

**Report from the First  Special Interest Group Meeting
London, 18 April 1996**

The day began with an introduction to the aims of the SIG from Judy Watkins (IFLA). The participants then introduced themselves and stated their interest in electronic copyright management systems and their reasons for attending the SIG. The meeting had attracted interest from different sectors and covered a wide range of experience.

Dominique Spaey (Bureau van Dijk), gave an introduction to the COPEARMS Project, and the partners introduced themselves and the type of help they are able to provide. Emmanuella Giavarra (ECUP) asked if COPEARMS would be willing to assist projects funded under the Libraries Programme, and if so how much it would cost. Dominique Spaey said that the work of the COPEARMS Project would not and should not be confined to the ESPRIT Programme, but would be open to all projects. The first stage of the consultancy is a feasibility study which is fee. If, as a result of the study it was decided that the projects needed, for example legal advice, then the subject of cost would be discussed.

To round off the morning Edmond Kouka (EURITIS) gave a presentation of the CITED model and Dominique Gonthier (European Commission, DG XIII), talked about IPR protection in the ESPRIT Programme.

The morning session provoked a great deal of interest in the CITED Model. There were questions about who owned the IPR on the model and how a copy could be obtained.

Dominique Gonthier explained that under the ESPRIT Programme the results of an ESPRIT Project should be free to others under the same programme. For projects outside ESPRIT there are conditions that have to be met before the results can be used. It should also be noted the IPR on any software tools developed for CITED will belong to the consortium who developed them. For example, the COPICAT Project (Copyright Ownership Protection in Computer Assisted Training) had developed a system based on the CITED Model and the IPR is shared between EURITIS and MARI Computer Systems.

It was questioned whether CITED would work in a client server environment. Edmond Kouka explained that it would, as will be seen in the TISSUS Project that was presented later that day. Peter Bennett (MARI Computer Systems) added that the CITED Model had been used by the COPICAT project and the result was a system which could be used outside the educational environment and could be applied to networks. A good starting point for further information would be Jean-François Boisson at EURITIS, or the COPEARMS Consortium who will pass enquiries on to the relevant person.

Presentations were given on TISSUS and MULTIMEDIATOR. These are two projects with which the COPEARMS Consortium are already working. Peter Lambert then gave a presentation on IMPRIMATUR, which is another horizontal project. The IMPRIMATUR Project has developed its own SIG Methodology based on the

scenario approach which was discussed in some detail as the COPEARMS Consortium will be using this approach to keep up to date with issues in the technical and standards areas, which will be fed back to the IMPRIMATUR Consortium.

Dominique Spaey asked how they can be sure that no issues will be missed. Peter Lambert agreed that there were many issues but they had to start somewhere. Dominique Gonthier asked if the scenarios will be open or if there would be proposed solutions. Peter Lambert said that there will be a number of scales such as good/bad, legal/illegal which the respondent will use to judge the actions in the scenario. It was queried whether information about the respondents past experience will be sought as their views will be based on past experience. Peter Lambert said this level of detail would not be gathered. It was then discussed whether CITED had removed the need for consensus. Peter Lambert felt that this was not the case as although CITED had dealt with the technical solutions there were still other issues such as legality and freedom of information and political and commercial aspects. Dominique Gonthier added that it was important to establish a universal infrastructure with common rules and standards.

Stephen Pearson (British Film Institute) was concerned by the number of organisations such as WIPO getting involved in the area of standards and consensus building and wondered what links IMPRIMATUR had with these organisations. Peter Lambert said that WIPO had been involved in the discussions which set up IMPRIMATUR. The Interactive Multimedia Association based in America is a partner in the Project and there are possible links with Japan.

After a short break there was time for general discussion. Bernard Dovovan asked if there were any commercially available ECMS. There was none that anyone knew about. Peter Bennett mentioned that the COPICAT Project was nearing the end and that they were looking at commercial possibilities. It was then asked if any projects had looked at the issues from the end user's point of view. Peter Bennett said that the COPICAT demonstrator will be placed at University College Dublin where it will be used on a University campus network. During this trial students will be encouraged to give their reactions.

Sandy Norman (Library Association), asked who was likely to be the Trusted Third Party in an electronic system that used this method. She wondered if it would be libraries. However, it was felt that the Trusted Third Party was more likely to be a trusted organisation already involved in copyright such as a collecting organisation.

Judy Watkins, on behalf of the Consortium thanked everyone for attending and for adding to the debate. It was hoped that the day would provide the beginning of an information exchange forum and that participants would pass any news to Judy who would distribute it to other participants.

For a full copy of the proceedings from this SIG please contact judy.watkins@bl.uk