

ICEDIS/EDItEUR Meeting at Charleston Conference

Holiday Inn Charleston Historic Downtown, Charleston, SC
Wednesday 5th November 2014

Minutes

1. Welcome and introductions

- a. Dan and Tim co-chaired the meeting with Dan Heffernan taking minutes.
- b. Tim welcomed participants, who each introduced themselves. See the list of attendees and apologies for absence at the end of this document.

ICEDIS and EDItEUR's Standards for Serials & Subscriptions

2. Highlights from previous meeting (Frankfurt Book Fair, October 2014)

Tim briefly reported on headlines from the recent ICEDIS meeting in Frankfurt and more detail is given in his presentation, circulated along with these minutes. Key items from Frankfurt were these:

- a. The ICEDIS Open Access working group will continue with its activities.
- b. Interim results of a recent ICEDIS standards survey were discussed and it was agreed to extend the survey period to garner more responses.
- c. We need to further investigate business cases and likely benefits for replacing older standards.
- d. We will continue to support and accelerate the rollout of the ONIX-PC format.

3. Business cases for updating legacy message formats

The eventual updating and replacement of the legacy ICEDIS standards has been a major topic on ICEDIS's agenda for several years. By "legacy standards" we mean those created in the late 1980s/early 1990s for ordering and particularly renewals – often still referred to as "agent tapes" or "agent FTPs" though they are of course independent of the transport media used!

These standards were optimized for a world of print journal subscriptions and have little or no capacity to cater for more recent developments, above all online products, packaged combinations, new identifiers like the Ringgold ID, ISNI, ORCID, DOI, etc. They are also very weak in supporting structured information – for example they contain name & address fields that have no subdivisions or tags for forenames, surnames, towns, zipcodes, countries, etc. – thus leading to great difficulty in matching or ingesting such data and preventing process automation.

Much of the recent debate and interim responses to a recent ICEDIS standards survey were described in Tim's presentation. The notes that follow try only to capture discussion points during the Charleston meeting:

- a. *Legacy standards: satisfaction vs. requirements not met.* Survey responders generally reported high levels of satisfaction with existing formats but at the same time complained that they need the messages to do more! Which represents something of a conundrum for us!
- b. *Demonstrating business benefits.* We need to do more, and more explicit work in spelling out the benefits in prospect from adopting newer standards. And this will need not only to illustrate the more obvious advantages (faster, cheaper, better structured data, etc.) but also more hidden gains from retiring older technologies.
- c. *Better communication to the community.* We need to redouble our efforts here for two reasons: first, to encourage awareness and adoption of newer standards and second, to reach out to and inform the very long hidden tail of users of the existing standards (smaller publishers, agencies and others) who are not represented among the ICEDIS/EDItEUR membership. Anthony suggested the ASA as one body that could help here.
- d. *Accreditation.* We are considering whether such schemes might encourage adoption, both in terms of market-facing benefits and to help secure internal resourcing for change. Richard recounted that this sort of approach has worked very well for COUNTER and Tim mentioned endorsement of Project Transfer as well as the BIC and BISAC accreditation schemes familiar in the trade books sector.
- e. *Support mechanisms.* In answer to a question from Richard, Tim advised that a range of support is available for EDItEUR member organizations implementing our standards, including documentation, schemas, code lists, sample files etc. and a certain amount of trouble-shooting/consultancy during implementation. The last of these has to be somewhat constrained by the small size of EDItEUR (5 FTEs) and its resourcing from membership subs.
- f. *Barriers/inducements for smaller players.* Bob and others wondered whether implementing some of the standards might be a barrier to smaller players – “where do I start?” – and asked whether there is software out there to produce good XML files in a limited IT setting.

