

ICEDIS Meeting at Frankfurt Book Fair

Hotel Bristol, Frankfurt am Main
Monday 9th October 2017

Minutes

1. Welcome and introductions

Henning Schoenenberger (Springer Nature) opened the meeting and welcomed participants, who each introduced themselves. There is a list of participants at the end of these Minutes.

2. Minutes and actions from previous meeting

The meeting reviewed Minutes of the previous ICEDIS meeting – at UKSG Harrogate (April 2017). No comments were noted so these were accepted as an accurate record.

Tim Devenport (EDItEUR) commented on five action points from the Harrogate meeting:

- Tim organized a useful ONIX-PC follow-up call with existing and new implementers, involving Vista/Ingenta, CUP, and Elsevier. Various questions of interpretation were answered. CUP and Elsevier (and others) said they anticipated testing with LM Info.
- An action to write up several case studies, showing the benefits of ONIX-PC implementation, is still open and was discussed further under Agenda point 3.
- An enhancement request had been received to modify ONIX-PC so that it could cope with component-level pricing and price/tax splits. Tim reported that he and Francis Cave (Francis Cave Digital Publishing & EDItEUR) had sketched an initial proposal, for discussion under Agenda point 3.
- Tim said that EDItEUR had done some initial thinking around a possible linked data version of ONIX-PC – debated further under Agenda point 6.
- Other than some bilateral discussions between Harrassowitz and Springer Nature, no further action had been taken on a request from Harrassowitz to consider ICEDIS as a possible “home” for financial/business compliancy standards. EDItEUR has stated that it does not have the relevant expertise and doubts whether even the extended ICEDIS group could offer critical mass in this area.

3. Updates on ONIX-PC

3.1. Key users

Cambridge University Press, supported by systems vendor Vista/Ingenta, has joined the group of publishers producing ONIX-PC – namely, Springer Nature, Wiley, Taylor & Francis and Elsevier. Wiley has recently had to re-implement the standard, owing to an internal migration to SAP.

Harrassowitz and LM Info are receiving and actively using the format, and we believe that Kinokuniya and perhaps De Gruyter are also testing or using it. Toni Christiansen (LM Info)

stated that LM Info also regards ONIX-PC as a useful and robust data model, which LM has actively used in architecting its new subscription management system. On the downside, we believe that EBSCO and Schweitzer are currently not taking ONIX-PC files. The challenge remains to broaden out the user base, including but not limited to the original, subscription agency adopters.

3.2. Encouraging wider usage

We revisited reported benefits of implementing ONIX-PC. In addition to the format's primary purpose of conveying rich product metadata, Tim stated that several publishers had reported significant internal benefits, including data cleaning and elimination of alternative spreadsheets. These advantages need to be made more persuasively and disseminated more widely.

Two specific "targets" were discussed, in terms of adding business cases that ONIX-PC should be able to service, namely metadata feeds similar to KBART and a feed to ISSN-IC.

Anthony Watkinson (CIBER Research) and Henning mentioned the extensive uptake of KBART, leading to speculation on the pros and cons of its simpler, spreadsheet-based format. Graham Bell (EDItEUR) asked what is the value in KBART that could not be delivered by ONIX-PC and is the relative complexity of ONIX-PC a barrier for librarians? Clément Oury (ISSN-IC) suggested ensuring that there is a mapping from ONIX-PC to KBART, to check that there are no significant missing elements in ONIX-PC. Tim responded that EDItEUR had produced a prototype "ONIX for KBART" some years ago but agreed that it could be valuable to repeat the exercise.

Henning asked whether there should be a standardized feed for information provided to the ISSN International Centre. Clément responded that this could be of interest in building efficient data transfers, although pointing out that considerable data flows are of course directed in the first instance via national ISSN centres. ONIX-PC could in principle be the default approach for this (KBART functions more at a package, rather than single-title level), but there would need to be further analysis. Christian Schütz (DNB and ISSN German centre) said that reusing reliable metadata is a key component in workflows: the DNB already uses ONIX for Books and ONIX-PC would make sense in this context.

