

Members Open Meeting Synopsis

*Wednesday 13th April 2016, 15:30-17:00 BST (UTC+1),
Dark Room, Olympia, Hammersmith, London*

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.
2. Graham noted the synopsis of the last Open meeting and a Exec Director's Report to members had been available on the EDiTEUR website since just after the Frankfurt Book Fair. He also reported that the Board of EDiTEUR had the previous day welcomed José Borghino of the International Publishers Association to his first Board meeting, and that the meeting had re-elected Tom West of PLS as EDiTEUR treasurer.

3. **International ISBN Agency**

Stella Griffiths noted that the role of the International Agency is providing overall management for the global ISBN system and coordinating the 151 national agencies (covering 200 countries), which supply ISBNs to publishers around the world. The next AGM of the Agencies will be in Vienna, but Stella and Nick also attend regional Agency meetings – for example there is an active Balkan group. The International Agency has also recently hosted visiting staff from the South Korean and Polish agencies. There are more than 1.6 million publishers which have an ISBN prefix or a block of ISBNs.

The Agency is continuing work on a minor revision to the ISBN standard: it is now two years into this process, and the revision should complete in 2016. The new Draft Standard went to ISO ballot in February. There is just a month left to go on this ballot. The Agency is hoping for a positive result, and a move to publication. If not, then there may be further round of revision to the Draft.

The Standard changes much less than the Users Manual. One of the areas with more detail in the forthcoming revised Users Manual is self-publishing, including what self-publishers should do in managing their ISBNs. An informative annex about ISBN-A (actionable ISBN) is also being added. There remains some concern at abuses of system, including the reselling of ISBNs. The User Manual is available for free in 14 languages, whereas the Standard itself is chargeable.

4. **ISNI International Agency**

Nick Woods explained that EDiTEUR provides a limited secretariat service to the ISNI International Agency. One of the major activities recently has been the redrafting of the Contract with members and registration agencies, largely to cover the handling of personal data – DOB, real names, pseudonyms etc. Revised contracts were issued from the start of this year.

Within EDiTEUR, a transition is underway, with Tim Devenport and Suzanne Rozario picking functions previously performed by Nick. Tim could not be present at the Members Meeting because of commitments to EDiTEUR's ICEDIS serials special interest group meeting in Bournemouth. In his place, Graham provided a short ISNI update, noting that interest in ISNI continues to grow, although it's fair to

say that there is ‘competition’ in this space with OCLC’s VIAF and the ORCID ID for (mostly academic) authors, and with the proprietary Ringgold ID for organizational identification – plus LOTS of non-optimal internal proprietary schemes. ISNI can act as a linking ID, forming a bridge between these IDs from other schemes and assisting in disambiguation and deduplication.

There are over 9 million ISNIs registered so far, of which 8.5 million are for individuals and 0.5 million are for organizations. At the latest count, 10 ISNI Registration Agencies are active in a variety of business sectors, alongside 22 member organizations. There’s also a ‘pipeline’ of 10 or more prospective members with whom we are currently in touch.

More information about various ISNI-related projects and other initiatives is available from Tim on request. These are of particular importance in (a) demonstrating the utility and business value of ISNI and (b) explaining that this is by no means ‘just’ an exercise in identifier assignment.

5. **ISTC International Agency**

Graham reported that in contrast to the ISNI, the ISTC was not so successful. The future of the standard was unclear at the time of the last Members Meeting. Since then, an outline proposal to start work on a revision of the ISTC standard had been supplied to ISO. This would be considered by ISO, and a vote or ballot would decide whether a revision would go ahead. If the revision word does go ahead, the process is likely to take up to two years, but the aim would be to create a version of the standard that meets a broader range of market requirements for the identification of textual works.

Stella spoke for ISO TC46/SC9 saying there was no ballot yet, but it was important to remember it is the national standards bodies in ISO that will vote. Henning Schoenenberger expressed the need to involve publishers and data recipients in changing the standard. Stella and Graham confirmed that national standards bodies will have the opportunity to involve experts from the industry in any revision working group.

LD saw ISNI as being successful and attracting interest by being cross-media, where ISTC was limited to textual works – there may be a need for a more cross-media work identifier to encourage wider use. [NB music, film, *etc* do already have good work identifiers, but the still image sector does not.]

6. **ICEDIS and EDItEUR standards and activities for serials and library supply**

Tim was not able to attend the Members Meeting (see above) but he had provided an update which was delivered by Graham. He noted that ICEDIS – EDItEUR’s special interest group for the serials sector – is meeting today at the UKSG (UK Serials Group) meeting in Bournemouth. Co-chair Dan Heffernan (Advantage Computing Systems) stepped down after Frankfurt, having completed his three years in post and Laurie Kaplan of Proquest has become the new co-chair.

Other co-chair Shilo de Vries of Taylor and Francis will step down after the Bournemouth meeting, having also completed her term. A new co-chair is due to be selected in Bournemouth. To both Dan and Shilo go our sincere thanks and gratitude for the work they put in.

Since the last Open Meeting at Frankfurt, EDItEUR has also held an ICEDIS update briefing for North American colleagues at the Charleston Conference Nov 2015. Laurie chaired that meeting and she is already bringing energy and new perspectives (as a library services provider) to our efforts

The main focus of the ICEDIS work since Frankfurt has been on support for Open Access workflows and in particular, extending ONIX-PC (ONIX for Product Catalog) to include a range of OA-related features. A new version 1.2 of the standard has been published and it is currently undergoing pilot testing – the aim is for the first implementers to roll out this new version in time for the summer 20156 pricing and renewals round (for calendar year 2017 subscriptions). Leading lights in this work have been Springer Nature, Wiley, Harrassowitz and LM Info. More recently, Ingenta (formerly Publishing Technology) has begun building

ONIX-PC support into their subscription management software, and this will benefit several key journals publishers, including for example Cambridge University Press.

