

Newsletter November 2009

ONIX for Books

During October we published guidelines for using the new "block update" facility in ONIX for Books 3.0. They can be found on the [Release 3.0 Downloads](#) page on the [EDItEUR website](#).

The ONIX for Books International Steering Committee met in Frankfurt on October 13. You can read the full [minutes](#) on the website. To allow early implementers of ONIX 3.0 a reasonable period to identify possible additional requirements, but at the same time to ensure that there would be a further update of the code lists before the new release came into widespread use, the Committee decided that Code Lists Issue 11 would be scheduled for March 2010, with a deadline of the end of January for suggestions from national groups or other sources.

Following requests from users, the Committee agreed that we should explore the business case for extending the Content Item structure within ONIX for Books to cover track listings for audio or video content, and other possible applications relating to digital products. We expect to have proposals ready for the next meeting at the London Book Fair, April 2010.

EDItEUR is also looking at the possible use of the Schematron language with ONIX and other XML standards, to make it possible to validate not only the basic structure and code values but also the business rules which are part of the specification. Another advantage of this approach, which has already been used successfully by BookNet Canada, is that it can be used to provide plain-language context-specific error reports.

ONIX for Licensing Terms

This extended family of messages is coming increasingly to the fore, as the communication of rights and licensing information rises up everyone's agenda in publishing.

We are currently working very actively in the [ARROW](#) project, which is aiming to provide rights and licensing information for libraries seeking to undertake digitization projects. ARROW, which is supported by the European Commission under the eContentplus Programme, includes representatives of a wide group of stakeholders from across Europe – national libraries, publishers, authors and collective management organizations. EDItEUR's role is to provide the messaging standards which allow for communication between the network of partners necessary to provide the infrastructure to support the process of identifying rightsholders and providing permissions – particularly permissions for the digitization of "orphan works" (those whose rightsholders cannot be identified or traced).

This work has much in common with a requirements study which has recently begun at BISG in the USA. BISG has established a BISAC Rights Committee with a remit "to develop and maintain industry-wide best practices that supports the electronic transmission of rights information between trading partners". A specific part of their challenge relates to communication with the *Book Rights Registry* that is expected to be established in response to the settlement of the Google Book Search class action. EDItEUR is maintaining a close dialogue with BISG and this committee to minimize the risk of duplication of effort.

EDI and EDItX

Survey of current and expected future use of EDI

EDItEUR has published a report on a survey conducted over the summer of 2009 into the current and expected future use of EDI in the international book trade. The report is being circulated widely and views on its conclusions are being canvassed.

One of the main conclusions of the report is that, while there is plenty of life left in traditional EDI, with some further adoption of EDIFACT expected over the next few years, there is significant growth in interest in EDItX XML-based transaction formats to meet new communication requirements. This has served to confirm that, so far as EDI is concerned, it is on the development, maintenance and promotion of XML-based formats that EDItEUR should be concentrating its resources for the foreseeable future.

To receive a copy of this report, please contact us by email at info@editeur.org.

EDItX message formats

Corrections to two EDItX XML schemas

Two of the EDItX v1.1 XML schemas have been found to contain errors. These have now been replaced on the EDItEUR website with corrected schemas. The formats affected are: OrderCancelation and CDFOrder. We recommend that anyone planning to implement either of these two formats should make sure that they have up-to-date copies of the relevant XML schemas, which can be downloaded from the EDItX section of our website.

Publication of the EDItX Trade and CDF Credit Note v1.0 format expected soon

A draft specification and draft XML schema for an EDItX Trade and CDF Credit Note V1.0 format have been circulated to potential implementers for final review and comment. Publication can be expected by the end of the year. If you are interested in implementing this format and would like to review the current draft, please email info@editeur.org.