After much discussion, several actions emerged:

- **Heather Staines** (Hypothes.is) volunteered to work with **Tim** to write up case studies.
- **Tim** will recheck the mapping between ONIX-PC and KBART.
- **Tim** will carry out a gap analysis between ONIX-PC and the required and optional elements used in ISSN Registration, based on the descriptions in the ISSN manual.
- **Henning** asked that these three actions be completed before the UKSG ICEDIS meeting in April 2018.

3.3. Suggested approach for component pricing & price/tax splits

Tim reported that he and Francis have worked out a possible approach and suggested the outline to Springer Nature and Harrassowitz for comment and feedback. The approach utilizes existing ONIX-PC features around component pricing, with the addition of a new <ProductComponentReference> element and a few additions to the ONIX Serials Code List 112.

Tim will provide some illustrative examples and we'll then need some business partners to check that the solution works and meets the business requirements. Toni commented that

he approved of this approach and that LM Info had implemented something that sounded very similar to meet this business need.

4. Public identifiers

4.1. Revision of the ISSN standard

Clément provided an update on the current process of revising the 2007 version of the ISSN standard, led by colleagues from the ISSN International Centre. There are three main topics under consideration:

- What does or should the ISSN identify? Currently each ISSN relates to a specific periodical on or in a specific medium – specifically print, digital online or digital on a physical medium. Should for example EPUB, HTML or PDF versions of the same title have separate ISSNs? What constitutes an edition or version and at what level of granularity should ISSN operate?
- Creating clusters or “families” of ISSN titles. For example, grouping entities that result from changes of titles, merges, splits, translated versions, etc. A generalization of the ISSN-L “linking ID” mechanism would represent one such type of cluster or family.
- Relationships between ISSN and other public identifiers and standards, such as DOI or perhaps ONIX-PC.

The revision will also occur against the background of various organizational/contractual changes within the community of ISO, registration authorities and registration agencies.

The revision group is planning a survey of stakeholders in the serials supply chain to find out more about which changes in the standard may be required. ICEDIS should promote this survey and **Tim** will coordinate any assistance required with the revision group. Regarding timescales, the group is looking to create a committee draft no later than April 2018, for input to the ISO TC46/SC9 plenary in May 2018.

4.2. Developments at ISNI

Tim gave a brief update on the International Standard Name Identifier (ISNI): alongside his serials work for EDItEUR, Tim is Executive Director of the ISNI International Agency. He started with a brief introduction to ISNI-IA’s work and the role of EDItEUR in providing management and administrative support to ISNI. He singled out three areas for closer attention.

Membership: ISNI-IA now has 38 member organizations and continues to grow, with more than 30 other organizations having shown significant interest. There is also strong interest from domains such as music and film, alongside continued involvement from the areas of libraries and rights management that drove most of the initial engagement.

ISNI Organizations Registry: responding to much interest from the scholarly community, ISNI is looking to leverage the 660k organization records to which ISNI IDs have already been assigned. This was the subject of a press release in August 2018 and work is underway to:

- Segment the organization records and the associated ISNI IDs into a database with a searchable user interface;
- Make ISNI organization IDs and core metadata available to all;
- Provide regular data downloads as well as API facilities to retrieve ISNI records;
- Offer a facility for organizations to supply updates to their “own” records;
- Establish a new Advisory Board to guide the efforts and direction of the Registry.

Linked Open Data from ISNI: plans are underway to make public, non-confidential metadata and associated ISNI IDs widely available, so as to encourage access to ISNI information in the realm of linked open data. This was further discussed under Agenda point 6.

5. A COUNTER catch-up: release 5 and beyond

Heather Staines, representing Hypothes.is and a board member of Project COUNTER, kindly gave a guest presentation on key features of the latest version of COUNTER – release 5. Heather based her address on the framework for a release 5 COUNTER webinar, a copy of which is available from the EDItEUR website [here](#).

6. Linked data/linked open data

Henning introduced the discussion on linked data. He said that there is a great amount of valuable data “out there” in the linked open data cloud. Among other transformations, library OPACs may not have a purpose in future and the web environment based on linked data may be the “future of the catalogue”. Henning also felt that the future of the internet might well move away from documents as we know them and toward combining snippets of data or information from multiple sources.

