



**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS  
AND INSTITUTIONS  
WORLD LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CONGRESS**

**79<sup>th</sup> IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE, SINGAPORE  
17-23 AUGUST 2013**

**CATALOGUING SECTION**

**ISBD Review Group**

<http://www.ifla.org/en/isbd-rg>

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Meetings:**

Monday, 19 August 2013, 14:30-16:00

Thursday, 22 August 2013, 11:30-13:00

**Attendees:** María Violeta Bertolini (incoming member and ISBD/XML SG member), Anders Cato (Division III representative to Committee on Standards), Agnese Galeffi, Massimo Gentili-Tedeschi (ISBD/XML SG member and IAML representative), Tuula Haapamäki, Lynne Howarth (incoming member and ISBD/XML SG member), Françoise Leresche (ISBD/XML Study Group, chair), Dorothy McGarry (outgoing member; corresponding and honorary member), Mirna Willer (chair)

**Attendee representatives of other bodies and groups:** Maria Inês Cordeiro (UNIMARC Core Activity, director), Gordon Dunsire (Namespaces Technical Group, chair and consultant to ISBD/XML SG), Christine Frodl (JSC/RDA liaison), Hanne Hørl Hansen (Cataloguing Section, chair), François-Xavier Pelegrin (ISSN Network representative), Chris Oliver (FRBR Review Group, incoming chair), Pat Riva (FRBR Review Group, outgoing chair)

**Apologies:** Elena Escolano Rodríguez (corresponding member), Renate Gömpel (outgoing member), Ben Gu, John Hostage, Natalia Kasparova, Irena Kavčič, Glenn Patton (outgoing member), Ricardo Santos Muñoz (incoming member)

**Observers:** Harriet Aagaard, Manal Abdelhalim, Angela Green, Rehab Ouf, Sandy Roe, Jay Weitz,

Note that these minutes do not necessarily reflect the chronological order in which each topic was discussed.

1. Welcome and introductions

M. Willer welcomed the members, representatives of other bodies and groups, and observers. She thanked Agnese Galeffi, CS's information officer, and John Hostage for maintaining ISBD RG's website and wiki respectively.

2. Agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the ISBD RG Meeting, Helsinki, 2012

The minutes<sup>1</sup> were adopted without changes.

---

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.ifla.org/files/assets/cataloguing/isbdrg/meeting\\_2012.pdf](http://www.ifla.org/files/assets/cataloguing/isbdrg/meeting_2012.pdf)

#### 4. Elections

##### 4.1. Review Group members

The ISBD Review Group issued a call for nominations for members to serve a four year term (2013-2017), which can be once renewed. Three positions were available to replace members whose second term ends in 2013. Four members completed their first terms in 2013, and they expressed interest in being renewed. The nominations received were María Violeta Bertolini (Instituto de Formación Técnica Superior No. 13, Buenos Aires, Argentina), Lynne Howarth (University of Toronto, Canada) and Ricardo Santos Muñoz (Biblioteca Nacional de España). These nominations were reported at the Cataloguing Section's Standing Committee meeting, 17 August 2013, and were approved.

##### 4.2. Corresponding members and liaisons

M. Willer proposed the nomination of Dorothy McGarry as the corresponding and honorary member for her contributions to the RG, and her great experience in the ISBD standardization processes. The proposal was unanimously accepted. This nomination was also approved by the Cataloguing Section's Standing Committee.

It was discussed that Karin Kleiber, member of the Bibliography Section be formally nominated as a liaison from that section to the ISBD RG; she has been on the mailing list of the RG since 2012 because of the Section's expressed interest in ISBD/RDA alignments, specifically *ISBD in RDA Profile*.

**Action 1/13:** M. Willer and A. Cato, Bibliography Section's Standing Committee chair (2013-) to formalize the liaison between ISBD RG and Bibliography Section's SC.

##### 4.3. Thanks to outgoing members

M. Willer thanked the outgoing members Renate Gömpel, Glenn Patton and Dorothy McGarry for their contribution to the development of the ISBD, especially for their support of the work on the ISBD consolidated edition.