4. ONIX-PC (ONIX for Price/Product Catalog)

- a. This standard was developed to convey both product and price information about subscription products (standalone journals, bundled multicomponent products, online or print or combinations of the two). Out of the serials standards we support, it is the closest in purpose to the flagship ONIX for Books standard.
- b. Early implementers have included Wiley Blackwell, Taylor & Francis, Elsevier, Springer, Swets, and LM Information Delivery; Harrassowitz is testing right now and EBSCO has the format under serious review.
- c. Big benefits in terms of speed to market, structure and quality of data, and avoidance of errors. Early implementers also report significant internal workflow benefits (less spreadsheet variants to maintain and control, etc.).
- d. The format can be used for conventional, tolled products as well as Open Access titles. We have some extensions planned to better support OA features, for

example to communicate whether a title is tolled, fully OA or hybrid; what are the “list prices” for APCs; etc.

- e. We are focusing much current effort in supporting a wider rollout of ONIX-PC.
- f. The format is already proving useful from a business perspective and potentially to audiences beyond the publisher <> agency axis (knowledge bases, library system vendors, and others).
- g. It forms a significant first step in an eventual migration away from the legacy ICEDIS standards.
- h. It is expressed in XML (significant technology improvement) and shares technical features with all the other current standards that EDItEUR has created. Among other factors, this means that an organization that has implemented ONIX-PC will already be familiar with a sizeable percentage of features in new-style ordering and renewals messaging too.

5. ICEDIS working group on Open Access topics

- a. This working group was convened mid Summer 2014 to examine likely requirements (new standards, modification of existing standards, etc.) in ICEDIS’s areas of interest.
- b. Again, more detail is given in Tim’s presentation.
- c. Main conclusions to emerge so far were:
 - i. Continue the work of the group; next call planned for late November or December.
 - ii. Go ahead in modifying the ONIX-PC standard so it better caters for OA requirements.
 - iii. No consensus at present on developing a new standard for APC transactions – perceived too much volatility in the market and organizations concerned about keeping their competitive edge.
 - iv. Participate in relevant study groups on OA workflows more widely, but don’t attempt to lead/recommend specifically from an ICEDIS viewpoint, since we have insufficient representation e.g. among the library/researcher community or funding bodies.
 - v. Maintain a watching brief on other relevant initiatives.
- d. On APCs specifically, Richard wondered whether online submission vendors such as Aries would be stakeholders here. Anthony recommended contacting Simon Thompson for his perspectives.
- e. In the UK, Jisc has an effort running in this area, entitled Gold Open Access Infrastructure, but even that has struggled to make progress. Todd mentioned that there has been discussion in NISO about organizing a forum to bring together relevant players to see whether there are areas where definitions and mappings could usefully be done. ICEDIS and others would be involved in this effort. And Bob mentioned that it would be very useful to involve BioMed Central (wholly OA) alongside other groups within Springer.

6. Better involving librarians and library service providers

Tim stated that EDItEUR/ICEDIS would like to involve library service vendors, librarians themselves and perhaps consortia more fully in its work. We have the impression that we could probably do more for this section of the supply chain than we do at present.

Laurie responded that she's sure there is a dialog to be had. For example there is quite a bit of crossover with some of the issues discussed by ICEDIS and there must be a way to combine forces more effectively. Bob agreed, provided that we can identify subgroups that are interested in standards. He suggested that NASIG's board would be receptive to an approach involving a presentation or webinar on ONIX. But of course the subject matter has to be relevant to the recipients.

Tim suggested that one concrete avenue would be to examine whether library vendors would be interested in taking ONIX-PC feeds from major publishers. This could also be encouraged if delivery via APIs was also an option.

7. Guest presentation: Alexandra de Lange (Elsevier)

Alexandra gave an interesting presentation, introducing a recently completed White Paper on data quality, entitled Success Strategies for Electronic Content Discovery and Access. A copy of Alexandra's presentation is available on request, while the White Paper itself can be found at <http://oclc.org/go/en/econtent-access.html>.

The Wider Picture: EDItEUR and Other Activities Beyond Serials

8. More about EDItEUR and current initiatives

- a. Tim gave a brief presentation about EDItEUR's non-serials activities and objectives. A copy of his presentation is circulated along with these minutes, for reference.

