

Members Open Meeting Synopsis

*Wednesday 14th October 2015, 15:30-17:00 CEST (UTC+2),
Room Facette, Hall 4.2, Frankfurt Messe*

Please note that this is not a formal set of minutes, merely a synopsis of the discussion at the meeting and should be read in conjunction with the Executive Director's report to members which is also available from the EDItEUR website.

1. Graham Bell, EDItEUR Executive Director, opened the meeting and noted that this meeting was – as always – the main opportunity at the Fair for EDItEUR members to learn about the full breadth of our work and discuss it directly with EDItEUR staff and consultants. Attendees introduced themselves and Graham noted there was a strong turnout with many new faces.
2. The **Board of EDItEUR** has – as previously planned – appointed Jesús Peraita as Chair of the Board. Jesús was formerly the deputy chair. This is due to the resignation of the previous chair Len Vlahos. Graham Bell reiterated his thanks to Len, and his best wishes for Len's new role as a bookseller. (Following the members meeting, the board has also appointed Mark Kuyper – Len's successor at BISG as the new Deputy Chair, with the expectation that he will become the Chair of the Board at the conclusion of Jesús' term of office.
3. The relaunch of the **International Supply Chain Seminar** as an independent Frankfurt event earlier in the week proved to be highly successful, with tickets sold out and one or two extra attendees who turned up on the day squeezed in at the back. Graham Bell thanked the speakers and particularly the sponsors of the event (Klopotek, Giant Chair, Bowker and Publishing Technology) who had all helped make the event such a success. He also acknowledged the support of the Frankfurt Buchmesse and the International ISBN Agency. Members should mark their 2016 calendar for the 38th International Supply Chain Seminar on Tuesday 18th October 2016 (the day before next year's Frankfurt Book Fair) !
4. **Identifiers**
 - a) ISBN – Stella Griffiths updated the meeting on the recent work at the International ISBN Agency. Stella noted that this year 50 years of standard book numbering was being celebrated including a reception at the EDItEUR International Supply Chain Seminar the previous day, and a commemorative wall-chart on display there now to be distributed to international agencies.

Their annual general meeting had been held in Bali, Indonesia in September. This was only the second time that ISBN had held an AGM in Asia, and they had been invited as part of wider efforts by Indonesia, which included their role as guest of honour at Frankfurt.

Having been an ISO standard since 1970, the ISBN has wide coverage globally with 150 agencies covering about 200 countries and continues to be adopted formally in new countries. Interest from Iraq, Angola and Yemen at the present time.

Like all ISO standards, ISBN is subject to regular systematic reviews, and is now two years into a three-year revision process. Publication of a new version of the standard should be expected around the end of 2016. The draft of the modified standard (known as the DIS) will be published in November 2015 for voting. Participating ISO member groups will vote upon this draft, and Todd Carpenter of NISO (who is also Secretary to the relevant ISO committee, TC46/SC9) noted that the draft may be the final draft of the revision if there is sufficiently clear support. Todd offered to connect people with their national groups if they didn't know which they were.

Alongside the standard itself (which is not provided free of charge) there is a revision to the *ISBN Manual*, the free-of-charge companion document which is the most widely read form of ISBN documentation.

Beyond the ISBN, Stella also involved in ISO groups looking after ISTC and ISMN among others – she is currently chair of TC46/SC9. There is work underway within SC9 looking for potential gaps in identifier coverage, and how they could be filled. The most often noted gap is identifiers for images.

Stella ended by offering to share her press release on the 50th anniversary of standard book numbering and shared the wall-chart on that 50-year history.

- b) ISNI (International Standard Name Identifier) – Nick Woods of EDItEUR spoke about ISNI, and Graham noted EDItEUR provides a limited administration service to the ISNI International Agency.

Nick noted that there are now 9 million ISNIs assigned (8.5 million individuals, 0.5 million organisations), via 3 registration agencies and 17 members. That number has stabilised because most effort in recent months has been upon agreeing a new a consolidated contract for members and registration agencies. The aim of the new contract is to provide better detail on rights and responsibilities of members, registration agencies and federated registration agencies, the latter being a new category. Federated registration agencies would be able to provide ISNIs to their affiliated members thus further widening the potential coverage. Under the new contract, much tighter controls will be in place on private and confidential data, in fact a whole annex in the new contract is to define what data is public and which is confidential whilst still being shared for disambiguation purposes.

There are now a number of agencies eagerly awaiting this new contract, and so a growth in ISNI registration agencies and consequently ISNIs themselves is expected over the next few months.

- c) ISTC (International Standard Text Code) – Nick noted that there was rather less to say on ISTC. Take-up has remained low and despite the standard being confirmed it appeared there is a consensus that it now needed to be changed to be successful. Consensus on what those changes might be is not yet in place, and progress on any changes was therefore slow. As it had been ratified as an ISO standard like ISBN, it would need a similar process of revision. Changes could be about the granularity of the identifier, the definition of 'work' and the handling of translations, adaptations, new editions and other versions, or even some kind of tiering. It remained unclear how any such changes may be moved forward. However, some progress is expected on clarification of the development roadmap by the end of the year.

5. ICEDIS

Tim Devenport commented on EDItEUR's special interest group for serials. In 2015, ICEDIS held its three annual meetings at UKSG in Glasgow and earlier in the week in Frankfurt, with the final meeting of the year to be held in Charleston in November. At the Frankfurt meeting Dan Heffernan stood down having completed a 3-year term as co-chair. Laurie Kaplan has stepped forward and takes over from November to serve alongside Shilo de Vries.

