



Minutes of Open Meeting

14.00-16.00 Wednesday 14 October 2009, Frankfurt Book Fair

Present

Friedemann Weigel, Harrassowitz (Chair)
Anders Askevold, Ark Bokhandel AS
Antonio Avila, FGEE
Philippe Beauvillard, Electre
Liv Berg, Den Norske Bokdatabasen
Mark Bide, EDItEUR
Todd Carpenter, NISO
Francis Cave, EDItEUR
Frans Cladder, Boektrust, NL
Laurent Dervieu, Electre
Tim Devenport, EDItEUR
Simon Edwards, BIC
Gerald Fiani, Electre
Noah Genner, BookNet Canada
Tim Gouter, Boektrust, NL
Brian Green, EDItEUR
Stella Griffiths, EDItEUR
Michael Healy, BISG

Michael Holdsworth, BIC
Maarit Huttunen, National Library of Finland
Uwe Janssen, KNV
Peter Kilborn, BIC
Wendell Lotz, Ingram Book
Giulia Marangoni, mEDRA/AIE
David Martin, EDItEUR
Jonathan Nowell, Nielsen
Tuula Pelkonen-Tiri, Kirjavalitys
Simonetta Pillon, Informazioni Editoriali
Henning Schönenberger, Springer
Heidi Segtnan, Den Norske Bokdatabasen
Eefke Smit, International STM Association
Martin Staberg, Akademibokhandeln
Enrico Turrin, FEP

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 April 2009 at the London Book Fair were noted and approved. There were no matters arising that would not be covered elsewhere on the Agenda.

2. Reports on EDItEUR development activities

2.1. ONIX International Report

2.1.1 ONIX for Books

David Martin reported on progress under this agenda item. ONIX 3.0 had been published in April and the issue of code list 10 in July had rounded out the suite of releases associated with ONIX 3.0. Although the first publisher had confirmed successful output in ONIX 3.0 in September, live exchanges were not expected before the first quarter of 2010. The consultation period with national groups on the proposal for the treatment of “block updates” (i.e. allowing updates to be made to particular parts or sections of a record without the need to resupply the whole record) had closed at the end of September. Consensus on this had been achieved and it was expected that the guidelines on this would be published on the EDItEUR website in a week or so. A revised code list (issue 11) was scheduled for March 2010 and a proposal about the extension of the content item structure would be prepared for consideration at the ONIX for Books International Steering Committee at London Book Fair. It was also reported that there had been a number of successful webinars in association with BISG (and in one case in association with BISG and IDPF) on matters related to ONIX and for each of these audience numbers had been high (over 100 participants each time).

2.1.2 ONIX for Serials & ICEDIS

Tim Devenport reported on progress under this agenda item. For much of the work on serials, the ICEDIS committee acted as an effective sounding board and much of the impetus for work in this area was now originating from this group. The first stage of the “roadmap” – a questionnaire seeking views of ICEDIS members on future development priorities for the next few years – had now been completed. The findings had given a very clear idea of business priorities and it was particularly gratifying that pricing message work (which

had in fact already been undertaken and completed) had emerged as the number one priority. The price message has now been published and full rollout was expected in spring 2010 ready for the 2011 subscription renewal round. It was noted that the partnership method of working – partnerships between publishers and agents during the development phase – had helped to speed up progress on the price message implementation. It was hoped that these successful methods could be applied on future serials implementation projects as well.

The next top priority that had been identified by ICEDIS was work on serials claims and claims response management and it was anticipated that this would be developed over the next 3-4 months. This project would cover claims related to both print and electronic copies. Other work in the area of serials included the e-activation message, which had also been completed but had not yet been implemented, and a review of the suitability of ONIX for Serials to deal with e-books and other subscribable, non-journals resources which was underway. A development of ONIX for ISSN was being considered in consultation with the International ISSN Centre. Finally, a questionnaire has been sent to systems vendors to establish which standards have been implemented or could easily be supported by each system.

2.1.3 ONIX for Licensing Terms

Mark Bide reported on progress under this agenda item. It was acknowledged that there was undoubted demand for messages in this area but it was proving difficult to secure volunteers willing to take this to the pilot stage. There was to be a meeting with publishers and agents later at the Frankfurt Book Fair and it was hoped this might help to speed progress and uptake. Mark Bide stated that it was also becoming apparent that a push from libraries was needed in order to gain traction and momentum on this. There was already an active ONIX-PL group in conjunction with NISO and it would also be helpful to add library involvement to this group as well.

EDItEUR was a sub-contractor to the ARROW project and would provide messaging formats to support the provision of rights information by working within the existing ONIX-LT framework. In similar vein, BISG had kicked off rights communication standards for the BRR and EDItEUR would continue to build on the IFRRO work it had undertaken in the previous year.

2.2. E-commerce message development and maintenance

2.2.1 EDItEUR EDIFACT message implementation and maintenance

2.2.2 EDItX (XML / EDI) progress

2.2.3 Web Services

These items were considered together and Francis Cave reported on progress. For EDItX, a new inventory report had been published in July and it was also anticipated that an EDItX-IMPLEMENT discussion group (modelled on the ONIX-IMPLEMENT group) would be established shortly.

