



Minutes of the ONIX for Books: International Steering Committee

16.00-18.00 Tuesday 21 April 2009, Victoria Room, London Book Fair

Present

Michael Holdsworth (Chair)
Liv Berg, Den Norske Bokdatabasen
Mark Bide, EDItEUR
Francis Cave, EDItEUR
Laurent Dervieu, Electre
Manfred Gravelius, MVB Germany
Brian Green, EDItEUR
Stella Griffiths, EDItEUR
Michael Healy, BISG
Peter Kilborn, BIC
William Kurvers, Centraal Boekhuis
Wendell Lotz, Ingram Book
Giulia Marangoni, mEDRA/AIE

David Martin, EDItEUR
Tuula Pelkonen-Tiri, Kirjavalitys
Jesus Peraita, DILVE
Simonetta Pillon, Informazioni Editoriali
Martin Robert, BTLF
Heidi Segtraun, Den Norske Bokdatabasen
Patrick Steenvoorden, Centraal Boekhuis
Michael Tamblyn, Booknet Canada
Aija Vahtola, National Library of Finland
Jesper Wikén, Den Norske Bokdatabasen
Howard Willows, Nielsen
Thura Win, EDItEUR

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 October 2008 at the Frankfurt 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 ONIX for Books Release 3.0

The Chairman noted that ONIX 3.0 has now been released and expressed his thanks particularly to Francis Cave, David Martin and Brian Green and to everyone involved for their input.

Mark Bide informed the committee that it had been earlier agreed at the EDItEUR Open Meeting that a White Paper outlining the business case for moving to ONIX 3.0 would be prepared in order to promote implementation of the new version. It was anticipated that we could expect to see initial implementations by the beginning of 2010.

David Martin stated that the full spec and schema for 3.0 was available on the website together with some supporting material. However, there were a number of documents that remained outstanding that are needed to support 3.0 – for example, guidelines on how to define digital items in 3.0 (this would be published with the issue 10 code lists); BISAC had also suggested that EDItEUR should provide a mapping of product form data fields from 2.1 to 3.0. In the case of the latter, it was agreed that David Martin would determine the best way for this to be supported and documented as a direct mapping might not be appropriate.

Now that ONIX 3.0 had been released, the intention was to announce the withdrawal of ONIX 1.0. The new website which will be launched at the end of May will not include reference to 1.0 except for a statement on the home page that this is no longer supported. There will also be a similar announcement on the listserv and in the EDItEUR newsletter. It was agreed not to withdraw 2.0 at this point not least as it was noted that there is at least one major US user of 2.0 (and since 2.1 is backward compatible, withdrawing support 2.0 would in any event be largely symbolic). However, a plan to cease to support 2.0 in an appropriate timeframe will be developed.

2.2 Code lists Issue 9/Issue 10

Code list Issue 9 was available on the website. Issue 10 is already in preparation, and will provide more complete coverage of code values for digital products (for ONIX 3.0). Some feedback on the draft has already been received from BISAC and UK colleagues, and there would be a further round of consultation during May. Publication is anticipated in June.

2.3 ONIX 3.0 update formats

At the previous International Steering Committee meeting it had been agreed to implement a system that permitted data within specific blocks to be updated, rather than replacing a record in its entirety. This was feasible in 3.0 and a recommendation was needed about whether or not a new message type was required to indicate that the update by "blocking" method was being used by the sender. The support team would prepare a proposal, and comments from national groups would be sought.

2.4 Fast tracking of code list updates

David Martin explained the rationale behind the paper that he had submitted for the committee to consider. It was also proposed that people with relevant expertise but currently not members of national groups (such as the appropriate committees of the IDPF) might also be involved in reviewing code list updates. The committee endorsed the proposal for expanding and fast tracking input.

2.5 Standard filenames of cover images and other supporting resources

Work on 3.0 had taken precedence since the Frankfurt Book Fair and before taking next steps, it would be helpful to reconfirm that there was still demand for EDItEUR to make recommendations. There are certainly complications. It was uncertain, for example, whether or not it was appropriate for ISBN always to form part of the naming convention, given that the material is marketing collateral and might be related to a work or to an author. The national groups would be formally consulted on next steps; initially there would be a need for a discussion document to be prepared outlining the context.

2.6 ONIX for sheet music

Interest had been expressed by some countries in enabling sheet music to be fully described using ONIX 3.0. This could be implemented as an extension to ONIX 3.0, probably simply by developing specialised code lists (although some additional elements may be necessary). Steering Committee members were asked to inform Mark Bide if they had an interest in this area and/or to suggest alternative contacts that might be approached to gauge interest.

3. National and international ONIX activity

Only one report had been received, and it was clarified that these reports are welcome and will be circulated but should not be seen as obligatory. Wendell Lotz gave a summary of the situation in the US where qualitative and quantitative certification of ONIX implementation is in place. At the present time, 6 users have been certified and 6 have been turned down (but have the right to reapply after making appropriate adjustments); the intention was to invite more to participate. Some best practice documents are available and Wendell Lotz agreed to send these to Stella Griffiths so that they can be shared more widely.

It was reported that Canada are preparing some guidance on how to record recycled paper content that should be ready in early May and it is hoped can be included in code list issue 10.

4. Any other business

There was no other business.

5 Next meeting

The next meeting will take place at 16:30 to 18:00 Tuesday 13 October 2009 at the Frankfurt Book Fair.