ARBIL, metadata tool

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What is ARBIL

- ARBIL is an application for organising research data and associated metadata into a format appropriate for archiving.
- There are many features in ARBIL that enable users to view and edit their data.
- The data can be viewed side by side in tables and bulk edited in the same table.
- ARBIL is designed so that it can be used offline in remote locations.
- The data can be entered at any stage in part or as a whole.
History of ARBIL

• The development of ARBIL has stemmed from discussions with many researchers at the MPI and members of the DOBES community and the experience gained from previous metadata editors developed at the MPI over the last ten years.

• ARBIL has been developed over the last two years and contains many features in order to fulfill the wide ranging needs expressed by its users, while maintaining the functionality of the previous editors. ARBIL continues to be actively developed to extend these features further.
An XML Editor

- ABIL is essentially an XML editor
- Reads and writes to XML
- Validates via the schema
- Generates XML from the schema
Specialised Functions

- ARBIL differs from a standard XML editor in that it has functionality specialised for editing metadata.
- Whereas if a user hand edits the XML files there are likely to be difficult to detect errors.
- The attaching resource files is handled consistently.
- Both IMDI and CMDI formats are supported.
- Workflow focused
- Table view
- Drag and drop
- Bulk copy and paste
- Multiple undo and redo
- Resource file preview
- Customisable columns
Getting to know the interface

Remote Corpus
View and import metadata from remote servers

Local Corpus
All newly created metadata will be created here

Working Directories
Your resource files can be browsed and associated new metadata from here

Preview Table
The currently selected metadata.

Main Work Area
Multiple tables of metadata can be viewed and edited

Favourites
Frequently used metadata is saved here for easy replication
Workflow

- Create and Edit
- Import for offline use
- Import as favourites
- Insert from favourites
- Save as favourite
- Add resource files
- Export
Constructing Metadata Files

- Metadata files are created in the “Local Corpus” via the “Add” menu.
- At each level of the tree the appropriate sub components are offered in the “Add” menu.
Attaching Resource Files

- Resources can be attached to a session by dragging.
- Or by adding a resource node then browsing for the file.
Entering Data

- The data can be edited in any table.
- Tables can contain one or many separate nodes.
- Data can be edited in bulk across the table.
- Controlled vocabularies are offered as a dropdown.
- Data can be compared across multiple rows at a time.
- The table data can be copied for use in external applications.
Organising Data

- Columns can be hidden to simplify the information displayed in a table.
- Sets of these column views can be saved and easily selected for display.
- A default column view can be selected so that new tables show your preferred columns.
Visualising the Data

- Matching text can be highlighted.
- Sub-nodes can be shown in the parents table as a cell to give a visual indication of their presence and to give easy access to them.
- The full metadata of the sub-nodes can be displayed in a separate table just like any other metadata.
- All columns can be used to sort the rows even the sub-node columns
Searching

- The local metadata tree can be searched.
- Multiple parameters can be used for the search.
- The search results are displayed in a table that has all the functionality of the other tables in ARBIL.
- Multiple different branches can be searched at one time.
Installing ARBIL

- There is a link to ARBIL on the MPI website [http://www.lat-mpi.eu/tools/arbil/](http://www.lat-mpi.eu/tools/arbil/).
- Providing you already have Java installed the webstart version is the fastest way to start.
- Alternately there are installers for Windows, Mac and Ubuntu (Debian).
Exercises

The following slides can be followed using the software
Start ARBIL Testing Webstart

- The testing version has a number of features that I want to demonstrate, so we will use this version for today.
Configuring ARBIL Templates

- In order to insert sign language sessions you must enable the sign language template.
Working Directories

- In order to attach metadata to your files you need to make them accessible in ARBIL.
- In the Working Directories tree right click and “Add Directory”.
- The contents of the chosen directory/s can then be dragged into sessions as you construct your metadata.
Create Some Metadata Nodes

Using the methods previously described:

- Create a corpus branch
- Create a session
- Drag some resources into the session
- Add some actors
Edit Session Data

- Enter some text into the session you created
- Also enter some text for the actors and resources
- Save the changes
Using Favourites

- Add one of your actors as a favourite
- Edit the favourite actor so that the name is different
- Add this favourite to session you created earlier
More Information

- On the ARBIL download page there some additional resources, manual, user guide and A4 guide.
The ARBIL Forum

- There is a forum for ARBIL users and this can be accessed directly from the help menu.