EDItEUR

Executive Director's Report to Members: April 2013

Report to the Members of EDItEUR – London Book Fair, April 2013

1   Board news

Members will be sad to hear that Eefke Smit, past Chair of EDItEUR and active on the Board (representing STM and FEP) since the reorganisation of our governance, has stood down from that representative role. We are extremely grateful to Eefke for her contributions to the EDItEUR over the last 3 years. Her place will be taken by Richard Gedye, who will doubtless be familiar to many of you. We welcome Richard to the Board meeting at the London Book Fair for the first time.

2   EDItEUR Standards development

2.1   ONIX for Books

2.1.1   Codelists

The regular quarterly issue of ONIX Codelists continues in a wholly unremarkable way (although it is worth bearing in mind the extent to which this is a recent innovation).

Issue 19 of the ONIX for Books codelists was approved by the ONIX International Steering Committee, and was released at the end of October. The new issue contains only a handful of new codes: a new codelist to indicate whether a book is firm sale, sale or return, or a consignment sale; a new code that indicates some content has been removed, to describe the many e-books that have illustrations removed – in comparison to their printed equivalents – because of rights issues; a new code for ONIX 3.0, used to indicate a 'master brand' to be used, for example, with cross-media children's character properties such as Barbie or Thomas the Tank Engine). Issue 20 of the ONIX codelists was released in late January. A particular addition to the lists provides a way of incorporating book rental prices in ONIX 3.0, for use where the publisher wants to specify individual rental durations and prices.

Issue 21 of the codelists is in preparation, and should be released in late April once approved by the ONIX International Steering Committee.

2.1.2   ONIX for Books Acknowledgement Message

We have been working with a group of interested members to explore requirements for an 'acknowledgement message', an optional reply confirming receipt and processing of an *ONIX for Books* message, and possibly carrying information about processing errors that occurred. This is now well advanced: a 'version 0.9' draft schema file is now ready and documentation is progressing. Although this will always be optional, an acknowledgement message could eventually support a certification process for data recipients, based around broadly agreed best practices and service levels such as those promoted by BISG, BIC, and similar trade bodies.

2.1.3   ONIX for Books training

Internationally, ONIX for Books training has been a major focus of the last 6 months as attention increasingly moves firmly in the direction of implementation of ONIX 3.0 (with the sunset date for ONIX 2.1 fast approaching).

In November, Graham Bell delivered another of the successful training courses for BIC in London; and then in an incredibly busy two week period in March 2013, Graham delivered in-depth ONIX training courses to over 120 attendees, in a series of expertly-organized sessions run by Book Industry Study Group in New York City, by BookNet Canada in Toronto, and by Finnish EDItEUR member Kirjavälitys in Helsinki. He also delivered a day's inhouse training for the British Library; and will be undertaking a two-day inhouse training and consultancy assignment for a client in the US in April.

All these sessions focused on the underlying nature and structure of ONIX, on practical ways of improving the metadata that organizations deliver to their supply chain partners, and upon the migration from version 2.1 to ONIX 3.0.

We continue to stand ready to deliver training in collaboration with any of our members.

2.1.4   HTML documentation for ONIX 2.1

The main documentation for ONIX 2.1 has always been available as multiple PDFs – two separate documents that describe the <Product> record, and the overall message structure and <Header>, plus a third which is an overview. There are also separate documents for the more specialist Main series and Subseries records, and for the Supply update format. In contrast, the ONIX 3.0 documentation is available as either PDF or HTML. Developers in particular appear to prefer the HTML version. Now, the key 2.1 documents have been made available as HTML. The message structure, <Header> and <Product> documents have been combined for maximum convenience, though the text is essentially identical to the PDF versions, and the opportunity has been taken to correct a couple of very minor documentation errors.

This is likely to be one of the last remaining significant maintenance tasks undertaken with respect to ONIX 2.1.

2.1.5   ONIX documentation in Arabic

Members will be interested to know that EDItEUR member ElKotob (http://www.elkotob.com/) in Egypt has translated the main ONIX 3.0 documentation and codelists into Arabic, and published them at http://maeyeer.elkotob.com/ for use in the Arabic publishing market. A translation of the BIC Subject Categories is also available

2.2   ONIX – rights and licences

2.2.1   ONIX-RS

ONIX for Rights Information Services continues to be deployed successfully within the ARROW service. The format supports largely automated queries and responses about availabilities, rights and permissions, typically for print books that partners are seeking to digitize. It is an important component in the process of diligent search to identify rights holders and/or to establish whether a particular work is orphan. Italy, Greece, Belgium and the Netherlands are in the process of being included within the service, alongside original implementers in France, Germany, Spain and the UK.