A questionnaire on EDI implementation within the books arena had been undertaken by Celia Burton and her summary report had been recently received. The questionnaire had sought to discover:

- The extent to which EDI formats were in use
- Who was using EDI formats and which ones
- Whether and how the standard formats had been modified by those using them
- What EDI development is being considered for the next five years

A total of 28 questionnaires had been received, but it was confirmed that late responses would still be welcome.

Around 90% of those who responded were using EDI formats and the fact that 40% claimed to be using EDItX XML formats was pleasing as this was considerably higher than had been expected. A variety of EDI formats were being used – including national and proprietary formats. In terms of software, no two implementers were using the same software vendor and, indeed, many users had developed their own software. The perceived deficiencies in EDI were noted – for example, that it was unsuited to exchange real time information (such as stock level updates) given its nature as an asynchronous format. Around one third of respondents planned further EDItX implementation and around two thirds planned further EDI implementation. The degree of customisation varied considerably.

One of the overall conclusions to be drawn from the questionnaire appeared to be that there was growing interest in EDItX. However it was less clear what should be done in terms of the earlier EDIFACT formats and whether they should be updated in terms of documentation and guidelines but then otherwise frozen. During the last ten years or so, development on EDIFACT had been minimal and there had been few requests for changes. However, at the same time it was also evident that some small, localised adjustments had been made (e.g. code list adaptations). Similarly, there was uncertainty in the findings about whether the development of web services was important. It was agreed that EDItEUR should issue an interim report on the findings from the questionnaire which would indicate what the responses seemed to show in terms of conclusions but that confirmation should be sought that these were indeed the correct interpretations.

It was reported that in Denmark some work was starting on EDItX web services. BIC reported that a returns request authorisation web service specification had been published (and had been implemented by Bertrams) and that BIC expected to publish an order status enquiry web service application by the end of the year. The retrieve ONIX product information web service specification had also been upgraded recently.

2.3. Message validation: expressing business rules in extended schemas

Progress had been made already in terms of message validation schemas in that from being available initially only in DTD format, more recently XSD and, now, RELAX NG versions which incorporated more rules for verifying code values had been introduced. Francis Cave was now investigating taking this still further by using Schematron as this offered yet further enhanced validation supporting conditional and subjective business rules. Schematron could be used across all ONIX and EDItX formats, although it should be noted that its application may be better suited to descriptive rather than transactional message formats.

2.4. Radio Frequency Identification

2.4.1 ISO Working Group on standards for library RFID systems

2.4.2 Working group with GS1 on RFID standards for trade use

These items were considered together. Brian Green reported that because of the differences in requirements between the trade and library sectors it had been agreed that two separate standards would be developed. The ISO working group on the library RFID system (ISO 28560) had now completed a Draft International Standard (DIS) and this was about to go out for voting.

Although the need had been identified over a year ago, it had not yet been determined how the trade's requirement for third parties also to be permitted to assign tags would be supported. GS1 and EPC would formulate a proposal but this was not expected to be finalised for up to a year.

3. Reports on ISO identifier developments

3.1 ISBN

Issues surrounding the correct granularity for identifier assignment for digital publications were the main areas being discussed at the moment. It had been agreed that the International ISBN Agency would survey participants in the supply chain for their views on this matter and that, following analysis of the responses received, a set of guidelines would be prepared.

The first prefix under the 979 allocation (979-10) had been issued to France earlier in the year and it was anticipated that this would be assigned to publishers from the first quarter of 2010. It was also expected that the next allocation from the 979 range would shortly be made to Italy.

3.2 ISTC (International Standard Text Code)

Jonathan Nowell reported that the standard as well as the handbook had been published since the last meeting and that the first ISTCs had now been issued. Both ARROW and the BRR expected to have large demands for ISTC.

3.3 DOI (Digital Object Identifier)

Todd Carpenter reported that the standardisation process for DOI had been delayed but that the DIS had now been released for ballot which would end in March 2010.

mEDRA was working with ISBN to develop the ISBN-A.

3.4 ISNI (International Standard Name Identifier)

The ISNI standard was due to be finalised by the end of 2011. Separately, a small working group involving the Publishers' Association, Nielsen, the British Library, The International ISBN Agency and others had been formed to look at issues surrounding the identification of publishers.

4. Reports from members and proposals for new work to be undertaken by EDItEUR

Other than those already noted under other agenda items, there were no reports from members nor proposals for new work.

5. EDItEUR – organizational issues

Mark Bide reported that changes to UK company law which had come into effect on 1 October 2009 had impacted the production of new Articles of Association for EDItEUR.

6. Any other business

There was no other business.

7. Date and location of next meeting

The next meeting would take place at London Book Fair. However, a change of time was likely as that of the ONIX for Books International Steering Committee would change in order that decisions taken at that meeting could be reported at the Open Meeting.