

Minutes of the ONIX for Books: International Steering Committee

1400-1530 Tuesday 12th April, London Book Fair, Victoria Room

Present

Luc Audrain, Hachette Livre	Stella Griffiths, EDItEUR
Véronique Backert, Dilicom	Uwe Janssen, KNV
Graham Bell, EDItEUR	Peter Kilborn, BIC
Mark Bide, EDItEUR	Scott Lubeck, BISG
Maria Börman, Bokrondellen	Giulia Marangoni, AIE
Pierre Boudigues, Electre	David Martin, EDItEUR
Annika Buysse, Boekenbank	Paola Mazzucchi, AIE
Francis Cave, EDItEUR	Tuula Pelkonen-Tiri, Kirjavalitys
Jean-Francois Chételat, BTLF	Jesús Peraita, DILVE
Piera Costantini, Informazioni Editoriali	Christer Perslov, Bokrondellen
Laurent Dervieu, Electre	Simonetta Pillon, Informazioni Editoriali
Tim Devenport, EDItEUR	Bruce Powell, Australian Publishers Association
Fride Fosseng, Den Norske Bokdatabasen	Kengo Sakamoto, Maruzen
Noah Genner, BookNet Canada (Chair)	Patrick Steenvoorden, Centraal Boekhuis
Rine Gjerken, Den Norske Bokdatabasen	Howard Willows, Nielsen

1. Approval of new National Group(s)

The application from the NTCPDSC to establish an ONIX National Group in China was **unanimously approved** by those ONIX for Books Steering Committee members present. EDItEUR would continue to work with the applicable coordinating organisation to establish a pan-Arabic regional group as further preparations were needed before this could go ahead. It was hoped that an application might be ready for consideration at the Frankfurt meeting.

2. Minutes of Committee Meeting held 6th October 2010

A draft set of international best practice guidelines (based in part on the national guidelines promoted by various national groups) had been prepared and circulated to the committee. This was in place of multiple guidance documents as suggested in the minutes. It was noted that there had not been an interim meeting since Frankfurt as it was felt that this was not required in the end.

3. ONIX for Books 2.1 rev.04 JP

The Japan Publishing Organization had been working with EDItEUR to define extra data elements that were needed by Japan in ONIX 2.1, as well as how 2.1 could accommodate particular features of Japanese script, personal names and collation order. A draft of the changes, ONIX 2.1 rev.04 had been circulated to the committee. The full revised 2.1 rev.04 documentation and schema would be made available for national groups for formal approval as soon as the JPO have approved it. It was noted that the amount of change required in order to accommodate the Japanese specifications was relatively low and this was testimony to the quality and flexibility of earlier ONIX development.

It is not expected that this revision of ONIX 2.1 be used outside the Japanese book trade, so the centrally-hosted DTD on the EDItEUR website will remain at rev.03. But it was thought that some of these features may have application in other countries, and that this would be accommodated in ONIX 3.0 in due course. It was anticipated that when Japan was ready to implement ONIX 3.0, equivalent changes would be incorporated into that release, but in the meantime there would be ample time to learn from implementation under 2.1.

It was **noted** that IDPF, who planned to embed ONIX 3.0 metadata into EPub files, would probably want to incorporate these changes soon.

4. Report on other ONIX for Books development work and future plans

The main work item had been the international Best Practice Guidelines whose purpose was to set a baseline for how ONIX 3.0 should be used, but without dictating minimum or maximum metadata to be incorporated in a message. The intention is to reduce as far as possible the variations between implementations and ensure consistent interpretation of the standard, with the focus particularly on commercially relevant metadata. While the principles in the guidelines are territorially independent, National Groups retain the option to customise on a national basis if needed. But increasingly, products are marketed and sold globally so metadata has to be delivered consistently on a global scale, and consistency between implementations in different countries should be maintained wherever possible, and it is expected that any national customization of the guidelines should be fairly 'lightweight'. The guidelines include many worked examples, but more could be added if needed. It is expected that the guidelines be continually updated as business practices evolve.

*Action: the guidelines to be posted as a working draft on EDItEUR website with a request for comments (open to all interested organisations who use ONIX, not just national groups and EDItEUR members). **DONE***

Action: national groups to review and comment on the guidelines, and suggest any changes that might be required. Deadline for comments (to graham@editeur.org) by 27th May.