Against the background of this more intensive usage, EDItEUR is in discussion with ARROW participants about measures to make sure that significant changes in ONIX for Books are reflected as appropriate in ONIX-RS and steps are being taken toward the formation of an ONIX-RS user group.

2.2.2   ONIX-PL

NISO has been awarded a grant by the Mellon Foundation to emulate the JISC (ELCAT) project to encode a set of publicly available "model licences" in ONIX-PL. EDItEUR is engaging with the project in the provision of training and support to Selden Lamoureux (the US librarian who is undertaking the bulk of the encoding work for NISO). We will also be working with JISC and NISO on extensions to ONIX-PL which will enable the fully structured semantic encoding of more elements of a licence (for example, post termination rights); we are also seeking to use this opportunity to improve elements of the documentation of ONIX-PL.

2.3   ICEDIS

2.3.1   ICEDIS Meetings

2.3.1.1   ICEDIS at UKSG

A regular meeting of the full ICEDIS Committee will take place between the writing of this report and the London Book Fair (at UKSG in Bournemouth); we will update the Open Meeting on developments.

2.3.1.2   ICEDIS in the US – return to Charleston planned

We have decided that the Charleston conference appears to be our natural home for future meetings of ICEDIS in the US. We plan to return to Charleston for an ICEDIS meeting in November 2013.

2.3.2   Open Access publishing models

Interest in a wide range of Open Access (OA) models continues to occupy the attention of players throughout the library supply chain, particularly but not exclusively those involved in the world of journals. Recent pronouncements by major funding agencies and governmental interventions have only served to emphasize the need for all concerned to better understand aspects of the new models available.

EDItEUR is monitoring these developments closely on behalf of its member organizations and seeking to engage in appropriate discussion groups and working parties on OA. Currently this activity includes membership of two initiatives recently established. One is a NISO Working Group on Open Access Metadata and Indicators and the other a JISC-led group investigating likely needs or enabling steps to underpin Gold Open Access Infrastructure.

Other projects are pioneering open access monograph publishing, and EDItEUR is in contact with a view to inclusion of any necessary additional vocabulary into the ONIX for Books codelists.

2.3.3   Structured Name & Address Model

The requirement to communicate well structured "party" information has been a pressing concern for some time and a dedicated ICEDIS Working Group has recently made significant strides in delivering a working format. Building upon a model proposed by EDItEUR, the Group has validated and extended the structure, and along the way has stressed the value of being able to exchange

multiple standard identifiers (for example ISNI, ORCID, etc.) to assist in matching and ingest operations. The Working Group has also assembled a small library of name & address samples, and is currently part-way through a "paper pilot": each sample type is being analysed and mapped by Group members to the structured model, so that any ambiguities in definition or explanation can be ironed out. Most recently, an XML schema and associated HTML documentation have been prepared and published by EDItEUR in preparation for live exchanges.

2.3.4   New Orders

An ICEDIS Working Group has been working with EDItEUR to define a message format for new orders (as opposed to renewals) for journals and other subscription products. This project recently reached a milestone stage. The draft message structure has been confirmed and an XML schema and associated HTML documentation have been prepared and published by EDItEUR: the focus now switches largely to pilot exchanges and eventual live implementations. As well as effectively supporting current business models (order for online and packaged products as well as those for traditional print journals), the New Orders message provides a prototype for the eventual replacement of other ICEDIS legacy standards, including the ubiquitous renewals standard. A key component of the New Orders message is its inclusion of the Structured Name & Address model wherever business party information is needed - thus removing the biggest single barrier to the automation of new order (or indeed new customer) transactions.

2.3.5   Publication of ICEDIS specifications

The EDItEUR website has been substantially revamped to incorporate the publication of all ICEDIS standards; and, as planned, we have closed the separate ICEDIS website (www.icedis.org – now redirects to the appropriate pages of the EDItEUR website).

2.4   EDItX

I am delighted to report that there has been a significant increase in the use of the EDItX formats, and a corresponding increase in the number of enquiries. As we reported to members at the end of last year, the EDItX Sales and Tax Report formats are under review, as new business models for generating revenue from digital products lead to changes in reporting requirements. In December 2012 the Book Industry Study Group (BISG) published a revision of their versions of the EDItX Sales Tax Report XML format; this has necessitated a minor correction to the documentation of the EDItX Sales Report V1.1 format. BISG and BIC in the UK are continuing to review the reporting requirements of alternative models for e-book revenue, including subscriptions and rental, which are expected to lead to further revisions of the EDItX Sales and Tax Report formats by summer 2013.

