

Newsletter January 2011

ISBN

Guidelines on the assignment of ISBNs to e-books and other digital publications

The International ISBN Agency has produced a series of FAQs to provide guidance on the correct assignment of ISBNs to digital publications – including e-books and “apps”. The guidelines have been produced for ISBN agencies, publishers, intermediaries, distributors and other interested parties to use. The guidelines are available at: <http://www.isbn-international.org/news/view/31>

ONIX for Books Users and Services Directory

Do you use ONIX for Books in your business? EDItEUR is creating a Users and Services directory, which will be featured on the EDItEUR website. This will list any companies that have implemented any version of ONIX in their business, with contact e-mail addresses *etc.* To get your company listed, please fill in the survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5XTPYRZ> – note that you don’t need to be an EDItEUR member to get your company listed. And if you don’t want to be listed, please fill the survey in anyway – you can opt out of the directory, but it’s still useful for EDItEUR to know who is using ONIX.

Other ONIX for Books news

Updated versions of the *ONIX for Books 3.0 Format Specification*, and *Codelists Issue 12* for ONIX 2.1 and 3.0 were published on the EDItEUR website. The latest versions of the specification and schema files (which correct a couple of minor typos) were posted in late November, and implementers should ensure they are working with these latest versions.

An enhanced version of the *ONIX 3.0 Format Specification* documentation is now also available on the website – this includes additional notes and extended examples, and incorporates both a full annotated sample ONIX record and expanded material originally in the separate *XML Technical Notes* document. However, note that this is an HTML5 document, and requires the use of a web browser such as Chrome, Firefox 4 beta or a development version of Safari (WebKit) for full fidelity. It works with minor issues in the latest release versions of Firefox, Safari and Opera, and with slightly more serious issues in Internet Explorer 8.

Issue 13 of the Codelists is in preparation now, and any requirements for new codelist entries for either ONIX 2.1 or ONIX 3.0 should be sent to EDItEUR (ideally via your ONIX National Group, but direct to EDItEUR is also fine). The intention is that final proposals for Issue 13 will be circulated to the National Groups at the end of January, and Issue 13 is likely to be published on the EDItEUR website at the end of February.

Both BIC and BISAC have updated their subject code schemes, to versions 2.1 and 2010 respectively. These are of course widely used in ONIX data feeds, but data providers should check with their recipients before using any of the new codes.

For a limited time, if you have ONIX 3 test files, we will be happy to check these over and will offer comments on their content and structure (please send test files to graham@editeur.org and limit them to no more than a dozen or so product records).

In October 2010 Stella Griffiths (International ISBN Agency) led an ISBN workshop in Delhi, India for all the ISBN agencies from the neighbouring region. On the second day of the workshop we held a seminar comprising a series of presentations for the ISBN Agencies but more particularly for publishers, retailers, libraries and other organisations participating in the book trade. The presentations focussed on ONIX for Books, ISTC and book sales reporting. Among the organisations who attended were: Federation of Indian Publishers, DELNET, National Academy of Letters, Ministry of Culture (National Book Trust), Division of Library, Documentation and Information, NCERT, Sterling Publishers, CAPEXIL, Aditya Books, Balani Infotech, iGroup Infotech, Lawman, CSS Corp, Unicorn Books and Star Publications.

The session on ONIX was particularly well-received with lots of discussion and questions generated – we were very fortunate that Graham was able to participate and contribute to this section of the meeting via Skype. Although there are currently no live ONIX implementations in India it was clear from the discussions that there is already quite a bit of knowledge of the messaging standard and its application. We are hoping to help set up a later teleconference or web session to keep the momentum on this and start to progress ONIX implementation in India.

And finally, EDItEUR is working with new member Elkotob on guidelines for the use of ONIX in the Arabic book trade. Anyone interested in ONIX in Arabic is encouraged to get in touch, and to participate in the formation of an Arabic 'national' Group'.

ONIX for Licensing Terms

OPLÉ Build 1.2.3

During January 2011 we are releasing a new build of the [OPLÉ Open Source software](#) for creating, maintaining and communicating ONIX-PL licence expressions. Build 1.2.3 corrects a number of mainly minor bugs which have been found in working with previous versions of the package; and it includes several enhancements to OPLÉ functionality. In particular, it improves the presentation of the 'summary view' of an ONIX-PL expression, and substantially improves the facility to assign 'categories' to templates and licence expressions, and to use assigned categories to select lists of expressions for display. More information on these and other changes will be found in the Release Notes accompanying the new build.

Installing Build 1.2.3 will not affect any ONIX-PL expressions stored in an existing OPLÉ installation, and we strongly recommend that all existing installations should upgrade to the new build as soon as possible.