EDItEUR has also participated in outreach activities to others working to improve Open Access workflows, notably JISC in the United Kingdom – cooperation is ongoing. Finally, EDItEUR is trying to stimulate a debate around the increased use of public party identifiers for publishers, other organizations in the workflow and even publisher's imprints – feel ISNI may have a particular role to play.

7. ONIX for Books, Thema, EDItX and other standards for the book supply chain

a) ONIX

At the time of the Frankfurt Book Fair the ONIX for Books International Steering Committee had constituted a Technical Working Group to consider proposals for a minor revision of ONIX 3.0. This working group had completed its work, having held weekly meetings over several months, and had delivered its recommendations to the Steering Committee. The committee had met immediately before the Members Meeting.

Graham thanked the members of the TWG for their efforts. The recommendations laid out a dozen updates to be added to ONIX 3.0 (all optional, so no existing ONIX 3.0 systems or data would be invalidated). These range from the relatively simple – adding structured star ratings to reviews – to the potentially very powerful such as the ability to target marketing collateral at particular parts of the market (eg having separate covers for Europe and North America for the same book). The International Steering Committee had accepted the recommendations in full.

There was one proposal which generated a great deal of discussion, which centred on adding a brand new <PriceConstraint> composite within <Price>. There was concern that this moved away from existing best practices for ISBN. The final agreed structure of <PriceConstraint> is only a limited version of the original proposal, and is viewed as a practical response to the needs within the market, without going against good ISBN practice.

Another proposal – that for a new ONIX 3.0 block for production, POD and e-book conversion instructions – had been put on hold, and a new Technical Working Group would consider it.

Graham reported that he expected ONIX 3.0.3 to be published on the EDItEUR website in early May, alongside Issue 33 of the codelists.

Graham also reported a very successful US-based training programme carried out in March in cooperation with BISG. Any member who wanted to work with EDItEUR on face-to-face ONIX (or *Thema*) training – either for third parties or in-house – should contact Graham. Some online training modules are also available for licensing from EDItEUR (exclusive licences have already been agreed in the UK and Australia).

The other BISG collaboration, a document on mapping ONIX to *Thema*, is approaching its end, and should be published in early summer.

b) Thema

Thema is a new standard for subject classification the book trade, now two and a half years old. Like ONIX, there had been a Technical Working Group focusing for the last few months on revisions for an updated version, *Thema* 1.2. The Technical Working Group had delivered its recommendations to the *Thema* International Steering Committee. *Thema* 1.2 had mostly been agreed at the meeting of the Steering Committee prior to the Members Meeting and was set for release in mid-May.

Alex noted the agreed *Thema* 'mission statement': "*Thema is a multilingual subject category scheme designed to meet the needs of publishers, retailers and trade intermediaries in all sectors of the global book publishing business. It is managed by an international group of stakeholders, and is free to use. Thema aims to enhance the merchandising, discoverability and potential sales of books by simplifying*

the communication of accurate and detailed subject information across international markets and reducing the need to maintain numerous national subject schemes.” He added that another aim was to retain the easy-to-learn nature of *Thema*, saying that publisher, retailer and possibly library staff should be able to understand the scheme and how it should be applied in no more than a couple of hours.

The scheme itself is available in something like a dozen languages, with a few others coming – Chinese, Turkish, Hungarian, Portuguese, Greek are known to be in preparation. These translations and related mapping work often throw up gaps or minor problems with *Thema*, and those are addressed as part of the revision process.

Alex also noted that *Thema* was considered to be the new ‘national scheme’ within the books in print systems in Germany, Sweden and Norway, where the old schemes had already been displaced. Adoption in other countries was progressing too, with statements of support due to be released from Amazon, Waterstones, Blackwells *etc* the day after the meeting at the BIC Supply Chain Seminar.

c) EDItX

Francis Cave, consultant to EDItEUR, said there was very little to report on changes to the EDItX standards since Frankfurt, but discussions with EDItX users including Hachette would lead to an upgrade of the EDItX Sales Report format in the next few months – expanding it to handle nuanced details on pricing and digital sales. Ambiguities in existing specification would be dealt with. He noted there appeared to be more interest and demand for EDItX Sales Reporting recently. GB said he was aware of various issues with EDItX documentation and hoped there would be an opportunity to address over the summer. There should also be an update of the EDItX Inventory report. FC noted that EDItX ‘just works’, so there are relatively few requests for changes/corrections.

Bente Franck-Saetervoll proposed that there should be an International Steering Committee specifically for EDItX, as for *Thema* and ONIX. Graham supported this, as it would give momentum and clarity on governance, and Francis agreed it would improve visibility.

8. Major Projects

The major ongoing external project was FORWARD, 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.

9. Summary of planned new work

- a. Publishing *Thema* 1.2
- b. Publishing ONIX 3.0
- c. Working group on production, POD and e-pub conversion instructions
- d. Improving the online browser for *Thema* and creating a similar browser for ONIX codelists
- e. Revision of EDItX Sales report, documentation and the Inventory report format

The next Members’ Open Meeting will be held on Wednesday 19th October 2016 at the Frankfurt Book Fair. He also noted that after a very successful relaunch in 2015, EDItEUR’s 38th International Supply Chain Seminar would be held on Tuesday 18th October 2016 at the Frankfurt Book Fair.

Graham closed the meeting and thanked delegates for their interest.