



## I. Cataloguing Section's Strategic Plan for ISBD review

Following discussions about the strategic plan for the **International Standard Bibliographic Description** (ISBD) review and revision at the Singapore 2013, Lyon 2014 and Cape Town meetings of the Cataloguing Section's Standing Committee, ISBD Review Group and ISBD Linked Data Study Group, the ISBD Review Group was asked to produce a second discussion paper for the midterm meeting of the Cataloguing Section's Standing Committee which took place in Paris, Bibliothèque nationale de France, on 29 April 2016, done in order to secure that all type of problems are discovered.

The discussion paper highlighted some of the problems and questions the analysis presents, that are in part common with the issues found for area 1:

- There is a difference in the definition of edition between ISBD and RDA<sup>1</sup> (Resource Description and Access).
- Should ISBD's first categorization criteria be element/property as identified in the namespace (RDF<sup>2</sup> - Resource Description Framework - representation)?
- Should each element be defined as to its Mandatory/Repeatable status?
- Should each element be introduced by an explicit definition, to be followed by clearly defined rules?
- Should the revised version of ISBD accommodate both the domains "Resource" of ISBD and "WEMI" of the FRBR model<sup>3</sup> (Work, Expression, Manifestation, Item) terminologies, so as to fit both an FRBRised and a non-FRBRised description?
- Mapping to FRBRer is almost accomplished, will there be need of mapping with FRBR-Library Reference Model?
- Should notes be ordered accordingly to WEMI elements?
- How to describe relationships between data?
- Should the ISBD be based on "self description" or description by cataloguers, where for example data could be corrected if misprinted?
- Should an ISBD description be prepared for direct use of human beings or machines to read and mediate? Perhaps including guidelines on how to aggregate data for a full record in order to display?

All these questions and angles leads back to the basic discussion about what the ISBD should be in the future and how the standard works with IFLA's other standards. Miriam Säfström apologized for not having being able to pursue the task on clarification of the standards correlations, observing that the issue is not entirely up to the Cataloguing Section standing Committee alone, but also to the Committee on Standards.

A way forward to respond to both scenarios being discussed (to continue the content of ISBD on the current level but change to reflect FRBR, or to plan for a shorter and more principal ISBD) might be having descriptive principles followed by a set of suggested rules to that principle.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.rdatoolkit.org>, <http://www.rda-rsc.org/>.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.w3.org/RDF/>.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.ifla.org/publications/functional-requirements-for-bibliographic-records>.

## II. ISBD Review Group activities report

### a. Project and financial reports

An application for funding the project *Development of the International Standard Bibliographic Description* was made, with the following terms:

- 1000 Euros: A two-day face-to-face meeting of the ISBD Linked Data Study Group “to complete the work on maps and alignments and guidelines for the use of ISBD as linked open data, and prepare the publication of all the work in the IFLA website”.
- 2000 euros for the meeting of the ISBD RG, “in order to harmonise the standard with the FRBR Library Reference Model, that will be published in 2016, and following the general rule for standards revision in four-year time, as the Consolidated edition of the ISBD was published in 2011.”
- 400 euros to attend the RSC meeting. “As of the protocol between RDA/JSC (now RDA Steering Committee) and the ISBD RG, take part to the November RSC meeting in order to continue to maintain the reciprocal alignment.”

The Professional Committee observed that given the nature of the work planned for this year, the Review group was encouraged to use electronic communication rather than to have physical meetings. For the second proposed meeting, as FRBR is expected only in August 2016, they felt that some progress could be made in the 2016 and 2017 WLIC meetings and online during the year but an additional physical meeting was not necessary. For the third meeting, they did not have an understanding of the relationship with RDA/JSC (now RSC) and what benefit there was to IFLA in being present at the meeting.

The Professional Committee has instead agreed to provide funding for the first meeting as requested, 1000 Euros. This amount was used to fund travel and accommodation for two members of the ISBD Linked Data Study Group for a meeting held in Paris, the Bibliothèque nationale de France, 30-31 May 2016. The meeting was thus attended in person by six members, with three connected remotely via Skype.

The meeting completed the work on the *Guidelines for use of ISBD as linked data* and the *ISBD to FRBR namespaces alignment*. The Study Group has prepared both documents for comments and approval at the ISBD RG meeting in Columbus, August 2016.

