Update on Annotating All Knowledge Coalition

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#AAKCoalition
What is the coalition?

A growing group of publishers, platforms, libraries, standards bodies and technology groups that share a common interest in bringing an interoperable annotation capability across scholarly content for the benefit of scientists, humanists, students, teachers and citizens.

https://hypothes.is/annotating-all-knowledge/
The Vision

Within three years, most scholarly works – books, articles and other digital media, new and old – will come with the capability for readers to create, share, and discover annotations from colleagues, authors, friends and experts around the globe.

This technology will be open source, federated, and based on open standards.

Just like the Web.
What is an “interoperable annotation capability”

Annotation should be like email or web pages:

- Multiple servers and clients
- Shared set of features
Why interoperable annotation for scholarship?

USE CASE:

“As a user of academic content I want to pull back search results and annotate both the search results and also each of the articles/abstracts in that search, and then export my annotations in a compatible format to work with the packages that I work within.”

USE CASE:

“As a publisher, I want authenticated, blinded reviewers to review articles using annotations. I want to pass reviews on along with the article even if I reject the article.”

USE CASE:

“I am reading a scientific article in Pub Med Central and annotating it; my colleague is reading the same article at the publisher's website and annotating it. I get a notification that there are others annotating the same article and I have a means to view them where I am, with the client I am using.”
Members

Over 60 publishers, platforms, standards bodies and technology organizations.

(Join us!)
Members agree that

1. We share the vision for how this can benefit scholarship.
2. We will explore how to incorporate web annotations into our (platform, publication, workflow, community).
3. We will collaborate openly with others in doing so.
4. Our participation is open
Key principles

- Be open source
- Be standards-based
- Support key formats (HTML, PDF, EPUB, images, video and data)
- Interoperate (the client should work with any compliant service provider)
- Support the notion of the “clean page”, letting readers choose which annotations to layer in.
Ambitious timeline

Design & Build – Y1
- Interview users, run experiments, gather requirements.
  Discussions w/ key platforms. Ship standards. Write software.

Deploy – Y2
- Make annotation available with articles, books and other media objects.

Market – Y3+
- Drive adoption through partnerships and targeted programs.
Timeline of activities to date

- Coalition launched with 40 members
- Steering Committee formed
- Members surveyed for requirements
- Working group formed at FORCE11
- Coalition kick off meeting in Portland

All materials are available via the [Working Group page](#); new members welcome
AAK Coalition Steering Committee

Scott Edmunds – Gigascience
William Gunn – Elsevier
Laurel Haak – ORCID
Brooks Hanson – AGU
Maryann Martone – Hypothes.is
Johanna McEntyre – PubMed Central
Peter Murray-Rust – ContentMine
Nicole Nogoy – Gigascience
Kristen Ratan – Collab. Know. Fdn
Tara Robenalt – PLOS

John Sack – HighWire Press
Rob Sanderson – Stanford Libraries
Doug Schepers – W3C
Tzviya Siegman – Wiley
Jeffrey Spies – Center for Open Science
Simeon Warner – arXiv
Dan Whaley – Hypothes.is
John Unsworth – Brandeis University

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Kick off Meeting: Force2016 in Portland

70+ attendees came together to:
- Explore technical opportunities and challenges
- Explore publisher’s opportunities and challenges
- Converge on a definition of interoperability
- Determine use cases that are in scope
- Identify next steps

Meeting presentations and notes
Summary of outcomes
Interoperability

• Converged on a set of features for interoperable annotation
• What is currently missing:
  ○ No standard way on the annotation server to tell what annotations are on this page.
  ○ Many different clients that support basic functionality
  ○ Portability across hosting services
  ○ Persistence of user/document identity across different systems
• Technical implementation group
  ○ Rob Sanderson, Stanford University Libraries
  ○ Nick Stenning, Hypothes.is
  ○ Will use the W3C Community Group for discussions
Use cases/user stories

- Coalition members agreed to freely share user stories and experiences
- No overarching use case was envisioned
- Activities planned around:
  - Portable, annotation-based peer review
  - Journal-hosted journal clubs
  - Post-publication, cross-platform peer review
  - Distinguishing between discursive vs authoritative annotations
- Plans to increase awareness and understanding of web annotation
- Plans to increase number of annotations and annotators
Outcomes/next steps

- Create dedicated web portal (aakcoalition.org) and grow the coalition
  - Logo
  - Place to share user stories-and then annotate them
  - Listing of available tools and technology
  - List of open scholarly content
- Refine set of features into a shared definition of interoperability
- Establish technical specifications working group
- Conduct usability/user analysis of existing tools to understand user experience better
- Just do it! Active pilots that share annotations
Join us in creating an interoperable annotated future:

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