

ISBD Review Group work in 2007-2008

Report by Elena Escolano Rodriguez, Chair, ISBD Review Group

The International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD) – preliminary consolidated edition has been published by K.G. Saur. It was presented at the World Library and Information Congress in Durban, South Africa, in August 2007.

The Review Group is working very hard in many different ways:

The ISBD is being revised to present a definitive edition in 2009. The work is carried out area by area, considering the suggestions remaining from worldwide review that were postponed at that moment for many reasons, such as contradictions among them.

Emails to the Audiovisual and Multimedia Section, and to the Art Libraries Section have been sent requesting from them suggestions in order to review further the stipulations for those resources where old ISBDs have not been revised recently, that is ISBD(PM) and ISBD(NBM); The requested time for receiving comments will be July 2008.

The current revision continues the goals of increasing the consistency between the stipulations for the description of all types of resources, harmonizing them for compatible descriptive cataloguing, generalizing wording and when possible simplifying it.

The continued work of the members, who are very busy, presented a problem of time organization, so the group investigated to have a site to share the documents and establish a protocol and organization of work to follow. In organizing this way of working we have been involved from September until December, 2007. Finally the result has had many advantages for all of us, because it gives the members time for organizing their time and making contributions when is better for them; this has increased the participation, which is in the interest of the work and; it is more economical as until now it has avoided the need for face to face meetings, in spite of the important issues dealt with. In this regard, I would like to acknowledge John Hostage for all his effort invested in the developing, testing, etc., and also give recognition for her constant support in this task to Dorothy McGarry, who helped in transferring the documentation from the Libteam site in the University of California space to the new site ISBD Review Group wiki.

One objective that the Review Group wants to develop further is the close relationship with rule making bodies. In this sense the Group has had contacts with the Commission for the RICA development, and also very intense dialog with the Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA.

Many translations of ISBD are on course. I have to highlight the direct collaboration between some translation commissions such as the French, Italian and Spanish commissions; but there have also been contacts with other non roman script commissions such as the Chinese and Korean, because of the difficulty, some times, of transferring the

concepts expressed in ISBD into another language, so experiences from these commissions have been exchanged to help in the uniform understanding that will result in a general homogeneity.

In addition, the Review Group considered that examples are very important to understand and apply the ISBD. The Review Group set up a Study Group to prepare a publication of full examples, as a supplement to the ISBD. This group is chaired by William Garrison and Jaesun Lee. William Garrison sadly left the group for other commitments during this year but Jaesun Lee has continued carrying on with the work. Many National Libraries have been contacted, and asked to send examples. The examples have been collected and now are posted for revision by the entire Review Group. This publication will satisfy the requests received for material for better application, teaching, training on ISBD.

The other Study Group on Material Designation has presented a draft for substitution of the stipulation 1.2 General Material Designation, which was sent to the entire Review Group for consideration and comments on 15th May, for response by June 15th. The draft has influences in many other areas, and for this reason must be carefully considered. We are conscious that this announced publication is much expected.

As Chair, I would like to thank the members of the Review Group for their interest and constant work and for their many contributions to the discussions. I also wish to acknowledge the editorial work being carried out by John Hostage and Dorothy McGarry.

Respectfully submitted,

Madrid, May 26, 2008

Elena Escolano Rodríguez
Chair, ISBD RG