



Attorneys At Law

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EDITOR'S NOTE

THE STUDY OF STANDARDS

In this issue we focus on the study of not just standards, but of "commonalities," of which standards are but an example.

As our latest contribution to that field of study, we proudly announce the public launch of a major new research resource: the Standards MetaLibrary. The MetaLibrary is the most comprehensive access point to the literature of standard setting on the Web, and joins the other unique resources of ConsortiumInfo.org: the most complete listing of consortia and the standards they create, a daily feed of standards news of all types, the only monthly journal on standards in publication today, and much more.

In our Editorial this month, we place the MetaLibrary in the context of both traditional research methods and the new capabilities (and challenges) of on-line search, noting that without resources such as the MetaLibrary, it is easier to drown in than relish the wealth of data now available on the Web.

In our Feature Article, we propose that the broad range of "commonalities" (not just formal standards, but all consensus-based tools) that have been utilized throughout the history of humanity represents an important and under-examined field of study - a state of affairs that we hope the Standards MetaLibrary will help to correct.

In the following article, we provide the details behind the Standards MetaLibrary - what it is, how it can be used, and how it came into being.

And in our Blog entry for this month, we explore how the parameters of another type of commonalities -- musical instruments -- can provide a balance between strict design parameters and room for innovation, as personified by that unique addition to the jazz, rock and gospel instrumental arsenal, the venerable Hammond B-3 Organ.

As we do most months, we wrap up with what we think were the most interesting news items that crossed our virtual desk in the month just ended.

As always, we hope you enjoy this issue.

Andrew Updegrove
Editor and Publisher