#### 5. Cataloguing Section's ISBD - Strategic Plan for ISBD review

Prior to the ISBD RG's meeting in Singapore the Cataloguing Section's chair H. H. Hansen and officer M. Särström issued a discussion paper regarding the future of the development and maintenance of the ISBD as an IFLA standard, and whether it is needed to be developed any further when some consider *RDA: resource description and access* to be a "de-facto-standard in large parts of the world". The ISBD RG commented extensively on the discussion paper, and a formal response was sent to H. H. Hansen. The discussion at the RG's meeting confirmed the following views:

"The status of the ISBD as the IFLA bibliographic standard is crucial to the functioning of the Universal Bibliographic Control, and its relation to the RDA, as one of the cataloguing rules. [...] The Cataloguing Section should be the place for **truly international** reflections on today's cataloguing, basing on FRBR and the Web of data, and taking its specific agenda into account:

- thinking about international exchanges among national bibliographies (UBC): providing normative tools for national bibliographies and expressing these normative tools as cataloguing rules in both large and small libraries (RDA is one such cataloguing code, it was designed so as to meet first the needs of local cataloguing, and only then the needs of bibliographic interchange);
- taking into account all countries (with their various levels of development, various cultures, etc.)

This implies an **in-depth revision** of the ISBD (as demonstrated by the work done on alignments) so that it can be adapted to the current environment, rather than abandoned and substituted with a code that was developed outside IFLA, with no genuine international representation. [...] It is important to keep the ISBD as the **reference normative document** when it comes to bibliographic description, **at a higher level** than any particular code.”<sup>2</sup>

6. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Helsinki meeting and Action List
- 6.1 Action List

Action List, 3/2011, San Juan meeting:

*ISBD consolidated edition online*: M. Willer reported on her correspondence with F. Bradley, Manager, Member Services and Development in March/April 2013 about the posting of the online version on the ISBD web pages. In April F. Bradley informed M. Willer of the following status of her negotiations: “The Professional Committee met earlier this month, and considered this topic. The difficulty is that the policy is written for journals which consist of a compilation of articles, or multi-authored chapters of a monograph. The redbacks are attributed to a single author - the committee of contributors. We also argue that IFLA should be a designated institutional repository as the authorship falls under the auspices of work produced (and sometimes funded by) IFLA. I will check further into the possibilities of designating the volumes as an "article".” The meeting emphasized once again the importance to have the online version of the ISBD consolidated edition published in order to meet IFLA’s mission about its open standards for further development and use of ISBD namespaces in publishing bibliographic linked open data, the mapping and alignment activities with IFLA models and other communities’ standards, its use in the planned development of the *Guidelines for use of the ISBD*, and *Specialized translation guidelines for ISBD namespaces*, and the requirements expressed by other bodies/communities to consult and use the standard in their activities, such as RDA and DCMI. To meet these requirements it was decided to publish the pre-print version online on the RG’s site.

**Action 2/13**: M. Willer and A. Galeffi prepare and publish the ISBD, March 2011 version online asap

#### **Action List, 2011, Glasgow meeting:**

Information only: actions partly postponed, partly outstanding depending on the RDA/ISSN discussions; to be reviewed again during the ISBD revision process, except for:

Action 14/11: New description, change of title (CJK): ISSN to send resolution paper in November 2013; continues as actions 17/12 & 8/13.

Action 16/11: Mode of issuance and Frequency: ISSN to send resolution paper in November 2013: outstanding

#### **Action List, 2012, Helsinki meeting:**

Action 1/12: Send the ISBD Strategic Plan for further comments and final approval to the ISBD RG members. Done

As the Cataloguing Section’s Strategic plan was for the period 2011-2013, and is laid out at a general level, the ISBD RG itemized this plan from the point of view of various activities that inform future development of the ISBD. This requires a broader perspective of bibliographic standards in the Semantic Web, including the FR-family of conceptual models and the UNIMARC bibliographic format. Therefore, **the ISBD RG defined the strategic plan for 2011-2015 for the process that is necessary to prepare for the revision of the ISBD in four year time, following the general rule for standards revision.**

---

<sup>2</sup> See Appendix 1.