Tim then distinguished between linked data (LD) and linked open data (LOD). Linked data is a mechanism for expressing data in RDF, whereas linked open data is about licensing that data freely.

If we wish to proceed with creating a linked data representation of ONIX-PC, we will need to answer a series of questions:

- What sort of use cases do we wish to support and can we forge partnerships with prospective users to define and exploit these cases?
- Based on the use cases, do we wish to make available the whole of the ONIX-PC data set or subsets thereof?
- How should we transform the ONIX-PC structure into an RDF data model?
- Which serializations would be most useful, for example JSON-LD, RDF/XML, etc?
- What mechanisms would be most practical, for example data dumps or APIs?

Clément shared a brief presentation on linked data plans at the ISSN International Centre; a copy of the presentation is available from the EDItEUR website [here](#). Clément described plans to make significant amounts of the ISSN Register available as linked data, via a new ISSN portal, to support eventual interactions with Bibframe and other models.

Graham explained what EDItEUR has already done with linked data adjuncts to the subject classification scheme Thema – expressing various components using SKOS RDF/XML. This could, relatively straightforwardly be extended to assigning URIs to ONIX code lists – a key step in producing linked data ONIX-PC. Graham said that **EDItEUR** is willing to do some work on specifying a linked data version of ONIX-PC if this is required AND there is serious buy-in

from one or more business partners. Henning said that Springer Nature could commit to participating but also that we needed one or more other partners in such a venture.

7. News from EDItEUR

Chris Saynor and Graham (both EDItEUR) briefly updated the meeting on recent developments at EDItEUR outside of the serials area.

Chris reported very positive progress with Thema, the global subject classification scheme for the book trade. Uptake has been rapid over the past few years, particularly in Europe and more recently in the United States and Latin America. Outside of those areas there is active adoption too in Australia, Korea, Japan, China and Egypt.

Currently Thema is on version 1.2 and work is underway on a version 1.3 for release in early 2018. National qualifiers continue to be added to the basic scheme, most recently in Germany. Thema has already taken over from pre-existing national schemes in some territories, including Germany and Scandinavia. Also significant has been the decision of Amazon EU to adopt Thema as the basis of its browse tree guide. This does not necessarily translate immediately to a similar decision by Amazon US, but there is interest.

Chris also mentioned the EDItX family of transactional standards. These are approximately 5 years old and seem to fulfill their business requirements, though implementation has been spotty to date. Currently two of the formats – for sales & sales tax and for inventory – are under review.

Graham gave some highlights about ONIX for Books. The basic format is some 15 years old and is very widely implemented worldwide. The current ONIX version 3.0 has been around for 8 years and has had generally good adoption in Europe and East Asia; by contrast the United States still remains predominantly on the older version 2.1. ONIX 3.0 generally has updates approximately every two years, with the next one planned for early 2018.

Graham closed by mentioning various management and administrative services that EDItEUR provides to ISBN, ISNI and the International DOI Foundation. The existing contract regarding ISBN expires next spring; the organization has matured considerably since it was supported by one part-timer 15 years ago and the two full-time staff the International ISBN Agency employs will move to an office of their own as that operation becomes independent.

8. Other business/dates of next meetings

There was no other business.

The next scheduled meeting of ICEDIS will be held during the Charleston Conference, 2.00 – 5.00 pm, Tuesday 7th November, at the Hyatt Place, 560 King Street, Charleston SC.

It is also planned to hold an ICEDIS meeting at UKSG Glasgow, Wednesday 11th April 2018, with further details to be confirmed. Note that the timings of UKSG Glasgow and the London Book Fair clash, both being in the same week of April 2018.

9. List of participants

Anthony Watkinson	CIBER Research
Chris Saynor	EDItEUR
Christian Schütz	Deutsche Nationalbibliothek/ISSN Germany
Christina Hoppermann	Springer Nature
Clément Oury	ISSN-IC
Francis Cave	Francis Cave Digital Publishing
Graham Bell	EDItEUR
Greta Boonen	Wiley
Heather Staines	Hypothes.is
Henning Schoenenberger	Springer Nature, co-chair
Kristina Eckl	Deutsche Nationalbibliothek/ISSN Germany
Tim Devenport	EDItEUR & ISNI-IA
Toni Christiansen	LM Info