# EDItEUR

# Minutes of the ONIX for Books: International Steering Committee
14:00 – 15:30 Wednesday 12 October 2011, Frankfurt Book Fair, Room Concorde

## Present

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| Emad El Deen El Akehal | Elkotob.com | Uwe Janssen | KNV |
| Marinus Ploos van Amstel | Centraal Boekhuis | Peter Kilborn | BIC |
| Luc Audrain | Hachette Livre | Giulia Marangoni | AIE |
| Graham Bell | EDItEUR | Paola Mazzucchi | AIE |
| Mark Bide | EDItEUR | Diane Ouellet | BTLF |
| Maria Börman | Bokrondellen | Haeng-Ung Park | Book Trade Promotion |
| Annika Buysse | Boekenbank | Tuula Pelkonen-Tiri | Kirjavalitys |
| Francis Cave | EDItEUR | Jesús Peraita | DILVE |
| Jean-François Chétalat | BTLF | Christer Perslov | Bokrondellen |
| Piera Constantini | Informazioni Editorali | Simonetta Pillon | Informazioni Editorali |
| Laurent Dervieu | Electre | Len Vlahos | BISG |
| Fride Fosseng | Den Norske Bokdatabasen | Anthony Watkinson | UCL (guest) |
| Noah Genner (Chair) | BookNet Canada | Nicole van Wijhe | Centraal Boekhuis |
| Brian Green | EDItEUR | Howard Willows | Nielsen |
| Stella Griffiths | EDItEUR | Nick Woods | EDItEUR |
| Michael Hopwood | EDItEUR | Zhou Quinghua | NTCPDSC |
| Huang Youlin | China Translation & Publishing Corporation | | |

## 1.  Welcome; Minutes from ISC Meeting 12 April 2011, London Book Fair

NG asked for the Committee to approve the minutes of the last meeting ISC meeting and the agenda for this meeting. Both were unanimously approved.

## 2.  Approval of new Arabic ONIX Group

NG asked for the Committee to approve the new Arabic ONIX Group, as represented at this ISC Meeting by EDA from Elkotob. The Committee unanimously approved this group.

## 3.  Report on current ONIX developments

### 3.1.  *ONIX for ISBN Registration*

GB detailed the ONIX 3.0 version of ONIX-for-ISBN. This is a simpler version – a subset of ONIX for Books 3.0 – for the International ISBN Agency, entitled ONIX for ISBN Registration 2.0. It is available on the EDItEUR website.

### 3.2.  *ONIX for ISTC Registration*

GB advised that there has been a slight update to the message schema to allow for the future extension of codelists in the same manner as ONIX for Books.

### 3.3.    ONIX for Books 3.0 Implementation and Best Practice Guide

GB firstly advised the Committee that the Guidelines now extend to 250 pages. This was published as an initial draft in April and a 1.0 version was published at the end of June, but feedback is still welcomed. Minor additions to the document will continue. GB hopes that this best practice can form the basis for national ONIX guidelines: any national guidelines should match to around 95% and any market- or nation-specific addenda should be relatively small. Members of the Committee then advised the group about progress in their areas:

- PK advised the Committee that BIC have revised their guidelines and they are now 98% equivalent.
- LV confirmed that in the United States reaction was good, despite some reservations that the guidelines could be seen as quite intimidating.
- JFC advised that in Canada implementation was largely based on the guidelines.
- EDA reported from Cairo that the Arabic version will be ready very soon.
- JP reported that no translation of the guidelines into Spanish was planned and GB confirmed that, as the guide not a static document, translation may not be that effective.
- NvW advised that the Netherlands and Belgium have created their own document.

### 3.4.    ONIX for Books 3.0 Specification for translation

GB advised the group the PDF version of the Specification has been improved in line with the previously-available HTML version. However, neither PDF nor HTML formats are useful for translation: GB possesses an up-to-date Word version and recommends that users contact him to request the specification in Word for translation.

### 3.5.    ONIX 3.0 implementation progress

Adoption of release 3.0 continues to grow, but slowly. GB invited suggestions from the Committee on how best to encourage migration from ONIX 2.1 to 3.0.

- HW revealed that ONIX 3.0 is not taking off in the U.K. yet and that new users of ONIX there continue to adopt version 2.1. However, GB noted that UK-based systems suppliers have made good progress on incorporating ONIX 3 into their products.
- Various delegates advised that there is some take-up of 3.0 amongst publishers of digital books but not other publishers. But some 3.0 implementations tend to be non-standard (JP cited Libranda as an example): national groups should encourage these implementers to conform with the standard, and to liaise with EDItEUR where their business requirements cannot be met within the standard.
- GB pointed out that China, Bulgaria, Poland and Turkey are amongst the nations where ONIX 3.0 implementations have been noted (and tend to be pretty good.)