ONIX for RROs: publication of expanded Dictionary for UK RROs

The ONIX for RROs message standards are supported by an ONIX-IFRRO Dictionary of coded values intended for international use between reproduction rights agencies. The standards also enable agencies to define additional values in a 'local' namespace, partly to cover specialised requirements which are not relevant to international communication, and partly to ensure that new implementations are not delayed by the approval process for extensions to the main

Dictionary. When implementation is complete, locally-defined values are reviewed for international adoption.

In 2010, the UK RROs (Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society, Copyright Licensing Agency and Publishers Licensing Society) completed a successful implementation of new systems based on ONIX for Distributions and ONIX for Repertoire. Their work resulted in the addition of a number of new terms to the international ONIX-IFRRO Dictionary. These are included in Issue 2 of the Dictionary, published on the EDItEUR website in May 2010.

By agreement with the UK RROs, we have now published on the [EDItEUR website](#) a copy of an expanded Dictionary including terms from the 'ukrro' namespace. This will ensure that a canonical version of the namespace is maintained at an accessible location, as well as providing a model for other organisations for the development and maintenance of a local namespace for ONIX for RROs.

EDItX

Revision of the EDItX Sales Report format for use in North America

The changes to the EDItX Sales Report format that are necessary to enable adoption by BISG for use in North America have been almost completed. The main change has been the addition of support for reporting sales tax either as part of a combined report or in a report separate from the general sales report. It has been agreed with BISG that formal publication of the new version (1.1) should coincide with publication of the BISG format (a subset of version 1.1) once this has been approved for publication by BISG, probably sometime in March 2011. However, implementers needing to know more about the significant changes in version 1.1 will be able to download a "release candidate" for evaluation and comment. A change-tracked draft of the release candidate has recently been circulated to the EDItX implementers' mailing list. For further information contact the EDItEUR office.

ICEDIS (the International Committee on EDI for Serials)

Extended responsibilities for ICEDIS

As previously reported, important changes have taken place in the remit and scope of ICEDIS. The ICEDIS Committee and its working subgroups now oversee activities across the range of EDItEUR standards in the library supply chain. We are currently inviting other organizations to join EDItEUR so that players outside the traditional publisher/agent group can be better represented. These efforts include a specific outreach to organizations based in North America, who may previously have been unaware of ICEDIS activities or unable to participate in the existing meetings held in Europe. From 2011, it is planned to hold one ICEDIS meeting per year in North America, in addition to the established meetings held every year in conjunction with UKSG and the Frankfurt Book Fair.

ICEDIS Claims messaging

EDItEUR has recently delivered a 0.1 draft version of the newly created Claims Message – an XML schema, extended code lists and overview documentation. Constructed in a similar way to the EDItX family of transactional formats, the message has been created based on business requirements identified by the ICEDIS Claims Team. In the first instance, the draft message will

be piloted between partnerships of organizations within the Team and used to communicate claims for print resources and structured responses to those claims. Later, experience from the pilots will be incorporated to arrive at a robust, published version for wider rollout.

Preservation applications and ONIX for Serials SOH

Following initial approaches by the EDINA team co-managing the PEPRS project, EDItEUR has organized meetings of a range of players involved in preservation activities. In addition to the British Library and other existing members of EDItEUR/ICEDIS, these have also involved parties such as PORTICO, LOCKSS & CLOCKSS, the ISSN International Centre and the eDepot of the Koninklijke Bibliotheek in the Netherlands. Business cases and data flows are being examined, and the likely outcome is that the SOH format of ONIX for Serials (Serials Online Holdings) will be extended to facilitate communications between the main players in the preservation chain – publishers, preservation agencies, operators of registry services like PEPRS, the ISSN International Centre and libraries.

More details are available from info@editeur.org if other organizations would like to participate or be briefed on this work. And for information on the PEPRS project – Piloting an E-Journal Preservation Registry Service – go to <http://edina.ac.uk/projects/peprs/>

Extending ONIX for Serials to cater for ebooks

At the October 2010 ICEDIS meeting in Frankfurt, it was agreed that we should review the ONIX for Serials standard in light of the emergence of ebook collections, subscribable databases and other non-journal product offerings. A review group was assembled to advise on these issues and to review proposals made by EDItEUR. The group has recently concluded the main part of its work: after three conference calls and a series of email exchanges, we agreed detailed modifications to the three ONIX for Serials formats – SPS, SOH and SRN – as well as the ICEDIS Publisher's Price List, which is a specific instance of SPS.

The formats proved to be remarkably resilient and extensible. Most of the changes involved renaming of data elements to generalize various expressions relating to "serial" resources, whilst a small number of additions to the ONIX for Serials code list were found to be necessary. Revised and updated formats (still preserving backwards compatibility with earlier releases) will be announced and published on the EDItEUR website over the next few months. EDItEUR would like to express appreciation to the members of the review group, who contributed enthusiastically to the process and helped ensure its relevance to today's business challenges.