The Cataloguing Section's revised Strategic Plan, 2013-2015 was discussed at the Standing Committee's meeting, 22 Aug.; it was decided that "3. Continue ISBD revision: The Strategy for the ISBD is under evaluation [by the Standing Committee] and a revised strategy is expected in 2014." (see Appendix 2)

**Action 3/13:** M. Willer and A. Galeffi to publish CS's & ISBD RG Strategic plan for 2013-2015 on the RG's website.

Action 2/12: ISBD RG to propose its representative to the Cataloguing Section's ICP Review Task Group. Done

Action 3/12: Send the *Mapping ISBD area 0 to ROF* document to the CS's Standing Committee for final approval; publish the document on the ISBD RG's website; continues as action 18/12. Done<sup>3</sup>

Action 4/12: Follow up developments regarding publication of the RDA/ONIX Framework namespace, and start the implementation of the ISBD/ROF namespaces mapping as appropriate. ISBD/XML SG: ongoing

Action 5/12: Consider developing *specialized translation guidelines for ISBD namespaces*: ongoing

Action 6/12: Plan work on *Guidelines for use of ISBD as Linked Data* for 2013-2014: Postponed for 2014

Action 7/12: Write *Resource vs WEMI entity resolution: discussion paper*. ISBD/XML SG: Done

Action 8/12: Develop the ISBD AP as conditions are met. ISBD/XML SG: discussion ongoing

Action 9/12: Report on any issues relevant to the ISBD revision process. ISBD/XML SG: ongoing

Action 10/12: Develop a diagram of mappings/alignments and related projects. Done

The document *Alignments between the namespaces of ISBD, other IFLA standards, and external standards* was prepared by the ISBD/XML SG as requested by the ISBD RG; it was not discussed at the meeting. Executive decision needed for the action.

**Action 4/13:** ISBD/XML SG to review the *Alignments between the namespaces of ISBD, other IFLA standards, and external standards* at its Paris meeting, October 2013; M. Willer send to ISBD RG for comment and adoption; publish on ISBD/XML SG's website.

Action 11/12: Volunteers are invited to join the ISBD/XML Study Group. Done; new members M. V. Bertini and M. Gentili-Tedeschi.

Actions 4/12 to 11/12 and 13/12 come under the terms of activity of the ISBD/XML Study Group. The first version of the documents was reviewed, while in-depth discussion will follow during the Paris meeting, 16-18 October 2013 as part of the Project *ISBD Namespaces Alignments and Publication as Linked Data* (G3.13.2-1/13). For details, see the ISBD/XML SG's minutes.<sup>4</sup>

Action 12/12: J. Hostage will answer the question on the use of ISBD. Done

Action 13/12: Monitor developments around the need to publish ISBD unconstrained namespaces, and act as needed. ISBD/XML SG: *ISBD unconstrained elements and other extensions* by G. Dunsire, 2013/07/29. Done

Action 14/12: G. Dunsire will answer the email, and help in wording the request to the Library of Congress to register ISBD Area 0 as a Genre/Form Code and Term Source Codes, and ISBD as a Descriptive Convention Source Code; check with PUC for a need of similar request for UNIMARC. Done

Action 15/12: Finish the *ISBD/RDA profile* document; report on any issues relevant to the ISBD

---

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.ifla.org/files/assets/cataloguing/isbd/OtherDocumentation/ISBD2ROF%20Mapping%20v1\\_1.pdf](http://www.ifla.org/files/assets/cataloguing/isbd/OtherDocumentation/ISBD2ROF%20Mapping%20v1_1.pdf).

See also discussion paper accompanying the document, <http://www.ifla.org/files/assets/cataloguing/isbd/OtherDocumentation/ISBD%20to%20JSC%20discussion%20paper%202.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.ifla.org/node/1795>

revision process. Done

The working group meeting took place in Madrid, 19 and 20 September 2012, for which extra funding was approved (EUR 1.191). The members are: E. Escolano Rodríguez, M. Gentili-Tedeschi, F. Lereshe and D. McGarry, The version *Draft, 27 May 2013* was sent to ISBD RG members for voting on 4 June 2013. No comments were received.

Also: RDA Appendix D.1 ISBD consolidated edition (punctuation), approved by the ISBD RG; revised version with response sent to JSC/RDA 2013/07/05. Done; it was decided not to publish this document on the RG's website, only in the wiki.

**Action 5/13:** M. Willer to send the *ISBD Profile in RDA* to the Cataloguing and Bibliography Sections' standing committees for comments and adoption by 30 November 2013; after adoption, post on the RG's website.

