

Distributed Databases of non-textual Objects

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Abstract: *Description and Retrieval of textual objects were topic of several projects of the past years (e.g. Global Info <http://www.global-info.org/>) But every text has an author. To develop metadata sets for describing persons is topic of the vCard Initiative <http://www.imc.org/pdi/>. The idea of Professional Homepages came up in 1998, when setting up a members database for the European Physical Society. The German law does not allow to make central databases of personal information searchable in public. A solution is to qualify the personal homepages with metadata and run a roboter to cache the metadata.*

So the data stays on the site of its owner. A first (still prototypical) solution can be found at <http://physnet.uni-oldenburg.de/services/PHP/>. A similar service is the "Persona Mathematica" http://www.mi.uni-koeln.de/Math-Net/persona_mathematica/ of Math-Net. An other kind of objects are the administrative information of Departments. For Physics we are developing a service to find and brows these information in a complete, up-to-date, distributed way. A first view will be given.