.O.Box 1200
FIN-02015 HUT
Espoo
FINLAND
Tel. +358 9 451 3900
Fax + 358 9 465 077
E-mail: Henrik.Haggren@hut.fi
Web site: <http://foto.hut.fi/>