3   Identifier standards for which EDItEUR provides management services

3.1   International ISBN Agency

This has been a very busy 6 months for the International ISBN Agency (IIA), as we have been creating a comprehensive set of requirements and completing a procurement process for the development of a new database system and website for the IIA. This has been a major task, and has culminated in a contract being awarded to Italian IT provider CINECA to build the system; work on system design has already begun, and we anticipate that it will be complete by November 2013.

Other key developments in the last 6 months have been the revision of the BISG identifier policy statement; and the publication of translations of the revised User Manual in Arabic, Mandarin Chinese, Dutch and Spanish. A French edition will be released shortly.

3.2   International ISTC Agency & International ISNI Agency

The secretariat work which we undertake for these agencies continues; in a separate development we have been involved in initiating a project (which is now getting underway) in which the International ISNI Agency is planning to look at the issue of unambiguous publisher identification (a topic on which EDItEUR first engaged about 15 years ago).

4   Major projects

4.1   ARROW Plus

Following the successful completion of the ARROW project, a successor project, ARROW Plus, was launched to include a wider circle of European countries, including several in Central and Eastern Europe, many of which have no comprehensive Books in Print service or RRO with a repertoire database. EDItEUR is a partner in ARROW Plus and has taken the lead in identifying the business requirements for a shared Books-in-Print platform. This has been developed by CINECA in Italy and is now being rolled out in Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Portugal. Basic bibliographic data from National Bibliographies and ISBN Agencies will be enhanced and updated by publishers in order to provide comprehensive Books in Print databases as quickly as possible. The current task in which EDItEUR (led by Brian Green) is involved is to explore business plans to ensure the sustainability of these new Books in Print services after the project ends (at the end of September 2013).

Paola Mazzucchi, EDItEUR's Chair, is the Project Manager of ARROW Plus.

4.2   Linked Heritage

This is a 30-month, EC-funded collaboration between commercial publishing supply chain organisations and cultural heritage institutions like libraries, archives and museums. Our involvement as lead partner for public-private partnership is entering its final phase: the elaboration of agreements to enable commercially viable, legally compliant contribution of book metadata and cover image thumbnails to the EC's flagship heritage portal, Europeana.

Michael Hopwood's latest report, *D4.2 Specification of the technologies chosen* has now been published: it contains a detailed technical (XSLT) mapping between ONIX for Books and the LIDO data schema used in Linked Heritage. The mapping has been implemented in the MINT data aggregation and transformation software used in the project, so book metadata can now be ingested to test the schema mapping and prototype contributions of a small subset of data to Europeana.

One major barrier to this may be Europeana's decision to publish their textual metadata (though not thumbnails) under Creative Commons 'CC0 terms' entailing the waiving of all rights in the textual metadata, and allowing Europeana to redistribute the metadata without restrictions. This policy originates in the cultural heritage sector's general drive towards openness; EDItEUR has been investigating whether it introduces serious disincentives for publishers, given the existing

commercial market for product metadata and services built around it. The issues will be covered in our final major deliverable for project which is currently in draft.

Graham Bell presented at Linked Heritage's plenary meeting in Lisbon at the end of November, and Michael Hopwood attended the plenary meeting in March in Padua. Two further plenary meetings are planned before the completion of this project (in Dublin and London), but EDItEUR's involvement will wind down following delivery of the final report this month.

4.3   DCH-RP

Our work on this project, led by Tim Devenport, has now started. DCH-RP seeks to draw together the preservation needs of cultural heritage institutions – including museums, galleries, libraries and other archives – and the burgeoning IT infrastructure facilities available in other spheres of research. It is investigating how, for example, cloud and grid computing facilities or networks might be adapted to assist in the robust preservation and secure use of digitized representations of works of art. Our role focuses on two inter-related areas. On the one hand, we seek to explore how preservation models already well-established in STM publishing might educate and inform the choices made in the cultural sphere. We will also endeavour to establish how best the project might reach out to commercial publishers and under what kind of scenarios fruitful partnerships might be realised.

4.4   Enabling Technologies Framework

The (WIPO-funded) Enabling Technology Framework (on accessibility for people with print disability) is now running towards the end of its contracted final year; we have been invited to propose an extension contract, but at the time of writing we are unable to confirm that this it will be accepted.

