



Minutes of the ONIX for Books: International Steering Committee

1630-1800 13th October 2009 Frankfurt Book Fair

Present

Michael Holdsworth (Chair)

Liv Berg, Den Norske Bokdatabasen

Mark Bide, EDItEUR

Francis Cave, EDItEUR

Laurent Dervieu, Electre

Tim Devenport, EDItEUR

Noah Genner, BookNetCanada

Brian Green, International ISBN Agency

Stella Griffiths, EDItEUR

Michael Healy, BISG

Maarit Huttunen, National Library of Finland

Uwe Janssen, German ONIX Group

Peter Kilborn, BIC

Wendell Lotz, BISAC

Giulia Marangoni, AIE

David Martin, EDItEUR

Paola Mazzucchi, AIE

Tuula Pelkonen-Tiri, Kirjavalitys

Simonetta Pillon, Informazioni Editoriali

Bruce Powell, Australian Publishers' Association

Martin Robert, Société de Gestion BTLF

Heidi Segtnan, Den Norske Bokdatabasen

Patrick Steenvoorden, Centraal Boekhuis

Howard Willows, Nielsen

1. Minutes of the previous meeting (21 April 2009, London Book Fair) and matters arising

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 April 2009 at the London Book Fair were approved. There were no matters arising from the minutes which would not arise elsewhere in the agenda.

2. ONIX for Books developments

2.1 Release 3.0 report

ONIX 3.0 had been released in April. It was acknowledged that this had been a more substantial piece of work than had been anticipated and there had also been a number of last minute changes incorporated. The issue of code list 10 in July had rounded out the releases associated with ONIX 3.0 although there had been a few subsequent schema and documentation corrections. The proposal for the treatment of "block updates" (i.e. allowing updates to be made to particular parts or sections or a record without the need to resupply the whole record) had been out for consultation with the national groups. Consensus on this had now been reached and it was expected that the guidelines on this would be published on the EDItEUR website in a week or so.

2.2 Code lists Issue 11

A small number of requests had been received from national groups so far for inclusion in the next issue of the code lists. The delegates present agreed that the schedule for publication of code list issue 11 should be March 2010, with the end of January 2010 as the deadline for national groups to submit requests that they wished to have considered for inclusion.

2.3 Possible new requirements in ONIX 3.0

- **Extensions to Content Item functionality**

A paper on this by David Martin had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The delegates present confirmed that, at the moment, the Content Item composite was little used. David Martin explained the three reasons (track listings for recorded sound, text content items offered for individual purchase, fuller description of content items in a digital product) that had prompted a review of the future use and possible extension of the Content Item composite. It was agreed that he would prepare a consultation document for national groups outlining the possible business requirements with a view to seeking approval at the next meeting of the ONIX for Books International Steering Committee in April 2010.

- **eBook coverage**

Although ISBN guidelines stated that each separately available format should have a unique ISBN there was currently considerable uncertainty about the necessary level of granularity of identification for ebooks (e.g. was it individual format, or platform or something else?) coupled with reluctance on the part of publishers (owing to metadata "bloat" and workflow issues) to assign an individual ISBN to each manifestation of the same ebook content. It was acknowledged that ONIX could not be expected to enforce ISBN "rules", but needed to be able to reflect the *current practice* within the market. This might require some extensions to the ONIX record, eg to enable different manifestations to be described under a single ISBN. It was agreed that EDItEUR should if necessary develop a proposal for such extensions in time for the next meeting.

- **Coverage of printed music**

EDItEUR remained interested in developing extensions to the ONIX for Books format and code lists to cover printed music, and some meetings about this were due to take place at the Frankfurt Book Fair. National groups were invited to let EDItEUR know if they had an interest in helping to develop and pilot in this area.

- **Enhanced schema – “international market edition”**

Francis Cave introduced his paper on this topic and stated that he had a small demonstration available with him which he could show outside the meeting to any delegates interested. He outlined that using Schematron could offer additional flexibility by supporting validation of conditional and subjective rules within ONIX file submissions and also provide more user-friendly diagnostics. One application could be to express the business rules which were part of general ONIX documentation but which could not be enforced in the existing schemas. It would also be possible to go beyond this to specify an “international market edition” of the format in which more restrictive business rules might apply, or to support local “best practice” guidelines. Noah Genner noted that BookNet Canada had used Schematron very successfully to express its own best practices.

The Committee agreed that this approach should be investigated further, with a view to presenting a detailed proposal at its next meeting.

- **Standard file naming for supporting resources**

Jesús Peraita was unable to attend the meeting. In view of this, it was agreed to defer discussion of this particular item to a later meeting.

3. ONIX for Books implementation

3.1 National and international ONIX activity, including ONIX 3.0 implementation progress

Although it was not mandatory, national groups were invited to submit progress reports. Any reports received would be circulated. The Netherlands national group stated that they expected to be live with ONIX 3.0 in January 2010.

3.2 Implementation support – how can EDItEUR best facilitate and support implementation?

EDItEUR had recently been involved in a number of webinars related to ONIX 3.0 and ONIX implementation issues. These had been very well attended with over 100 participants in each case. In addition, the ONIX_IMPLEMENT group remained heavily used. Laurent Dervieu stated that they use “Huddle” as a collaborative tool and this may be worth investigating also (www.huddle.net).

4. Committee structure and terms of reference of committees

4.1 Review of terms of reference of International Steering Committee

4.2 Review of terms of reference of national Committees

4.3 Review of formation and terms of reference of proposed technical Committee

These three items were considered together. Proposed revised drafts of the terms of reference in each case had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The drafts were not discussed in detail at the Committee but the national groups were invited to send any comments or suggestions for amendments to Mark Bide by the end of November 2009. Revised drafts would be circulated in advance of the next meeting with a view to gaining approval for them at the London Book Fair meeting. It was also clarified that each national group had only one vote even if they were represented by more than one member.

5. Any other business

There was no other business.

6. Next meeting

It had been suggested that the current meeting timings (after the International Supply Chain Seminar in Frankfurt, before the EDItEUR Open Meeting in London) were not ideal. In the case of London, it would be better if the Steering Committee took place before the Open Meeting so that a report could be made at the latter meeting and it was agreed that the ONIX meeting should come first in future. In the case of Frankfurt, it was felt that the meeting was coming at the end of quite a long day. It was agreed that national groups not present would be consulted as to whether having the Frankfurt meeting on a different day would be better or worse. The outcome would be further discussed in London.