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1 Introduction

These guidelines are intended to encourage and support the translations of the ISBD namespace containing representations of the IFLA ISBD standard\(^1\) in the Resource Description Framework (RDF)\(^2\) from the English language into multiple other languages.

These guidelines will not repeat the general *Guidelines for translations of IFLA namespaces in RDF*\(^3\), published in 2013 to be applied to all IFLA standards, except that it is necessary to clarify specific aspects.

In such Guidelines, what can be translated is specified:

- Human-readable labels, names, titles, etc.
- Definitions, descriptions, etc.
- Notes, comments, etc.

These literals from the ISBD set of elements and vocabulary used in the Content Form and Media Type Area can be translated in both constrained \(^4\) and unconstrained \(^5\) namespaces. The translation of the unconstrained namespace can be generated automatically by a spreadsheet from the constrained namespace.

2 Acknowledgements

The *IFLA Guidelines for translations of the IFLA ISBD namespace in RDF* aims to give guidance to professionals on the process of translation of ISBD namespaces into their own languages.

The *Guidelines* have been compiled by the ISBD Linked Data Study Group\(^6\), a successor to the ISBD/XML Study Group formed by ISBD Review Group\(^7\) and accepted by the Cataloguing Section Standing Committee during the IFLA meeting in Quebec, 2008.

Members of the ISBD Linked Data Study Group:

- Maria Violeta Bertolini (chair, 2014-)
- Boris Bosančić (2008-2009)

\(^2\) RDF Primer: W3C Recommendation 10 February 2004, [www.w3.org/TR/rdf-primer/](http://www.w3.org/TR/rdf-primer/)
\(^5\) ISBD elements (open), Experimental set of ISBD properties without domains or ranges, for use by non-ISBD communities and applications, and for mappings between ISBD and other namespaces: [http://metadataregistry.org/schema/show/id/62.html](http://metadataregistry.org/schema/show/id/62.html)
\(^6\) [http://www.ifla.org/node/1795](http://www.ifla.org/node/1795)
\(^7\) [http://www.ifla.org/isbd-rg](http://www.ifla.org/isbd-rg)
Gordon Dunsire, consultant
Elena Escalona Rodriguez
Massimo Gentili-Tedeschi (2013-)
Françoise Leresche (chair, 2011-2014)
Dorothy McGarry
Mirna Willer (chair, 2008-2011)

3 General guidelines

Priority of translation should be given to the vocabulary used in Area 0 Content Form and Media Type as this information is given in the language and script chosen by the cataloguing agency, and could be easily converted into the language of the catalogue in shared bibliographic records. Therefore the end user will soon benefit from translations.
Second in importance are the translations of labels that also can be used for display and first remind to technical developers.

Definitions and notes can be translated if desired, at the same time or later on. They aim to facilitate the understanding of technical developers.

Translations of the ISBD namespace should be as close as possible to the source wording in the namespace, without losing coherency of meaning in the translated language and retaining consistency with the corresponding official translation of the ISBD standard in the local language, allowing natural language processing. Therefore it is supposed that technical developers would prefer to use the official local language translation of the standard as a reference source. If no such translation of ISBD is available, then the ISBD namespace should be translated directly.

4 Specific guidelines

4.1 Style

General guidelines on the use of upper case, lower case, and camelCase use of definite and indefinite articles; and use of singulars over plurals, are followed in consistency with local conventions. It should be kept in mind that the ISBD set of elements is declared as properties or sub-properties of the class Resource. Therefore verbal phrases for property labels are used. Properties are the predicate in an RDF data triple; the subject-predicate-object, adopting the form of a verb by prefixing the ISBD set of elements with “has …”. Latin and other alphabets advise writing these properties labels with lowercase.

For e.g.: Resource XXXX “has title proper” xxxx
4.2 Disambiguation

The only parenthetical information used in the ISBD namespace elements set is in the subclasses “Title Proper (Compound) Of Series Or Multipart Monographic Resource Encoding Scheme”, and “Parallel Title (Compound) Of Series Or Multipart Monographic Resource Encoding Scheme” and is not for disambiguation but for clarification that the title proper and the parallel title proper can be composed of a common title and a dependent title.

4.3 Value vocabularies

As said in the General guidelines, grammatical inflection is rare in English, but common in many other languages.

It affects very strongly the translation of the controlled vocabulary used for the Content Form and Media Type in area 0. The qualifiers are given as adjectives to allow them to be used in user-friendly compound phrases; e.g. “image (cartographic)”, where “cartographic” is a qualifier. In Latin languages “cartographic” is inflected in two forms, e.g. in Spanish “cartográfica” and “cartográfico”, that depend on the gender of the noun being qualified: “imagen (cartográfica)” and “objeto (cartográfico)” and in the Croatian translation: “kartografski” and “kartografska”. The current approach used in the ISBD namespace is to record the inflected terms using the skos:altLabel property, which is repeatable for any language. This means there is no skos:prefLabel for the concept in those languages.
In some languages one or another term is inflected, and the terms are not always the same.

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If a translation of the ISBD namespace is intended, the ISBD Review Group should be contacted:
1) for declaring the intention to translate the namespace and
2) for publishing the translation in the ISBD namespace.

Later modifications resulting from the maintenance and updating of the translations should also be communicated to the ISBD Review Group and the IFLA Linked Data Technical Subcommittee (LIDATEC), the successor of the Namespaces Technical Group.\(^8\)

\(^8\)http://www.ifla.org/node/5353