Plans for Spring 2011

A busy programme is in prospect for ICEDIS and EDItEUR's serials initiatives over the coming months. In addition to the projects reported elsewhere, ICEDIS will be gearing up for the wider rollout of the Publisher's Price List so that the infrastructure is in place in time for the summer communication of 2012 serials prices. Now that the new Claim messages for print resources are moving into a pilot phase, the Claims Team will turn its attention to approaches for claiming online resources. A parallel Address & Identifier Team will meanwhile be devising a structured address format that can be used wherever needed within the message set. And to further improve implementation support, EDItEUR will gradually introduce HTML user guides for each format – allowing for clearer documentation and easier navigation through to topics of particular

interest. The next meeting of ICEDIS will be held in Harrogate, UK on Wednesday 6th April, in conjunction with the UKSG meeting that will take place 4th – 6th April.

Accessibility projects

Enabling Technologies Framework Project

Following on from the success of Enabling Technologies Discussion Forum at the Frankfurt Book Fair the project is now focusing on producing best practice guidelines for publishers to follow in their production process. Where appropriate these will encourage integration of existing standards (including ONIX for Books, ePub and DAISY) into mainstream publishing in ways that enhance best practice. Much has been learnt from the *Towards Accessibility Survey* concerning workflows in-house and current working practices. Whilst technology remains an issue in some instances, the survey has revealed that many publishers have all of the right ingredients to allow them to produce accessible files but are often not entirely sure of what is required.

Communication is hugely important at all levels of the industry and it is the intention that the guidelines will offer advice for specific departments, allowing every person to contribute towards publishing accessible products.

It was noted that whilst production and IT departments may indeed be poised and ready for action it is important that Heads of Houses and senior management are equally well informed. There will be guidelines on how to manage this issue at every level with recommendations for senior executives and internal advocates.

If you would like information on any aspect of the project please contact Sarah Hilderley (sarah@editeur.org). Details of your own best practice could be vital to the outcome of this project and we are interested in learning of everyone's endeavours.

New members

We welcome Elkotob.com who joined as Full Members of EDItEUR in December and wanted to let you know a little bit more about them. They are our first members to be based in Egypt. An introduction to Elkotob's areas of expertise is below:

About Elkotob

Elkotob.com is an Egyptian company that was founded in 2006, as one of The Book Depository group companies, to support the Book Depository business in both operational and development terms. The company operates in two locations with its headquarters in Alexandria in addition to its Cairo branch with currently 65 full time employees.

In the last 4 years Elkotob.com has developed a number of major projects ranging from world class e-commerce websites to automated internal systems for pricing optimisation, and supply chain management. Elkotob.com also has a very strong and competent operations division that handles The Book Depository daily ordering, customer support and technical support round-the-clock. The company had a dedicated pre-publishing team that managed to produce more than 14,000 digitized books for print on demand under the Dodo Press imprint which is owned by The Book Depository group.

Recently Elkotob.com has started a number of projects to enhance the supply chain for Arabic books aiming to bring Arabic books market to a global scale and to become the

biggest Arabic book bibliographic data source. Another part of these projects is to promote international standards through offering free training and tools to encourage Arabic book industry players to adopt them.

Forthcoming events

ASA Conference 2011

21 – 22 February 2011

Royal College of Nursing, 20 Cavendish Square, London W1G 0RN, UK

For further information: www.subscription-agents.org/conferences2011

ICEDIS meeting

6 April 2011

Harrogate, Yorkshire, UK

For further information: www.editeur.org

United Kingdom Serials Group (UKSG) Conference 2011

4 – 6 April 2011

Harrogate, Yorkshire, UK

For further information: www.uksg.org/events/annualconference

London Book Fair

11-13 April 2011

Earls Court Exhibition Centre, London

For further information: www.londonbookfair.co.uk

ONIX for Books International Steering Committee

12 April 2011

Earls Court Exhibition Centre, London

For further information: <http://www.editeur.org/3/Events/Event-Details/81>

EDiEUR Open Meeting for members

12 April 2011

Earls Court Exhibition Centre, London

For further information: <http://www.editeur.org/3/Events/Event-Details/82>

LBF Supply Chain Seminar

13 April 2011

Earls Court Exhibition Centre, London

For further information: <http://www.bic.org.uk/34/EVENTS-AND-PRESENTATIONS/>

The 12th annual LBF Supply Chain Seminar will comprise a series of short presentations on topical supply chain issues, both physical and digital. Pre-registration is required - there is a fee of £75 plus UK VAT (£90 in all) for attendance.

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