Tim made comment on the continued focus of the group on ONIX-PC, the product metadata format for serials and subscription products. EDItEUR continues to encourage further roll-out, though the imperatives are different than for the equivalent ONIX for Books standard. Further features are being added to support open access as well as paid subscriptions.

On ONIX-PL, the related format for description of publication licenses, JISC in the UK continue to expand the set of license expressions they maintain in this format. Ex-Libris (an EDItEUR member) is also working on more.

The ICEDIS working group on Open Access continues to review the needs for changes to existing standards, most particularly ONIX-PC. It was noted in the meeting that the definitions of open access themselves also need further and clearer definition, along with clarity on the distinction between policy and license.

6. Other standards

- a) ONIX-PL (as referred to above) has been stable for some years now. Small changes are occurring via new issues of the codelists (termed the ONIX-PL 'Dictionary'), with the format stable and no foreseen changes.
- b) Francis Cave reported on EDItX – a communication with multiple potential applications, but the main interest is in sales reporting. The discussion about reporting of sales under new business models in EDItC is intricately linked to the question of their expression within ONIX. It is therefore likely that an update to EDItX may be produced alongside the forthcoming update to ONIX 3.0.3.

A further use of EDItX is that of describing digital inventory, not the quantity of titles held but as a standard for the clear and easy description of the status of inventory for a publisher within an aggregator or retailer enabling resolution of issues with metadata and files that prevent titles from being on sale.

7. ONIX and Thema

- a) ONIX for Books – Graham Bell reported that the sunset for the ONIX 2.1 standard as discussed at the 2014 Frankfurt meeting has now occurred. During the 2015 calendar year, ONIX 2.1 has been in a 'twilight' status. This meant that a small number of codelists specific to ONIX 2.1 were maintained. From the beginning of 2016, only codelists used in ONIX 3.0 will be maintained, though exceptions may be made for any legal issues that arise. Consequently, there has been a focus on work to speed the transition from 2.1 to 3.0 in the markets with the most remaining 2.1 use – Germany, USA and the UK. This will continue. ONIX 3.0.3 was discussed in the ONIX meeting immediately prior to the open meeting. This had been timetabled for delivery in January, but given the range of views expressed in the

ONIX meeting on certain proposed new elements, a working group will be convened and delivery is likely to be a little further into 2016.

There were a number of new countries represented in the ONIX meeting today and the global take-up remains strong, particularly in Asia where the full Chinese translation of ONIX is now an official standard. And there are some good early signs in South America with a partial Portuguese translation for the Brazilian market.

- b) *Thema* – Alex Ingram reported on *Thema*. *Thema* continues to power along in only its second year. There was a record attendance at the *Thema* meeting prior to the open meeting, with over 30 attendees, and that interest reflects ongoing efforts at translation and adoption in countries around the world. Currently *Thema* has translations (full or partial) in 11 languages, with further adoption likely particularly in China.

Thema had originally been promoted as a scheme to be mapped *into* or classified with, as part of the goal of becoming a truly global classification scheme. In some territories (initially Germany and Britain) it has already become necessary to add a reverse mapping (ie *out of Thema* into some legacy scheme). This helps at a crucial stage of adoption to handle systems reliant on *Thema* interfacing with those using WGS or BIC.

The first batch of collated national extensions to the scheme were approved at the meeting in Frankfurt. A working group on geographical coverage using national extensions for countries yet to adopt *Thema* started after the London Book Fair now has some draft proposals which are being revised in light of feedback at Frankfurt.

Finally, agreement was reached at Frankfurt for the beginning of work on a *Thema* 1.2, which would encompass perhaps 100 additions or modifications to the scheme. These changes would be to reflect issues from mappings, classification of books and wider proposals.

8. Major Projects

Tim Devenport discussed the FORWARD project, an EU film heritage project with a goal of a virtual single central database of films in film institute archives around Europe, particularly focused on orphan works. It is conceptually similar to ARROW, which identified rights organisations and holders of resources, and FORWARD also supports diligent search.

EDItEUR has developed a shared data schema to describe cinematic works and associated items (promotional material, contributors etc.). First exchanges of data using this schema have now occurred and were relatively smooth.

9. Collaborations

EDItEUR has continued to work with other groups, especially in national markets to assist in the delivery of useful standards information. In particular this has led to collaborations with the BISG in the US on mapping from ONIX 3.0 to Schema.org. Graham Bell led this working group looking at how to use schema.org, the aim being to encourage publishers, retailers and others to provide high quality structured metadata within web pages that describe books, in order to improve online discoverability.

Alex Ingram was a key participant in the BISG ONIX 3.0 Working Group and assisted in a completed review and detailed revision of their *Best Practices for Product Metadata* to make ONIX 3.0 more prominent and ensure accurate and useful coverage of the standard. In addition, surveys have been made of the US book trade to get more detail of the state of ONIX 3.0 adoption.

Finally, as a project for the Independent Publishers Guild in the UK, a suite of online training to provide an introduction to the basic principles of metadata has been developed. This provides an interactive environment for self-led training in the IPG's Tim Rix memorial programme. Early feedback has been incredibly positive, and though there is exclusivity for this in the UK, we are exploring licensing options for other markets.

10. Graham closed the meeting and thanked delegates for their attendance. The next Members' Open Meeting will be held on Wednesday 13th April 2015 at the London Book Fair.

EDItEUR
15th October 2015