9. Other related standards initiatives (Todd Carpenter, NISO)

- a. Todd reported briefly on a number of projects worth keeping under review.
- b. This year NISO published recommendations on demand driven collection management activities, including how publishers and vendors deal with this kind of information.
- c. ONIX-PL is an EDItEUR format designed to capture and communicate license and usage permission terms in a highly structured and machine-readable way. NISO has coordinated a funded activity to encode in ONIX-PL general template licenses from a variety of publishers. These license expressions will be placed in open repositories, from which libraries can extract them and put them in their own systems. The intention at this stage is to use the license expressions for reference and comparison purposes only, not to control access.
- d. Open Access License indicators group – renamed Access and License Indicators now. Over 140 comments on the draft circulated earlier this year. This is in essence a tagging set: with two main tags: one specifies whether the content is open or more specifically, is it free to read? If so, the second tag provides a link to the relevant license. More details at: <http://www.niso.org/workrooms/ali/>
- e. NISO has recently published two recommended practices: KBART Phase II published in May and Open Discovery Initiative released in June. More details at: <http://www.niso.org/workrooms/kbart> and <http://www.niso.org/workrooms/odi>

- f. NISO is also taking over responsibility from UKSG group for Project Transfer <http://www.uksg.org/Transfer>. UKSG sponsored the creation and development of Transfer but doesn't see its role in the community as maintaining this sort of thing longer term. UKSG has also stepped back from KBART. NISO will be responsible for Transfer and KBART maintenance moving forward.
- g. Todd also mentioned the white paper on data quality recently published by OCLC, entitled *Success Strategies for Electronic Content Discovery and Access*, which was the subject of Alexandra de Lange's presentation during this meeting. More details at: <http://oclc.org/go/en/econtent-access.html>
- h. NISO has been working on a significant project related to alternative metrics and new forms of assessment. Many publishers are interested in this. More details at: http://www.niso.org/topics/tl/altmetrics_initiative/. Brainstorming has identified a top four areas of interest:
 - i. Definitions (esp. social media)
 - ii. Data interchange between systems and how to normalize it
 - iii. Nontraditional scholarly output – datasets, software
 - iv. Building persistent identifiers into systems
- i. Within the context of ISO, where NISO represents the US interests in ISO:
 - i. Revising ISBN standard – ongoing process, esp. ISBN assignment for ebooks. About ¼ of the way through the process.
 - ii. ISTC – this standard has not seen much adoption. Some talk of revising it to make it more of a work identifier.
 - iii. ISO8 standard for presentation of periodicals. Up for revision. Want to align it with ISO IJ standard. Want to include digital publications in that standard.
 - iv. There is a project in its final stages – International Standard Link Identifier (ISLI) – identifies linkage between two cultural content objects, e.g. a book and the mp3 file of audio version of that book.
 - v. W3C publishing interest group has been ramped up – how to present all types of publications using the Web as a publication structure. Keep an eye out for some of their activities.

10. Date and venue of next meeting

The next scheduled meeting of ICEDIS will be at UKSG, 1st April 2015, Glasgow, Scotland, 13:30 - 16:30, venue details to be finalized. Before that time there will also be several phone conferences of the Open Access Working Group and of organizations implementing ONIX-PC: more details from tim@editeur.org.

List of participants:

Ian Best	EBSCO
Robert Boissy	Springer
Anne Campbell	EBSCO
Todd Carpenter	NISO
Richard Connelly	University of Chicago Press
Laura Dawson	ProQuest/Bowker
Tim Devenport	EDItEUR
Tina Feick	Harrassowitz
Richard Gedye	STM
Chuck Hamaker	University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Dan Heffernan	Advantage
Beth Hoskins	W.T. Cox
Laurie Kaplan	ProQuest
Amanda Kolman	Duke University Press
Alexandra de Lange	Elsevier
Anthony Watkinson	CIBER

Apologies received from:

Kristin Antelman	Caltech/Kuali OLE
Ted Fons	OCLC
Amy Kirchhoff	Portico
Noah Levin	Springer
Alexis Manheim	Stanford University Libraries
Phil Montgomery	Advantage
Jim Mouw	University of Chicago/Kuali OLE
Iris Nord	Springer
Sue Sherrill	American Medical Association
Zina Somova	EastView
Heather Staines	SIPX
Mike Winkler	Kuali OLE