

# Thema International Steering Committee Minutes

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*Meeting held Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2013, 10:00–12:00 CEST (UTC+2),  
Room Facette, Hall 3 Via West, Frankfurt Messe*

Attendees:

Detlef Bauer (Libri)	Uwe Janssen (KNV)
Graham Bell (EDItEUR)	Alena Kanaeva (Guild of Book Dealers)
Mark Bide (EDItEUR)	Yoichi Kimata (JPOIID)
Vera Bjerga (Norske Bokdatabasen)	Natalia Kuzmina (Guild of Book Dealers)
Maria Borman (Bokrondellen)	Martin Lüning (MVB)
Francesca Cacciapaglia (IE)	Kempton Mooney (Hachette US)
Virginie Clayssen (Editis)	Jesús Peraita (Neturity)
Laurent Dervieu (Electre)	Christer Perslöv (Bokrondellen)
Simon Edwards (BIC)	Simonetta Pillon (IE)
Fride Fosseng (Norske Bokdatabasen)	Bente Franck-Sætervold (Norske Bokdatabasen)
Noah Genner (BookNet Canada)	Chris Saynor (Giant Chair)
Michael Hopwood (MVB)	Howard Willows (BIC)
Hirohisa Ishikawa (JPOIID)	Jon Windus (Nielsen)

1. Mark Bide welcomed attendees to the first meeting of EDItEUR's Thema International Steering Committee, and invited each attendee to introduce themselves. A particular welcome was extended to observers from Japan and Russia, who have not been involved in the early development of Thema, but had expressed strong interest in the scheme. MB confirmed that following agreement between Nielsen, BIC and EDItEUR, responsibility for the governance and future development of Thema has now been transferred to EDItEUR. It is EDItEUR's intention to manage that development in a similar manner to the development of ONIX for Books, and the Thema International Steering Committee has a critical part to play in governance.

2. Only one nomination for the post of chair of the committee had been received by EDItEUR prior to the meeting, and no further nominations were put forward. As a result, Howard Willows (of Nielsen, but in this case representing BIC and its UK Thema Group) was elected unopposed as chair for a period of three years.

3. HW called attention of the committee to the Terms of Reference for the Thema ISC and the associated Thema National Groups, and the draft EDItEUR IP policy:

- Jesús Peraita requested consideration of what constitutes a quorum, in the event of a vote by committee members. MB and others agreed a term noting that a quorum requires 50% of the committee membership should be added;
- Detlef Bauer observed that a Thema National Group could represent a language grouping, as well as a country or region;
- the Terms of Reference were adopted unanimously, subject to the changes noted above;

- **ACTION** EDItEUR to amend the Terms of Reference [done – final version attached to these minutes];
- **ACTION** in accordance with the Terms of Reference, each National Group to nominate its representatives for communications, and for attendance at ISC meetings [these should be submitted to EDItEUR before the next meeting, see item 10].

4. HW asked for approval of the minutes of Thema Technical Committee Meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> April 2013, at CILIP in London. There were no particular matters arising from the minutes, and no changes were requested:

- the minutes were approved.

5. HW introduced his Activity Report on Thema development work over the past six months, which was circulated prior to the meeting and is attached to these minutes:

- HW thanked all those who had provided comments and suggested modifications following publication of Version 0.9, and noted the creation of the interactive Thema website at <http://editeur.dyndns.org/thema> by Graham Bell of EDItEUR. GB thanked all those that had provided initial translations for the website, which highlight the commitment to a multi-lingual and globally-relevant scheme;
- JP raised the issue of the potential for a polyhierarchical scheme (for example where a Nursing category has two parents, one in Medicine and one elsewhere), which had been discussed extensively during development of the 0.9 pilot version. While technically possible and potentially beneficial, polyhierarchy poses challenges for easy understanding and adoption of the scheme. However, as HW pointed out, links can be made within the scheme using *See also*, and by incorporating extra wording in the heading text to clarify the context of a particular category, or displaying categories out of code order in printed lists for example, to place topics in more suitable locations for specific national use;
- Laurent Dervieu asked about translation guidelines. Some guidance had been provided for translation of the Version 0.9 headings, for geographical names for example. GB and HW will provide some additional guidelines for translators of the scheme as part of the package of publications for Version 1.0 of the scheme;
- HW commented on the advantages of having English as the ‘hub’ language of Thema (ensuring an English language heading is available for all categories and qualifiers); National Groups were reminded that all submissions for additions or revisions to Thema that are not already in English should be accompanied by an English translation to aid assessment (though the canonical meaning of the heading is encapsulated in the language any addition is first proposed in);
- HW called for and received unanimous approval of Version 1.0 of Thema;
- Noah Genner asked about the existing panthema.org website. GB suggested that PanThema material should be moved to a new section of the EDItEUR website, which would also host new introductory material, usage guidelines, mappings as well as the main documentation for the scheme. GB said the panthema.org domain name can be ‘pointed’ to editeur.org [using a CNAME DNS record] so that anyone typing <http://www.panthema.org> is sent to the relevant part of the EDItEUR website;