**Action 6/13:** M. Willer to send *ISBD Profile in RDA* with discussion paper to JSC/RDA for comments.

Action 16/12: Send the *Alignment of the ISBD/RDA* document to the CS's Standing Committee for final approval, and then publish it on the ISBD RG's website. Done<sup>5</sup>

During the discussion process with JSC/RDA, it was noted that correction should be made in alignment of 7.0.3, and a new version published.

**Action 7/13:** G. Dunsire to revise the *Alignment of the ISBD/RDA*, and M. Willer to send it for posting on the RG's website.

Action 17/12: Comment on ISSN Network's title changes in CJK languages proposal. Not done

ISSN IC will send their decision to the ISBD RG and JSC/RDA after their October 2013 meeting.

**Action 8/13:** ISBD RG to review the ISSN document on title changes in CJK languages.

Action 18/12: Re-send the ISBD RG's proposals on the *ISBD/RDA alignment* and *ISBD Area 0/ROF mapping* to the JSC/RDA on the proposal forms. Done; ISBD Area 0/ROF namespaces mapping: outstanding.

JSC with ISBD RG discussions/responses to both mapping/alignment documents, and also the RDA Appendix D.1 were discussed and approved by the ISBD RG prior to the Singapore meeting as: ISBD RG response to JSC/RDA Response: 6JSC/ISBD/Discussion/1 Alignment of ISBD and RDA Element Sets, and 6JSC/ISBD/Discussion/2 and Mapping of ISBD Area 0. It was decided to publish the document.

**Action 9/13:** M. Willer to send documents *6JSC/ISBD/Discussion/1/JSC/ response/ISBD response, JSC/ISBD/Discussion/2/JSC/ response/ISBD response, July 4, 2013* for posting on the RG's website. Also: M. Willer to collate the responses to this paper and send it for posting on the RG's website.

Action 19/12: Review Glasgow Outcomes, and propose actions based on the priorities of the ISBD Strategic Plan. Done

---

<sup>5</sup>[http://www.ifla.org/files/assets/cataloguing/isbd/OtherDocumentation/ISBD2RDA%20Alignment%20v1\\_1.pdf](http://www.ifla.org/files/assets/cataloguing/isbd/OtherDocumentation/ISBD2RDA%20Alignment%20v1_1.pdf). See also the discussion paper accompanying the document, <http://www.ifla.org/files/assets/cataloguing/isbd/OtherDocumentation/ISBD%20to%20JSC%20discussion%20paper%201.pdf>

ISBD RG discussed the work done so far, and concluded that it has fulfilled all the tasks regarding ISBD/RDA alignment. ISBD RG decided that it can update the mapping documents with ISBD revisions, but will not update with RDA revisions, especially as RDA is constantly changing while RG has no capacity to follow it. However, ISBD RG is open to further dialogue on the improvement of interoperability between ISBD and RDA based on the JSC constituency responses and proposed activities. The major impact on the alignment could be the RDA/ISBD alignment, which is considered complementary to ISBD/RDA one, and which can resolve some detailed issues recognized during the Glasgow meeting.

Action 20/12: Task group to prepare the proposal for the survey on use of ISBD. Done.

A draft survey on use of ISBD prepared by A. Galeffi, J. Hostage, I. Kavčič and D. McGarry was discussed and comments accepted. The new version should be sent to the RG and Cataloguing Sections's SC for approval. It is planned that the survey and its preliminary analysis of the results will be finished by February/March 2014. The results of the survey will be sent to the RG and Cataloguing Sections's SC for further discussions on ISBD - Strategic Plan.

**Action 10/13**: A. Galeffi, J. Hostage, I. Kavčič, D. McGarry to distribute the revised version of the survey for approval; distribute the survey; preliminary results to be sent to the ISBD RG and Cataloguing Section's SC by March/April 2014.

## 6.2 Other mapping activities

### 6.2.1 ISBD and REICAT mapping

The ISBD and REICAT mapping was sent to the ISBD RG by S. Forassiepi as part of his research for a master's thesis under the supervision of Prof. Mauro Guerrini. It was decided to review and as necessary to update the document and publish it on the RG's website as part of the RG's activity to "encourage harmonization of existing cataloguing rules with the ISBD" (3.3). It should be clearly acknowledged that this is a research document, and not the official mapping issued by the publishers of REICAT.