The Best Practice Guidelines documents have been prepared as HTML documents rather than as PDFs. A linked HTML version of the main ONIX 3.0 specification has also been prepared. So far, feedback from developers was that this was a more appropriate format from which they could work as it allows the interlinking of documents to be more robust and reliable. However, the documents can only be viewed with guaranteed accuracy using an up to date browser release.

Some national groups such as Spain commented that using an HTML version is problematic for translation as it was necessary to separate the text for translation from the mark up.

Action: EDItEUR to investigate possible solutions.

It was reported that Code list Issue 13 had been approved and released to the EDItEUR website. A call for submissions for changes to be incorporated in code list 14 has been issued. The deadline for submissions is 27th May, with the intention of finalising the code list and publishing it by early July. It was not anticipated that changes in this new version would be major as both 12 and 13 had already comprised quite significant changes.

The Users and Services directory was now live on the website and provided a listing of organisations that have implemented ONIX and the version they support. The directory illustrates the strength in depth of ONIX adoption, and highlights both EDItEUR members and also those organisations that have already implemented ONIX 3.0. It was noted that the directory information was of interest to EDItEUR even if an organisation preferred confidentiality and did not wish to be listed on the website (EDItEUR will honour any request for confidentiality). National groups are asked to promote the directory to ONIX implementers in their countries. The sign-up survey is at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ONIX-for-books-directory>

All National Groups were asked to submit their contact details for inclusion on the "maintenance and support" section of the ONIX pages. The results of the user survey indicated that between 25% and 33% of respondents were either not in touch with their national groups, or did not know how to contact them.

Action: National groups to supply contact details (to graham@editeur.org)

In some cases the code lists refer to national standards such as subject classifications, but as no URL is given these cannot be reliably cross-referenced.

Action: National groups to advise EDItEUR (graham@editeur.org) of URLs so that these can be referenced in the notes sections of code lists

It was noted that the draft standard for Epub 3.0 was nearing completion, and that this would allow ONIX metadata to be embedded in an Epub book (although this is not mandatory). Attributes such as price and availability would of course not be embedded.

ONIX for ISBN Registration was currently being revised so it would be a subset of ONIX 3.0.

It was reported that at the Board meeting on the previous day there had been a suggestion that sunset dates for ONIX 2.1 and earlier should be agreed. It was also feasible that national groups might choose to set an *earlier* sunset date than that which would be implemented globally.

Action: International Steering Committee to consider an appropriate sunset date for 2.1, and the most effective way to achieve this. In order to set the sunset date it would be necessary to establish the number of implementations of ONIX 3.0.

Francis Cave asked if the Steering Committee endorsed the continued effort to develop Schematron enhanced schema. Whereas the DTD defines only the message structure and the (XSD and RNG) schemas control the structure and the data content, Schematron will permit the testing of logical values (e.g. restrictions can be created and validated dependent on data values that are used elsewhere) and business rules, and can also be used to deliver more helpful error messages. It allows *warnings*, as well as outright validation *failures*, and can thus be used to deliver advice about best practice. Alternatively, rather than developing Schematron for global application, individual national groups could adapt Schematron on an individual basis. **There was general agreement that work on the Schematron should continue.**

As well as the potential pan-Arabic group, it was hoped that a Multi-national Group for Latin America might be established at some point in the next year, as organizations in both Argentina and Colombia had shown interest in the use of ONIX.

5. Report on significant developments from National Groups

The Italian national group reported that most publishers use ONIX 2.1 for their printed books and catalogues. For e-books, most are using ONIX 3.0. The Italian National Group already use the ONIX for ISBN Registration format and were concerned about changes that would occur in any revision of the message to accommodate ONIX 3.0. It was noted that the changes fall into two groups – those necessary to ensure the message conforms to ONIX 3 (where the previous release conformed to ONIX 2.1), and those necessary to incorporate extra metadata elements for disambiguation of highly similar e-book products. The latter are of course optional, as they are in the main ONIX for Books 3.0 message.

Spain reported that not all of the fields that are available in ONIX 2.1 can map forward to 3.0. Known problem areas were in supporting resources (particularly thumbnail images).

Action: EDItEUR to investigate if the mapping can be improved during this transitional period.

Some national groups remain concerned about the use of an ISBN to identify a master Epub file (which is not itself a product).

6. Any other business

There was no other business.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will take place at the Frankfurt Book Fair (date, time, venue to be confirmed).