Members Open Meeting Synopsis

Wednesday 8th October 2014, 15:30–17:00 CEST (UTC+2),
Room Facette, Hall 4.2, Messe Frankfurt

This is not a formal set of minutes; it simply provides an overview of the meeting.

1. Graham Bell, EDItEUR's new Executive Director, opened the meeting and noted that this is a primary opportunity for EDItEUR Members to ask us questions and to learn about our work. The meeting attendees then introduced themselves in turn, and Graham particularly welcomed those who had not attended an Open Meeting before.

2. Identifiers
   a. ISBN – Stella Griffiths updated the meeting on the recent work of the International ISBN Agency. Its Annual General Meeting was held in Istanbul in September and was co-located with similar AGMs for the governing authorities of the ISSN and ISMN standards. During 2014, regional meetings have also taken place in Jordan, for Arabic Agencies, and in Montenegro, for Balkan Agencies. The 2015 AGM will take place in Indonesia.

      The ISBN Users' Manual is now available in 13 languages. Stella asked delegates to let us know if they felt there was a need for a translation for their own market.

      The new ISBN website went live in March 2014. As a consequence of this, 2014's edition of the PIID product from De Gruyter will be the last. Instead, the International ISBN Agency will shortly release its own online and free-to-use Global Register of Publishers.

      Standards like ISBN are subject to regular review. There is an ongoing revision of the ISBN standard, where we will shortly issue a Committee Draft. The published revision of the standard is still at least two years away. Stella noted that, amongst other changes, a section about ISBN-A is to be included for the first time.

      Stella closed by noting next year will mark 50 years of standard book numbering. To coincide with this anniversary there will be events at either the London or Frankfurt Book Fairs.

   b. ISNI – Beat Barblan of Bowker spoke about ISNI. There has been encouraging progress in the take-up of this identifier, with Wikipedia now beginning to use ISNIs on appropriate pages. Beat spoke about the mandatory information that is required for ISNI registration to verify a unique persona.

   c. ISTC – Nick Woods updated the group about the ISTC. There has been a distinct lack of adoption of the ISTC to identify text-based works, and it is generally accepted that the scope or the registration process for this identifier may well need revision. Todd Carpenter of NISO confirmed the ISO process for such a revision to the standard.

3. ICEDIS

    Tim Devenport spoke about EDItEUR's serials special interest group. In 2014, ICEDIS has held meetings at UKSG in Harrogate meeting and earlier in the week in Frankfurt, with a final meeting to be held in Charleston in November.

    The main work at present is the consideration of a new generation of XML-based transactional standards, to replace various fixed-format message standards (the 'mag tape standards') that have been in use for over two decades. There is currently debate amongst stakeholders about the business benefits of change and we need to establish the degree of commitment of our members to developing these standards.

    Tim noted the current ICEDIS working group on Open Access and its impact on our existing standards. This group is considering whether there is a need for a standard for transacting Article Processing Charges.

    Tim also spoke about ONIX-PC – the serials standard that most closely resembles ONIX for Books. It describes subscription products and contains a large pricing component. The news on ONIX-PC is that it has been adopted by four major publishers.

4. EDItX

    These transactional standards are XML-based equivalents of various EDI messages. The exception is the EDItX sales reporting message. This message is used by retailers to report back e-book sales to the publisher, who can then begin to issue invoices, recognise sales and pay royalties. Further adoption of EDItX has been noted, particularly in Germany. BISG in the US also publishes a limited flat-file (non-XML) version of the sales report message. EDItEUR anticipates that it will require attention because of a) changes to EU VAT legislation (the location of the purchaser now matters); b) in ONIX for Books it is possible to attach a proprietary identifier to each price; that level of granularity is not yet available in EDItX.

    A discussion involving EDItEUR members KNV and Hachette then took place. KNV is working with the EDItX Consumer Direct Fulfilment message and Graham noted that drop shipment is now in significant use in Germany.

5. ONIX and *Thema*
    a. ONIX for Books – Graham highlighted the forthcoming 'sunsetting' of support for ONIX 2.1 at the end of 2014. The 2.1 documents will be archived and some online validation tools will no longer be available. The ONIX International Steering Committee, after much discussion, has come to an agreement over post-sunset ('twilight') updates for 2.1: there will be some continuing support for ONIX 2.1 codelists through 2015 because we need to make migration to ONIX 3.0 as smooth as possible for organisations that have not been able to migrate to 3.0 prior to sunset.

       In other news, ONIX continues its development with the regular release of new codelists – issue 27 is due for publication later in October.

    b. *Thema* – Alex Ingram introduced himself as a new member of the EDItEUR team and then spoke about *Thema*. EDItEUR and the *Thema* International Steering Committee are currently

considering requests from national groups for enhancements that could be included in v1.1 (which is currently in draft). The number of national groups is increasing – including the recent creation of the China National Group – and *Thema* has built significant momentum during its first year.

c. *ONIX*-PL – Graham next spoke about ONIX-PL, a standard used for describing licences. Although usage is very limited, it is in use in some critical areas. This summer saw the biggest single update of ONIX-PL with the release of the ONIX-PL Dictionary version 5. Much of this update came out of a NISO project and Todd noted that the NISO project allows librarians to get a template licence and tweak it to match their final licence. 23 different template licences are now encoded – and Tim noted that three further sample licences can be found on the EDItEUR website. Graham advised that JISC Collections has spoken to EDItEUR about doing another 60 encodings.

6. Major projects

Tim updated the group on DCH-RP, which has just formally finished. The project focussed on the preservation of digital cultural heritage. One particular aspect for EDItEUR was our serving as a bridge between commercial publishers and preservation organisations active in serials publishing (some of whom are members of EDItEUR) and the cultural heritage community, and examining what factors would help publishers participate in this enterprise in the future. The project concluded that good rights information is available and it is possible to exploit these in a constructive way. It was also noted that proper governance and administration of preservation efforts is as valuable as the technical work.

Graham spoke about FORWARD. This is a new project which was first put to EDItEUR last year, but we have just begun initial evaluation work. The project looks at the rights environment for film (in other words, it is a film version of the ARROW project). We aim to build a methodology for finding out the rightsholders for works in film industry.

7. Collaborations

EDItEUR is beginning to collaborate with the W3C (World Wide Web Consortium), especially with its Digital Publishing Interest Group (DPIG), contributing our expertise in metadata. Graham has also become the Vice-Chair of the ARROW Association, a service for people who want to use the rightsholder discovery services developed by the ARROW project. And EDItEUR has become a founder member of the Linked Content Coalition. Nick spoke about the six founding stakeholders, whilst Graham updated the group on LCC's aim to encourage effective use of cross-media interoperable identifiers and metadata.

8. Graham closed the meeting and thanked delegates for their attendance. The next Members' Open Meeting will be held on Wednesday 15 April 2015 at London Book Fair.

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