**Action 11/13**: A. Galeffi, M. Gentili-Tedeschi and F. Leresche will review the ISBD/REICAT mapping and contact S. Forassiepi as required; publish the research mapping on RG's website.

### 6.2.2 ISBD/XML Study Group: status, membership and activities (report by F. Leresche)

ISBD RG acknowledged the SG's activities and adopted the report (see above). F. Leresche proposed to change the name of the SG to more appropriately represent its changed tasks. The meeting, as well as the Cataloguing Section's SC approved of the change of the name to: *ISBD Linked Data Study Group*.

**Action 12/13**: F. Leresche and A. Galeffi to update the ISBD/XML SG's website with the information on the change of the SG's name.

## 7. Chair's report

### 7.1. Project ISBD Namespaces Alignments and Publication as Linked Data (G3.13.2-1/13)

An amount of 1500 Euros was allocated in 2013 for funding the project on *ISBD Namespaces Alignments and Publication as Linked Data*. The project is part of the ISBD Linked Data SG's remit. The SG's project meeting will take place in Paris, 16-19 October, 2013.

## 7.2. Publications and presentations

- 7.2.1. The French translation of the ISBD consolidated edition (2011) is available on the BnF website: [http://www.bnf.fr/documents/isbd\\_trad\\_francais.pdf](http://www.bnf.fr/documents/isbd_trad_francais.pdf); ISBD Area 0 vocabulary namespaces were published in OMR<sup>6</sup>; the Spanish translation of the ISBD consolidated edition (2011) is available at <http://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/publications/series/44-es.pdf>.
- 7.2.2. List of presentations and publications: see Appendix 3

Information: *Cataloguing & Classification Quarterly* issued a call for papers for a special issue which will be devoted to the evaluation and adoption of ISBD: International Standard Bibliographic Description, consolidated edition, published in 2011; guest editors are M. Willer, L. Howarth and J. Hostage. Planned publication date is 2014

8. Status of projects and issues arising during IFLA meetings: updates
  - 8.1. Cataloguing Section's Standing Committee:
    - 8.1.1. Strategic plan – discussed and reported above
    - 8.1.2. Open Session meeting: Cataloguing Section will join its time with Bibliography Session on the topic *UBC: Use and Re-use of Bibliographic Data*
  - 8.2. FRBR Review Group: RG will hold its consolidation meeting in Paris, 13-14 October, 2013, and members of the ISBD/XML SG will join as the discussion will be focused on FRBR attributes.
  - 8.3. Namespaces Technical Group (report by G. Dunsire chair): *Guidelines for translations of IFLA namespaces in RDF*, draft, version 2.0 was approved, thus specific guidelines for ISBD namespaces can start to be drafted; *Guidelines on using and extending IFLA namespaces*, draft version to be developed further, as well as *Issues of constrained and unconstrained namespaces*, draft; both are relevant to further development and use of ISBD namespaces as part of the ISBD Linked Data SG's activities.
  - 8.4. Permanent UNIMARC Committee (report by I. Lopes Cordeiro, UNIMARC Core Activity director): PUC funded the project *UNIMARC in RDF* for 2013; part of the project is to align UNIMARC/ISBD namespaces, and to report on the outstanding issues for both standards. The project members presented the paper on these issues at the conference.<sup>7</sup>
  - 8.5. Identification of issues for project proposal for 2014

The item was not discussed due to the lack of time. The members of the ISBD Linked Data SG will consider this issue during their meeting in Paris as the continuation of this year's project, and will make a proposal.

**Action 13/13:** The project meeting in Paris, Oct. 2013 to identify issues for project proposal for 2014; M. Willer to distribute the proposal to members for adoption and submit.

## 9. Any other business

There was no other business.

---

<sup>6</sup> See [http://metadataregistry.org/concept/list/vocabulary\\_id/113.html](http://metadataregistry.org/concept/list/vocabulary_id/113.html), and <http://metadataregistry.org/concept/show/id/1200.html>, etc.

<sup>7</sup> WILLER, Mirna, DUNSIRE, Gordon and PEROŽIĆ, Predrag (2013) *The UNIMARC in RDF project: namespaces and linked data*. Paper presented at: IFLA World Library and Information Congress, 17 - 23 August 2013, Singapore, <http://library.ifla.org/156/>

Respectfully submitted by  
Mirna Willer, ISBD Review Group chair, Zagreb, 21 October 2013



## Appendix 1

### **ISBR Review Group response to the call for view on the Cataloguing Section's paper on ISBD Strategy, 2013**

e-mail to Hanne H. Hansen, 7 August, 2013

Dear Hanne and colleagues,

ISBD Review Group had extensive and very fruitful discussions on the questions you put regarding ISBD strategy and further development.