EDItX Code Lists Issue 4

EDItX implementers and potential implementers are asked to submit requests for new code values for any of the EDItX formats. A small list of changes has already been assembled and an Issue 4 will be published early in 2010. **The deadline for requests is 24 December 2009.**

EDItX_IMPLEMENT discussion list established

Mindful of the success of the ONIX_IMPLEMENT discussion list as a forum for implementers of ONIX for Books, EDItEUR has now established a new discussion list on Yahoo! Groups called EDItX_IMPLEMENT as an announcement and discussion forum for EDItX implementers. Terms of participation are as for ONIX_IMPLEMENT.

To join the group, please go to: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/EDITX_IMPLEMENT/join or send an email to EDItX_IMPLEMENT-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

ICEDIS (the International Committee on EDI for Serials)

Autumn meeting in Frankfurt

ICEDIS continues to act as an active business reference group for our serials activities. The ICEDIS meeting held just before the Frankfurt Book Fair in early October was very well attended and was able both to review and confirm earlier activities and to provide guidance on priorities and next steps.

Results and proposals from the ICEDIS Roadmap survey were presented. The meeting confirmed three areas of high priority over coming months:

- Active implementation and roll out of the new ICEDIS Price Message in time for use in Summer 2010, carrying price information for subscription year 2011.
- A new project to investigate Claims and to come up with improved methods for automated processing of Claims and Claims Responses.
- Revisiting the need for Institutional Identifiers and the benefits/barriers associated with exchanging Structured Addresses.

Encouraging implementation

With the focus squarely on implementation, ICEDIS will be holding a special meeting in London, UK on 3rd December 2009, to coincide with London Online. This session will be looking at ways of assisting and driving forward implementation of the Price Message, but also examining issues raised by recent preparations to use the ONIX for Serials SRN (Serial Release Notification) format to communicate despatch and release dates. Additionally, we will take the opportunity to share initial ideas presented by partners in the Claims project.

Surveying standards implemented

Final responses are coming in from ICEDIS members to a survey of which serials standards either have been implemented or could be introduced relatively straightforwardly if business needs so dictate. Results of the survey will be available during December and will be compared with those from a similar EDI survey carried out in the books area earlier in the year.

The ICEDIS survey has two strands: the primary focus was initially on establishing which standards are supported by which systems vendors, since assistance from vendors can significantly reduce entry barriers to publishers wishing to introduce structured information exchanges and messaging. The second strand involves our compiling a reference grid of which ICEDIS members (agents and publishers) have actively implemented each standard: the aim here is more clearly to establish the extent of uptake and also which pairs of business partners might use each format.

Other work in progress

We have a number of other strands of work keeping us busy at the moment.

“ONIX for Everything”

With the growing convergence between business models, particular for digital and online resources, EDItEUR is carrying out a preparatory review of the ONIX for Serials formats to establish how best they can be extended when needed beyond “conventional” serial

resources. A case in point is the emergence of “subscribable offerings” containing e-books, databases and learning resources. The recent release of ONIX for Books Release 3.0 considerably enhanced the features available to deal with e-books per se; now we wish to make sure that we are equally well-placed to support subscription offerings to these and other e-resources.

Identifiers for eBooks

The issue of the most effective way of identifying ebooks in the supply chain continues to generate a considerable amount of heat. Both Mark Bide and Brian Green (together with Ann-Marie Breaux of YBP) spoke to a session of the Charleston Conference early in November entitled *Towards Resolving Chaos in the e-Book Supply Chain*. This is an issue which has a considerable impact on EDItEUR standards as well as on the ISBN community itself, and we continue to follow developments very closely.

Pilot projects

In September 2009, Eduserv commissioned EDItEUR to prepare and deliver an ONIX-PL expression of Eduserv’s standard licence terms, together with a short report outlining issues which had arisen in the course of the work, and any additions which had been made to the ONIX-PL vocabulary in order to enable Eduserv licence terms to be expressed.

The work has been undertaken in close collaboration with Eduserv staff, in particular Ed Barker, Nikki Green, and Allen McCarrol, whose contributions are acknowledged with thanks.

