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Is Europe taking the lead?



Submitted by Alex Visser, AIIM Industry Advisor

For those of you who have been following my blog postings and for those who also looked at my name it is probably clear that I am a European. What not everybody might know is that Europe for some time already has supported a pan European focus on Record Management. MoReq2 is the first major update of the original MoReq which was published in 2001. Both of these standards are a result of importance that the European Commission has given to Record Management in general. Of course the question rises then why did Europe give funding to people in order to get to this Model Requirements document called MoReq. There are other well know Standards available in the area of Record Management after all, the most well known ones being the ISO15489 and the US DoD5015.2 (DoD= Department of Defence).

Well one of the big drivers behind the European standard was that the currently available standards did not focus on the European situation and were often initiated by US government agency for their own benefits. The MoReq standard was from the onset aimed at a larger scope. It was to be a document that could be applied to both public and private industry, and across the different borders in Europe. This is obviously different form the narrower focus of other standards even though those are being used as well outside of their original scope. This is also where things get very interesting since so far MoReq is the only document that tries to be so wide in its scope.

It therefore has the potential to become a popular standard. Vendors and international organisations can work off one standard and other organisation can feel better knowing that they are using international best practices. MoReq has also changed to include more than the original concept and include practical elements that are not found in other standards. It has segmented some requirements since all possible record management sections will apply to all organisations. This makes it easier to apply it to different organisations with different needs.

Since MoReq then, it has been updated to include better metadata models and include definitions and methods that will allow for record management to be applied to compound documents, like website that consist of many small files that combined create the record. The last addition to MoReq has been the use of a testing regime by which vendors can have their product certified to be compliant with MoReq2. The first company to do this was an Austrian company called FabaSoft. Other (major) vendors have been supporting the MoReq standard for a long time already and ie. EMC announced on their last partner meeting to fully support the MoReq2 standard in their Documentum Records Manager. All of this makes MoReq2 a modern standard that can and has been be applied in many types of organisations and country with the use of systems that are certified against the standard, even beyond the European region.

So how important do you think the MoReq2 Standard will be for your organisation or region? Please let me know your thought on this topic.

If you want to know more about MoReq2 you can visit the MoReq2 website at www.moreq2.eu and/or have a look at the AIIM MoReq2 [Essentials course](#) that in 4 online modules gives you a complete introduction into MoReq2 by one of the key consultants that drafted both MoReq versions.

If you want to know more about Record Management in general you are welcomed to attend one of the AIIM [Electronic Record Management courses](#) in which MoReq2 is also discussed on the following location

- Silver springs March 23-March 26
- Tampa April 6- April 9
- Chicago May 11- May 14
- London June 22- June 25
- Toronto June 22 - June 25
- Utrecht June 29 – July 2
- Alex Visser – AIIM alex.visser@aiim.eu

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