The majority of the members agree with the status of the ISBD as the IFLA bibliographic standard crucial to the functioning of the Universal Bibliographic Control, and its relation to the RDA, as one of the cataloguing rules. This view was presented in the document by Françoise Leresche, and adopted by that majority.

There were two other opinions, however, that do not share such a view, and that point to the fact that the today's world has changed so much, and that economic and other factors will influence the adoption of one cataloguing code – RDA, as they do not see viable that national cataloguing bodies would consider developing particular national cataloguing rules. ISBD as an IFLA standard is seen either only as a display format, or, vaguely, as some kind of necessity related to FRBR.

There is still another opinion, expressed by the previous chair of the ISBD RG, Elena Escolano Rodriguez. Elena endorses F. Leresche's view, but she reminds of the discussions on IFLA's role in bibliographic Standards document on reinstating the UBC going on in 2010 in all Division IV sections.

Elena additionally reminds us all of the activities related to ISBD and UBC based on the IFLA Strategic plan, 2010-2015, where the third mission still reads: “ - drives high standards in library and information services and professional practice;” And as Goals reads: “To advance the profession through the development of standards and the promotion of specialised knowledge within the professional practice...”

She notes that: “According with this high statement in the Strategic Plan the standard of IFLA, by antonomasia, can't be questioned at least until 2015.”

Additionally, Elena raises the questions whether UNIMARC Core Programme has received such a question, and what is the status and what activities done by the Committee on Standards in which bibliographic standards are represented. She recommends joint discussions and response.

To this, I would add that joint discussions would be needed lead by the Cataloguing Section with Bibliography Section, National Libraries Section, and Information and Technology with their Semantic Web SIG. Perhaps other interested sections could be attracted outside the Division III, like rare Books and Manuscripts Section.

The results from the *Survey on the ISBD use* that ISBD RG plans for 2013/2014, with results and analysis prepared for the ISBD RG meeting in 2014, will be important input to the planned discussions.

## Cataloguing Section – ISBD Strategy

### Role and function of Cataloguing Section

## Action Plan, 2011/2013

### Mission

The Cataloguing Section of IFLA strives to be the leader in international developments in cataloguing theory, activities, and standards development. The Section analyses the principles and functions of cataloguing activities for all types of materials and media, including both bibliographic and authority information, for the benefit of all kinds of users. The Section proposes and develops cataloguing rules, guidelines, and standards for bibliographic information, taking into account the developing electronic and networked environment in order to promote universal access to and exchange of bibliographic and authority information.

Standardization of cataloguing at the international level so as to enable data exchange and derivation across national borders (at the core of UBC)

Hence:

- the International Cataloguing Principles
- the ISBD
- the rules for constructing access points (corporate headings), and, as an application of the principle according to which national forms for personal names and work titles should be preferred, reference documents such as *Names of Persons* and *Anonymous Classics*

Even the FRBR model resulted from an effort towards the simplification of cataloguing rules. It was developed as part of the standardization endeavour, with direct consequences for the ISBD (distinction first between mandatory, conditional, and optional elements, later on between mandatory and optional elements).

That role as a standards body lies at the heart of the Section's activities. All of its other activities are related to it, and it is useful for other sections as well (most notably, the Bibliography Section).

There has been a trend, within the Section SC, for several years, towards the abandonment of standardization activities, which are handed over to other actors, outside IFLA:

- transferal of *Names of Persons* to VIAF or ISNI
- end of work on the *Anonymous Classics*

ISBD does not escape that trend, and the publication of RDA might be the pretext for the abandonment of cataloguing standardization to the benefit of a dominant cataloguing code.

I think that this trend is most alarming, because it amounts to giving up IFLA's role as an international standards body in the field of cataloguing.

What would be the purpose of the Cataloguing Section, were it deprived of that role? Ought it just to survey global cataloguing practices, without being able to direct them towards greater interoperability and an openness aiming at facilitating exchanges?

