

Level A DECISIONS

1. Decision making. Decisions of varying types.
 - e.g. "Broadly speaking, a federation provides a common framework that links separate organisations (or, perhaps, parts of the same organisation) who want to collaborate or share information in a trusted manner. For example, if organisations A, B and C want to share information between them, they must at least decide, and agree on, the following: The information they want to share ..." etc etc.
 - (from http://www.matu.ac.uk/federations_intro.html)
2. Identity and representation. Who are the organisations? Who speaks for them (to each other and beyond?)
3. Aims
4. Relationships. These catalyse and underlie development of collaboration. Varying importance at each level
5. Structures for co-ordinating 1-4

Level B OPERATIONS

6. Operational interdependence
7. A simple typology
 - peripheral, e.g. develop potential standards etc, e.g. OLAC, DELAMAN
 - utility, e.g. add capabilities, e.g. DAM-LR, DELAMAN
 - process, e.g. core functions or organisation, e.g. ELAR-OTA (implies level C)

Level C RESOURCES

8. Resource interchange
9. Distinguish whether resources or operations have overt financial cost/value
10. Need clear and binding agreements between parties
11. Legislative requirements and liabilities
12. Federation services.
 - This term is used by Dspace. It might include software and communications systems such as distributed access and storage. Distinguish two aspects of software services:
 - (a) support interoperability (→ level B)
 - (b) create a topology (i.e. "non-interoperability" beyond federal boundaries)
 - e.g. not only distributed ("federated") access management, but also ingestion, training, publishing, fundraising etc.

Level D RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

13. "Common destiny". A body which self-declares both its constituency and the willingness of members to create, commit to, and be bound by an ongoing collective will, operations and destiny.

Because collaborations involve more central functions, this level adds *rights* and *obligations* to the previous levels

Here, *institutionalised* relationships assume more importance.

I do not discuss here the (more obvious) issues of roles, committees, membership fees etc that might be involved if formal federation was sought.