- NG noted that take-up is poor amongst larger publishers, and also established print publishers where there seems to be scepticism over the benefits of switching.

It's evident that for new implementers (particularly in markets where ONIX 2.1 is not well-entrenched, or in e-books) ONIX 3 is the best choice. But where 2.1 is already in use, making the case for release 3 is more difficult.

**Action: GB and LV agreed that education would help increase implementation. GB to look at this. Certification (already used in some countries) is a powerful tool and should be considered by delegates too. Any other suggestions to encourage implementation may be passed to GB. See also Agenda item 6 below.**

*3.6.     Codelists issue 14, 15, 16*

This is a middle-sized update that was released during June 2011. A similar-sized update, Codelists issue 15, will be released by the end of October (see Agenda item 4 below) and Issue 16 should be expected during January 2012.

*3.7.     E-book identification*

There has been continued discussion of best policies for e-book identification, and continued work particularly from BISG. GB noted that ONIX itself does not take a view on the issue: the only observation is that one must be certain of the identity of any item traded through the supply chain (whether using an ISBN or not.)

*3.8. Other Activities*

GB advised that training could be made available and can be delivered in English or possibly also in German, courtesy of MH. It was lastly noted that the Activity report, circulated separately, provides more information on ONIX Activities.

**4.   Proposals for codelists issue 15**

GB introduced the proposed revisions to the ONIX codelists in Issue 15 and asked particularly for comments in relation to Codelist 196 (accessibility codes). NG asked the committee to approve these proposals, and they were duly approved.
GB advised that List 196 should not just be about ONIX. Ideally, the meanings of the codes should be mirrored in MARC21 and other metadata frameworks, to promote interoperability of accessibility metadata.
**Action: GB and FC to complete and publish Codelists Issue 15.**

**5.   Proposals for ONIX 3.0 revision 01**

There are 12 suggestions for minor changes for upgrades, which are detailed in the document "Proposed Changes for ONIX for Books 3.0 rev 01". There are various reasons behind the changes, but key are the changes to allow for implementation in the Asia-Pacific region, the addition of a couple of new data elements and the switch of the Subject Scheme Identifier data type to an alphanumeric code to allow more options. It should be noted that

many of these changes have already been performed in the most recent update of ONIX 2.1 rev 0.4 for Japan. GB noted that the expected release is Christmas 2011 (in line with Codelists Issue 16) and that the revision would be entitled ONIX 3.0 Rev 01. NG asked the Committee for any objections and the proposals were duly approved.
**Action: GB to work on revision 01 with the aim of a Christmas 2011 release.**

## 6. Sunset date for ONIX 2.1.

This topic sparked a lively discussion. Originally the definition of a sunset date was confirmed as "a date beyond which no revisions would be supported by EDItEUR, but version 2.1 would still work." This is different to adding new features – FC confirmed that no new features are to be added to 2.1 from now on (i.e. that 2.1 rev.04 would be the last revision). It is important to note that 2.1 would still work after any sunset date.
The main objective of setting a 2.1 sunset date would be to encourage migration to release 3.0, with the subsidiary objective of reducing the support workload at EDItEUR. A few delegates indicated that a sunset would be appropriate. LV advised that, because 2.1 is very entrenched, the date must be far in the future. Delegates had very different opinions about the timing of such a date and it was agreed that Committee members are to go back to their national groups with an initial suggestion of a sunset date 3 years from now.
**Action: GB to outline to Committee members what a 'sunset date' means, with respect to codelists, schema changes, hosted schemas and so on. Committee members to canvass opinion from their own national groups about a 3-year sunset date (too high, too low etc.) and report back by the end of November 2011.**

## 7. ARROW PLUS Project

BG began by talking about Books in Print and its part in the project. ARROW PLUS involves extending the ARROW project to other parts of Europe to encourage development of Books in Print. BG detailed the ARROW PLUS meeting held earlier on 12 October and mentioned ONIX files produced in Bulgaria and Poland, which were commended.

## 8. Any Other Business

NvW highlighted the case of a developer asking for 'standard' XML.
**Action: GB to discuss this issue directly with NvW.**

## 9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held during the London Book Fair in April 2012. The likely date is Tuesday 17 April 2012 but this is to be confirmed.