In the context of digital information and the Web of data, cataloguing standardization has to evolve as it is facing novel situations and challenges. I think that we are at the verge of a transformation of bibliographic information which will prove as radical as in the 1960s-70s when the ISBD and ISBD-related standards were being developed.

The Cataloguing Section should be the place for **truly international** reflections on today's cataloguing, basing on FRBR and the Web of data, and taking its specific agenda into account:

- thinking about international exchanges among national bibliographies (UBC): providing normative tools for national bibliographies and expressing these normative tools as cataloguing rules in both large and small libraries (RDA is one such cataloguing code, it was designed so as to meet first the needs of local cataloguing, and only then the needs of bibliographic interchange);
- taking into account all countries (with their various levels of development, various cultures, etc.)

This implies an **in-depth revision** of the ISBD (as demonstrated by the work done on alignments) so that it can be adapted to the current environment, rather than abandoned and substituted with a code that was developed outside IFLA, with no genuine international representation.

### Questions posed in the SC's discussion paper

Statements/Questions to consider:

- Has the time come when developing and maintaining a standard such as ISBD simply can't be done on a voluntary basis while still securing truly international involvement?

It seems to me that IFLA is the place that best warrants a genuine international representation, with experts from potentially every country, and any institution.

The voluntary basis is a requisite for international standardization; it also warrants neutrality.

The Section has many members (including corresponding members), it is a pool of competencies that is insufficiently exploited.

- Even though RDA isn't an IFLA product it is hard to ignore that RDA most likely will be considered a de-facto-standard in large parts of the world.

So far, RDA has just the same area of influence as AACR.

It is a cataloguing code that partially refers to IFLA: it does so when it comes to IPC, FRBR/FRAD, but it regards ISBD only as a displaying format (in the continuation of AACR that only took into account the ISBD(G) schema, not the rules properly said).

Normally, the ISBD is a normative general framework that defines the rules for bibliographic description within the UBC framework. Those rules can then be adapted at the national level as cataloguing codes. RDA is just one such code, even though it is supranational.

It is important to keep the ISBD as the **reference normative document** when it comes to bibliographic description, **at a higher level** than any particular code.

- Will the countries using RDA put all their efforts on developing rules into RDA and not be able to contribute to ISBD? Perhaps consider ISBD less important?

This is a risk, and a prioritizing issue at the national level.

For instance, France is currently working on three issues: ISBD evolution, RDA evolution (proposals transmitted through EURIG), and revision of national rules so as to enable a FRBRized catalogue (as long as RDA has not evolved satisfactorily).

HOWEVER, if the ISBD is reaffirmed as the **ONLY** international reference standard, at a higher level than its various declinations as local codes (such as RDA), the JSC would better keep an eye on the evolution of ISBD, and even participate in it.

- If RDA and ISBD continue their separate development and make efforts to harmonize the content, who benefits from having two standards describing the same things and often involving the same people?

Once again, the ISBD is the international reference standard. It hovers at a higher level than national, linguistic, and cultural choices or preferences. The ISBD is needed to achieve that goal.

Besides, the ISBD is a bibliographic standard, not a cataloguing code.

RDA is a cataloguing code. It is being developed by a specific community, and will always tend to privilege that community's needs. It is delusive to think that RDA, the way it is currently being developed, could evolve towards a genuine international standard that would meet everybody's needs.

- What about the obligation to countries who have based their development and trust in IFLA continuing to provide guidelines through the ISBD?

A huge responsibility weighs on IFLA. IFLA is the international reference and must continue to provide the reference framework for the cataloguing of resources.

Besides, the ISBD is an open standard, anybody has access to it. It also is a crucial item for less-developed countries that can use it as a reference for the definition of their national rules, or even directly as a cataloguing code (although the consolidated ISBD has turned more generic, making such a utilization of the ISBD more difficult).

- What about countries preferring other codes than RDA?

If such codes refer to the ISBD, this is not an issue.

The ISBD is the warrant for interoperability between national codes.

- What about the social obligation to countries where they can't afford RDA? (on the other hand: can they afford to implement ISBD as it is for now?)

A number of countries do so (and have been doing so for quite some time): they use ISBD directly as a cataloguing standard.

- IFLA is the natural and truly democratic place for international cooperation: but the form the work takes must be adjusted to what is feasible. Could the ISBD evolve to a shorter, more principle-based, simple and basic standard that would be able to be incorporated into other codes but also could be used by itself by countries with no possibility to implement a more sophisticated code?

