



Construction Knowledge Task Group

Construction Knowledge Tools Working Group

Meeting: Workshop 1

Time: 2pm Monday 30 November 2020

Location: Online.

Attendees

- Adrian Montague CIOB
- Carl Collins CIBSE
- Eileen Bell CIBSE
- Gregor Harvie DBW
- Heidi Schwartz DBW
- Jonathan Silver HIS Markit
- Maria Thanigasalam BSRIA
- Mike Moseley i3P/KTN
- Nicholas Nisbet AEC3 UK Ltd
- Rebecca Draper Stride Treglown
- Robert Illes BRE
- Sarah Davidson Nottingham University / UK BIM Alliance
- Stuart Chalmers National Physical Laboratory
- Tom Bartley Barbal

Introduction

Attendees introduced themselves, and the history of the CKTG was explained to new participants.

Attendees were asked to propose additional new members of the working group to give better representation by contractors, consultants and suppliers. Carl Collins suggested approaching members of the CIBSE Digital Engineering Steering Group. **Other suggestions should be sent to Gregor Harvie.**

It was agreed that the purpose of the working group is to develop a proof of concept tool that will build on the Specification for Discoverable Construction Knowledge (SDCK) to demonstrate the potential for giving practitioners better access to construction knowledge. It is intended that this tool will encourage the development of additional tools by others and encourage the uptake of the SDCK by publishers.

It was agreed that the purpose of the first workshop was to discuss the issues and opportunities surrounding the development of a proof of concept tool and to agree a very broad approach.

Function and format

In terms of the function of the tool, the working group discussed a number of options, and agreed that it should focus on giving practitioners the capability of searching and filtering construction knowledge. Other potential functions, such as curating, personalising and 'pushing' knowledge were considered unnecessary at this stage.

It was proposed that in the first instance the tool might focus on one particular type of knowledge, such as news, publications, products or educational material for students. It might be possible to develop such a tool based on only very limited adoption of the SDCK by publishers.

In terms of format, options such as a search engine, app, plug in, portal and so on were discussed. It was agreed that ideally the tool should be available for others to plug into their websites or other platforms, and / or that it might facilitate the development of other tools by third parties (for example by the creation of an application programming interface (API)).

Ownership and development

It was agreed that, in the first instance at least, the tool would ideally be created on an open source basis, making it freely available for anyone to use, and potentially for others to develop. This means it will not be 'owned' by anyone. It was acknowledged that this may result in difficulties relating to the ongoing support for and maintenance of the tool and policing of the way publishers apply the SDCK to their knowledge.

A range of development options were discussed, including a research project, a hack, partnering with an organisation such as a software developer or university, or developing a tool for adoption on a specific construction project.

It was noted that some of the attendees' organisations have their own developers, but there would be a cost associated with using them.

Funding and risks

A number of possible funding options were discussed, however it was considered too early to reach any conclusions about the best approach. The project will first need to be defined in more detail, and a business case for funding or for a grant application prepared.

Risks were discussed, including the possibility that the proposed tool would not be taken up by practitioners who have become accustomed to using Google despite its limitations, or that the tool would fail to stimulate the development of other tools by others. However, no 'showstoppers' were identified and members did not see any red lines for their organisations at this stage.

Next steps and AOB

Attendees were reminded to apply the SDCK to their own published knowledge.

Gregor Harvie informed the attendees that he will be giving a webinar for the Get It Right Initiative about the work of the CKTG on 14 December. Registration is available at:

<https://getitright.uk.com/events/giri-forum-better-knowledge-means-fewer-errors>

A video of the workshop is available on request from Gregor Harvie.

The next workshop will be organised in the coming weeks and will focus in more detail on defining the proposed tool.