ONIX for Distributions
Pilots 1 and 3: summary of use cases, February 2008

The following is a summary of the Distributions use cases that have been analysed and tested, either on paper or by the exchange of test files, in Pilots 1 and 3, together with an additional CLA use case that was not part of the original set of pilots:

Pilot 1: ALCS and Access Canada

Distribution type: ByAccount

In Pilot 1, the participants have tested a realistic distribution from ALCS to Access Copyright, in which monies payable to authors from a variety of source distributions are aggregated and reported by author account. Because the source distributions may themselves be of any type, the ByAccount option that was added to the ONIX-DS format to meet the needs of Pilot 1 includes the possibility of listing detail by title, by resource class, or simply as a lump sum. Thus, a ByAccount distribution incorporates all the different types covered by the ONIX format.

Pilot 3: CEDRO and Kopinor

Distribution type: ByResourceClass

In Pilot 3, the participants have modelled non-title-specific distributions from CEDRO to Kopinor and vice versa, and CEDRO has also analysed a distribution from another unnamed RRO to CEDRO. All are distributions ByResourceClass. Most have also involved analysis by rightsholder class.

Additional to original pilots: CLA and PLS

Distribution types: ByTitle, ByResourceClass, LumpSum

Because of the requirement for PLS and CLA to implement ONIX-DS in their new systems currently under development, it was found necessary to undertake an analysis of a CLA-to-PLS distribution. Like ALCS, CLA combines monies from a variety of source distributions (its own, and those of other RROs). Unlike ALCS, it does not apportion them to individual rightsholder accounts, but reports to PLS the total amounts due to publishing rights controllers together with supporting detail where available. Consequently an ONIX-DS message sent by CLA may include distributions of any of the three basic types, but each distribution is listed separately.

General

Overall, the combination of these three pilot exercises has quite thoroughly tested, and extended, the ONIX-DS format. Three important changes have emerged from the work:

(a) A priori, distributions were categorised as “title-specific” and “non-title-specific”. As a result of the analysis of the use cases chosen for piloting, four categories are now recognised: ByTitle, ByResourceClass, ByAccount and LumpSum. Additionally, the format allows any of these categories to be broken down by rightsholder class.

(b) In the original ONIX-DS drafts, it was felt unsafe to assume that generic IFRRO-wide values could be adopted for many of the coded elements in the format. In the event, it has proved possible to do so for almost all such elements.

(c) The original ONIX-DS drafts included a Distribution Adjustment element, albeit in a very tentative form. Piloting has no far not revealed any cases where an adjustment would be sent as part of a distributions message. For the time being, this element has been deleted.