It would clearly be very disappointing if we are unable to continue our work in accessibility; EDItEUR has developed considerable knowledge and expertise in this extremely important topic, much of which resides in Sarah Hilderley (although both Graham and I have also become considerably engaged in the topic). In the meantime, the project continues to be very busy:

- We plan to issue our 4th edition of the *Accessible Publishing, Best Practice Guidelines for Publishers* to coincide with the DAISY conference being held in Copenhagen in June.
- We are very pleased that the second learning object of our Training modules, entitled 'Accessible formats' is now available via the EDItEUR website. The next two modules are due to follow in the near future 'Accessible images' and 'Accessibility metadata'. These 15 minute sessions are available for free and can be accessed by anyone at their own desktops.
- EDItEUR continue to be engaged in presentations on accessibility. On the same day in February, Sarah spoke at Tools of Change in New York in a session we jointly organised called `*End to end accessibility: a journey through the supply chain*`; and Graham co-chaired a conference in London '*E-books and Accessibility – Ugly Duckling or Adolescent Swan?*' which was aimed primarily at academic librarians and accessibility specialists (and was a sell-out event)
- We continue to work in close collaboration with the TIGAR project, and Graham has joined the TIGAR Core Group. EDItEUR has been asked by TIGAR (on a commercial basis) to prepare a short report on potential sources of information about accessible commercial products.

- On the first day of the London Book Fair, we will hold our usual accessibility session at the LBF, *'Great Expectations of eBooks: Are they accessible?'* (Cromwell Room. 10.00 – 11.00). This event is a practical demonstration of The Joint Statement on Accessibility issued by the Publishers Association in April 2012, and is jointly organised by the Publishers Licensing Society (PLS), EDItEUR, the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) and the Right to Read Alliance with the support of the Publishers Association (PA). This meeting is free, and members are encouraged to attend.

4.5   Future project work

We have a number of plans for involvement in future major project work, which are in various stages of development as I write. It would be premature to discuss these, but if we have any news we will share that with members at the Open Meeting.

5   Beyond EDItEUR

5.1   EPUB 3/the IDPF

As members may know, I was elected to the Board of the IDPF in November; since then, I have attended most of the (monthly) Board Meetings; these take place rather later in the evening in Europe, in order to accommodate Board members in Asia as well as on the West Coast of the US. I was able to attend a face-to-face meeting of the Board in New York in February, at the same time as attending a workshop, jointly sponsored by BISG, the IDPF and W3C, which was intended to explore the relationship between the worlds of "web standards" and of commercial e-publishing. I also spoke at an IDPF event at the Paris Book Fair on the same topic – publishing metadata, and the role of formal identification (particularly ISBN) and ONIX.

There is clearly growing interest in the crossover between the world of the internet and the more formal structured commercial environment and – like the crossover between commercial and library metadata – I would foresee this becoming an increasingly important issue over the next three to five years.

In the meantime, the IDPF is focusing on implementation as its theme for 2013. It is critical that EPUB 3 gains traction this year, particularly among the platform providers. Although some further small developments of the standard can be expected, the accent is likely to be on stability. The specification of EPUB 3 has been submitted to ISO for approval as a Technical Specification (which is a significantly less onerous task than full standardisation). Members will also have noted the announcement that Readium (the open source EPUB 3 reader development effort) has been successfully moved into a separate foundation, with substantial financial backing; this is seen as having significant advantages for both the IDPF and for Readium.

5.2   Linked Content Coalition

The Linked Content Coalition (LCC) is close to publishing its final reports – I would expect these to have been published by the time of the London Book Fair. I believe these will be significant documents, focusing on the requirements for interoperability between different media sectors; in many ways, they can be seen as the successors to (and elaborators of) the <indecs> project, on which so much of our current understanding of metadata and identification is built. ONIX would not

have been what it is without <indecs>; nor would DDEX (the music industry's closest equivalents); nor would our understanding of identifiers like ISTC or ISNI.

It is likely that LCC (which was always designed to be a time-limited project) will seek to cede its IP to a coalition of standards organisations in the media.

5.3   The UK "Copyright Hub"

I introduced members to the Copyright Hub in my last report. Since then, there has been considerable movement; not only am I a member of *Copyright Hub Launch Group*, I am also chairing the *Data Building Blocks Committee*, and as a result I am ex officio a member of the overall steering committee, the *Copyright Licensing Steering Group*, a high level cross-media committee which has as its overall aim the delivery of a unified response to the Government on copyright. Although much of my involvement in this project forms part of my commitment to the Publishers Licensing Society (of which I am to become the Chair in June), I am chairing the *Data Building Blocks Committee* in the name of EDItEUR. This committee, which like all the others is a cross-media group, is focused entirely on metadata and identification issues.

5.4   Thema

We are looking forward to hearing more about the launch of Thema – which I believe needs no introduction to EDItEUR members – at the London Book Fair.

MB – 4 April 2013