In my opinion, there is an internal contradiction in this proposal.

If the ISBD is to be used directly by countries that cannot afford to adopt a more sophisticated (and, more importantly, more expensive, in terms of subscription) code, it definitely cannot be simplified and made even more generic.

The cases encountered when cataloguing must be addressed in a more detailed way, along with the recommended solution. That is what a cataloguing code is supposed to do.

It could be envisioned to split the ISBD into two distinct parts:

- the international reference standard, at a rather generic level;
- and an implementation handbook that elaborates on the main practical cases encountered in cataloguing and provides many examples, for use by countries that cannot afford to adopt a more sophisticated code or to develop a national code based on the ISBD.

As to human resources and feasibility issues, let me remind that the Cataloguing Section counts many members, and always arouses much interest at the time of elections. In the same vein, the ISBD RG counts 12 members, only a half of which are really active. If all 12 members of the ISBD RG were more strenuous, much would be achieved indeed!

Françoise Leresche  
Member of the ISBD RG

Head of the Standards and Models Unit  
Bibliographic and Digital Information Department  
National Library of France

## Appendix 2

IFLA Cataloguing Section, strategic Plan, 2013-2015:

### 3. Continue ISBD revision

**Mission:** The main purpose of the ISBD is to serve as a principal standard to promote universal bibliographic control by offering consistency when sharing bibliographic information.

*The Strategy for the ISBD is under evaluation and a revised strategy is expected in 2014*

- 3.1 Maintain and develop the ISBD content standard. Assess any amendments to be recommended by the Review Group.
- 3.2 Develop mapping between ISBD and the FRBR family of conceptual models in the RDF environment to inform the further development of ISBD itself, and increase the understanding of the relations between ISBD and FRBR.
- 3.3 Provide leadership in encouraging harmonization of existing cataloguing rules with the ISBD through communication with rule-making bodies internationally by forming liaison relationships between each rule-making body and the ISBD Review Group.
- 3.4 Develop and maintain representations of the ISBD that are compatible with current electronic and semantic web environments for resource discovery and the management of metadata for use in digital and non-digital catalogues.
- 3.5 Maintain liaisons with the Permanent UNIMARC Committee, the ISSN Network, and the International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres (IAML), with other IFLA units, and with other relevant groups to assure widespread use of the ISBD as a metadata content standard.
- 3.6 Encourage translations of the consolidated ISBD.
- 3.7 Develop training material centred on definitions, structure and the use of ISBD for rule making bodies and in general for teachers, cataloguers, etc.

## Appendix 3

### List of presentations and publications

1. M. Willer & G. Dunsire. *Bibliographic information organization in the Semantic Web*, Oxford: Chandos, 2013.
2. M. Willer, G. Dunsire & P. Perožić. *UNIMARC in RDF Project: namespaces and linked data*, IFLA, 2013, UNIMARC Open Session, 22 Aug, <http://library.ifla.org/156/>
3. G. Dunsire, M. Willer & P. Perožić. *Representation of the UNIMARC Bibliographic Data Format in Resource Description Framework*, DC 2013, 5 Sep., <http://dcevents.dublincore.org/IntConf/dc-2013/paper/view/173/91>
4. G. Dunsire. IFLA in RDF (+ RDA). Lightning presentation to NISO Bibliographic Roadmap Meeting, Baltimore, USA, 15-16 Apr 2013
5. G. Dunsire. *Multilingual issues in the representation of international bibliographic standards for the Semantic Web*. Presentation to Sixth Multilingual Web Workshop: Making the multilingual web work, Rome, Italy, 12-13 Mar 2013
6. G. Dunsire. *Granularity in Library Linked Open Data*. Keynote presentation at Code4Lib 2013, Chicago, USA, 12-14 Feb 2013.
7. G. Dunsire. *Mapping FRBR, ISBD, RDA, and other namespaces to DC for interoperability*. Presentation to Kunnskapsorganisasjonsdagene 2013, Oslo, Norway, 7-8 Feb 2013
8. M. Willer. *ISBD: information on the activities so far, and the reasons for attending to it...* SCATNews No 39, June 2013, <http://www.ifla.org/files/assets/cataloguing/scatn/scat-news-39.pdf>