Executive Director’s Report to Members

Mark Bide’s report on the last 6 months is available on our website at:

<http://www.editeur.org/2/About/#ED%20report>

New members

We welcome Eduserv who joined as Full Members of EDItEUR in October and wanted to let you know a little bit more about them. An introduction to Eduserv’s areas of expertise is below:

About Eduserv

Eduserv is a not-for-profit IT services organisation. We were established out of partnerships that developed between universities in the UK in the 1980s.

Using our knowledge and 20 years of experience working in academia we have enabled publishers worldwide to tailor their licensing and pricing to meet the specific needs of universities and colleges in the UK and Ireland through our **Chest Agreements**. 97% of universities and colleges in the UK benefit from having at least one Chest Agreement.

We are recognised leaders in single sign-on solutions. We have provided a secure and reliable managed service to large-scale communities since 1995. Today more than three million learners and researchers worldwide use our **OpenAthens** technology to access hundreds of commercially available online resources from around 150 leading publishers.

Our clients include universities and colleges, libraries for health, commercial research organisations and publishers of online content.

www.eduserv.org.uk

In case you missed them...

The presentations from the *International Supply Chain Seminar* are available to view or download at: <http://www.editeur.org/3/Events/Event-Details/31>

Minutes of the recent EDiTEUR meetings at Frankfurt are available as follows:

Open Meeting: <http://www.editeur.org/3/Events/Event-Details/32>

ICEDIS Meeting: <http://www.editeur.org/3/Events/Event-Details/34>

ONIX for Books International Steering Committee: <http://www.editeur.org/16/Maintenance-and-support/>

Metadata and the skills gap – a view from the UK’s Technology Strategy Board

Metadata is rising up the agenda in all sorts of places, as its importance in the support of ecommerce becomes more widely understood. While this story may appear to be of most interest to our UK members, we believe it will have much wider resonance.

The Technology Strategy Board was established by the UK Government in 2007 and is sponsored by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). Its role is “to stimulate technology-enabled innovation in areas that offer high potential for UK growth and productivity”. As well as spreading knowledge, the Board brings people together to solve problems or make new advances and advises Government on how to remove barriers to innovation and accelerate the exploitation of new technologies.

The Technology Strategy Board recently held a live webcast, “Digital Horizons: Commercialising Innovation” focused on issues surrounding metadata within the creative industries. The conclusion drawn by the panel was that “there is a huge challenge for businesses to find and develop the right skill-sets capable of creating and driving new markets and services by unlocking the opportunities of the burgeoning metadata. Of course, not all the traffic is outwards to the consumer – metadata opens the door to user generated metadata too. Creative business need the capacity not only to ingest the data but also to process and data mine it extensively so that they understand market signals, interpreting appropriately to ensure they remain innovative. “

Forthcoming events

Online Information 2009

Online Information and IMS together create the largest event dedicated to the information industry. Alongside the exhibitions runs the highly regarded international conference.

Olympia Grand Hall, London, UK
01 December - 03 December 2009
www.online-information.co.uk/index.html

ICEDIS Meeting

The next meeting for ICEDIS members will take place 10.30 – 12.30 in London on 3 December 2009:

The Regus Group
Crown House
72 Hammersmith Road
London
W14 8TH

The focus will be squarely on pilots and implementation and the three major points on the Agenda will be these:

1. The new ICEDIS Price Message:
 - Sharing experience to date from Wiley as an early implementor.
 - Ironing out or explaining any "wrinkles" or unclarity.
 - Steps to ensure a widespread rollout during early 2010.
2. The recent initiative to start work on Claims & Claims Responses.
3. Feedback from ICEDIS members implementing the Serials Release Notification (SRN).

The meeting is likely to be of most interest to those ICEDIS partners who are either actively engaged in, or considering, Price Message implementation or are involved in the working group on Claims. But all ICEDIS members will be most welcome to participate.

Facing the Challenge of Digital Change

BIC and the Publishers Association and its Digital Publishing Forum are organising an afternoon seminar to showcase current digital publishing issues.

2.30 pm RIBA, 66 Portland Place, London W1
[http://www.bic.org.uk/34/News-and-Events/.](http://www.bic.org.uk/34/News-and-Events/)

Thank you.

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