### b. Guidelines for translations of the IFLA ISBD namespace in RDF

As discussed at the Committee on Standards meeting in Cape Town, the *Guidelines for translations of the IFLA ISBD namespace in RDF* published by the ISBD Linked Data Study Group in May 2015<sup>4</sup> as the result of the project funded in 2013, *ISBD Namespaces Alignments and Publication as Linked Data* (G3.13.2-1/13), and based on the Guidelines for translations of IFLA namespaces in RDF (2013)<sup>5</sup>, compiled by the ISBD Linked Data Study Group and published in version 1.0 in the IFLA website after the approval of the ISBD Review Group, the former Namespaces Technical Group and the Standing Committee of the Cataloguing section, have been submitted for the final approval to the Committee on Standard on 26 August 2015.

### c. ISBD Linked Data Study Group

As already mentioned, the work of the ISBD Linked Data Study Group was mainly focused on completing the *Guidelines for use of ISBD as linked data* and the *ISBD to FRBR namespaces alignment*. A full report on the work of the group has been presented by the chair, Violeta Bertolini.

### d. ISBD and RDA

As part of the activities defined by the protocol set up between the JSC/RDA and ISBD RG to “support the maintenance and development of functional interoperability between data created using the RDA and

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<sup>4</sup> [http://www.ifla.org/files/assets/cataloguing/isbd/OtherDocumentation/guidelines-ifla\\_isbd-namespace-translation- v.1.0\\_april2015.pdf](http://www.ifla.org/files/assets/cataloguing/isbd/OtherDocumentation/guidelines-ifla_isbd-namespace-translation- v.1.0_april2015.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.ifla.org/node/5353>.

ISBD instructions and element sets”,<sup>6</sup> the chair of the ISBD Review Group could take part to the JSC meeting in Edinburgh, 3-5 November 2015, and gave a short report on the status of the ISBD. During the meeting, some issues were raised that may be relevant for the future development of the ISBD: a discussion was focused on the need to clarify the exact meaning of terms such as *transcribe* and *record*, and to use them consistently, and how to distinguish unambiguously the difference between an element transcribed from an internal but not prescribed source, and an element supplied by the catalogue.

### III. ISBD namespaces, mappings, and alignments

#### a. ISBD namespaces

The *unconstrained ISBD namespace*, that is, a separate full set of ISBD elements as properties in RDF without defined domain and range, that the ISBD Linked Data Study Group decided to create at the Cape Town meeting, was published in the Open Metadata Registry on 7 August 2015.<sup>7</sup> The ISBD Review Group wishes to thank Gordon Dunsire for taking this action so promptly. One of the advantages of the unconstrained properties is to allow a correct mapping between RDA and ISBD element sets.

#### b. ISBD mappings and alignments in GitHub

Mirna Willer has reported on 19 August 2016 to LIDATEC the requirements for ensuring IFLA registry of bibliographic standards alignments and mappings on the platform GitHub<sup>8</sup> (Action 1/15), and repeated in Spring 2016, but got no reaction, nor has IFLA developed such infrastructure yet.

ISBD namespaces alignments and maps are thus still published only in the RDA registry website on GitHub.<sup>9</sup>

#### c. ISBD and RDA/ONIX Framework

The *Alignment from ISBD content form compounds to RDA/ONIX Framework*,<sup>10</sup> relating compound statements based on the ISBD Content Form value vocabulary to the RDA/ONIX Framework element set and value vocabularies, has been published in the RDA registry in December 2015.

### IV. Publications and presentations

Polish, Serbian and Slovenian are in preparation, which will bring the number of languages in which the ISBD is available to 13.

### V. Membership

Renate Behrens (Arbeitsstelle für Standardisierung, Deutsche Nationalbibliothek, Frankfurt am Main) is the new liaison from the RDA Steering Committee, after the step down of Christine Frodl; the ISBD Review Group wishes to thank Christine Frodl for her collaboration and to welcome the new liaison.

### VI. Communication and website

Communication within the ISBD Review Group is done mostly by email; working documents and discussions are shared also through a Wiki hosted on the platform PBworks, and the web pages on the IFLA website (<http://www.ifla.org/en/isbd-rg>) are constantly updated. The ISBD Review Group thanks Agnese Galeffi for maintaining the ISBD pages on the site.

Respectfully submitted by  
Massimo Gentili-Tedeschi  
ISBD Review Group, Chair  
August 2016

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<sup>6</sup> [JSC/Chair/13 [Protocol between the JSC and the ISBD Review Group], <http://www.rda-jsc.org/docs/6JSC-Chair-13.pdf>; - 6JSC/Chair/13/Shared documents [Documents shared between the JSC and the ISBD Review Group], <http://www.rda-jsc.org/docs/6JSC-Chair-13-Shared-documents.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <http://metadataregistry.org/schema/show/id/97.html>.

<sup>8</sup> <https://github.com/>.

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.rdaregistry.info/>.

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.rdaregistry.info/Aligns/alignISBDCFX2ROF.html>.