- **ACTION** EDItEUR and HW to create and publish a press release noting approval of Version 1.0, the sunrise date, the list of countries, *etc*, and indicating the location on the EDItEUR website for further material to be published;
- **ACTION** GB and HW to create translation guidelines, and a user guide;
- **ACTION** GB to investigate creation of a CNAME record for panthema.org [with the current panthema.org registrant, Len Vlahos].

6. HW chaired a discussion of the roadmap for development of Thema, noting the principle that Thema should be updated more frequently than the existing BIC scheme and less frequently than BISAC:

- following approval of Version 1.0 by the committee, the update of the interactive Thema website to Version 1.0 and the publication of Version 1.0 documentation on the EDItEUR website should be within ten days or so of the end of the Fair;
- the sunrise date for use of Version 1.0 in live metadata messaging of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013 was confirmed;
- an update frequency of once every two years seemed appropriate for the core scheme (the shared codes and qualifiers), but Kempton Mooney and others noted that a higher cadence might be required in early iterations of the scheme. GB suggested that a decision on the need and timetable for the next version should only be taken after initial feedback from the first live implementations. MB noted that a regular quarterly conference call should be planned to cover updates between the face-to-face ISC meetings held at the London and Frankfurt Book Fairs;
- national extensions may be *added* at a higher frequency (in a process not unlike the revision of the ONIX codelists), particularly as new National Groups join the ISC, but any *revision or deletion of existing national extensions* should be at the same frequency as revision of the main scheme;
- Michael Hopwood noted the importance of scope notes, particularly where codes are being added to refine the meaning of existing codes;
- DB asked about publication of mappings (*eg* from BIC or BISAC to Thema). HW reported that a BIC to Thema mapping had been drafted but needed some updates to include the final revisions incorporated into Version 1.0, and KM reported that BISAC to Thema would be compiled after completion of the BISAC 2013 revision (the latter expected to be published by BISG during November). GB suggested that such mappings – or links to mappings – should be made public via the EDItEUR website, as they are frequently requested items;
- **ACTION** EDItEUR to update documentation on website and interactive system;
- **ACTION** EDItEUR and HW to set up Doodle polls for meetings in January and July 2014, to ensure the ISC meets quarterly;
- **ACTION** national groups to provide translations of Version 1.0 (headings and scope notes) to GB. Translations need not be complete – even partial translations are useful;
- **ACTION** national groups to provide mappings or links to mappings to GB as they become available.

7. The chair asked what actions need to be taken to promote the adoption of Thema (in addition to the activities noted above):

- MH noted that the German VLB database includes a live demonstration of the use of Thema;

- JP noted that the Spanish DILVE database had only recently transitioned from using UDC to BIC, and that a rapid adoption of Thema would be problematic despite its close resemblance to the BIC scheme;
- **ACTION** national groups to ensure that consideration be given to introducing and promoting Thema in appropriate national forums and at events such as workshops and seminars.

8. HW noted that the Terms of Reference adopted earlier cover procedures for the approval of new National Groups and their representation on the ISC:

- national extensions to be discussed at an ISC meeting should follow the timetable established for ONIX codelists [in practice, this means proposals should be with EDItEUR around eight weeks prior to the ISC meeting, to ensure adequate time for collation, circulation and discussion of the proposals, potential revision, and circulation of final proposals to the ISC representatives].

9. There was no other business raised by attendees.

10. The next meeting will be a phone conference in January (exact date to be arranged). The next face-to-face meeting will be on the morning of the second day of the London Book Fair (Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2014).

Graham Bell  
EDItEUR  
14<sup>th</sup> October 2013