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CATALOGUING SECTION
ISBD Review Group
<http://www.ifla.org/en/isbd-rg>

Activity Report, August 2011-August 2012¹

I. Objectives of the ISBD RG & Plans for Activities: 2011-2013²

The publication of the ISBD consolidated edition in 2011 marks the end of the second general review and revision of the standard, and thus opens the need for the ISBD Review Group to define its future field of work.

The ISBD Review Group's main objective is to maintain the standard according to the IFLA Cataloguing Section's Strategic Plan 2011-2013, Actions 3 **Continue ISBD Revision** and 4 **Develop additional approaches, standards, rules, and lists for information that provide access to bibliographic and authority data in all languages**, based on the tasks to:

- 1) Promote the use, translation and implementation of the ISBD in library systems and services, and national cataloguing rules.
- 2) Prepare documentation for the next revision of the standard due to begin in about four years.

II. Reports

ISBD/XML Study Group

The aim of the ISBD/XML SG Review Group to explore and further develop the representation of the ISBD in the W3C RDF standard to enhance the portability of bibliographic data in the Semantic Web environment. The following activities were planned and performed:

- 1) **The namespaces for the Consolidated ISBD were published** in the Open Metadata Registry (OMR) in January 2012 with de-referencing service set up at <http://iflastandards.info/ns/isbd/> (news at <http://www.ifla.org/en/news/isbd-namespaces-published>)
- 2) **Development of the ISBD Application Profile:** DC Application Profile is still under development by DCMI, but ISBD is used by the DCMI as a case study.
- 3) **Maintenance of translations of the ISBD namespace** using the OMR service, and in collaboration with the ISBD RG develop *Guidelines for use of ISBD as Linked Data*: the work evolved into the *Translations of RDF representations of IFLA standards, version 1.0, 9 April*

¹ For a detailed report of the ISBD RG and ISBD/XML SG from August to December 2011 see: Mirna Willer; Françoise Leresche. News from the ISBD Review Group: Plans for Activities: 2011-2013 & Activities since August 2011. In: SCATNews 36(December 2011) <http://www.ifla.org/files/cataloguing/scatn/scat-news-36.pdf>

² See Objectives on ISBD RG's webpage at: <http://www.ifla.org/about-the-isbd-review-group>

2012, which was forwarded for comments to the ISBD RG and the DCMI Vocabulary Management Community Task Group in April 2012. It was decided that the maintenance of this document should be transferred to the Namespaces Task Group, as its scope now goes beyond ISBD and extends to the FRBR model family and possibly UNIMARC.

- 4) Development of the **alignments of ISBD data elements and vocabularies** with other namespaces:
 - a. *Mapping of ISBD area 0 vocabularies to RDA/ONIX Framework vocabularies, version 1, 4 April 2012*, was forwarded for comments to the ISBD RG and the DCMI Bibliographic Metadata Task Group in April 2012, and to the JSC for the Development of RDA in August 2012. This corresponds to Action 23 of the Outcomes³ of the Glasgow ISBD RG and ISSN Network with JSC/RDA Harmonization Meeting.
 - b. ISBD/RDA alignment: members took part in these activities (see below the report on the Project, Glasgow Meeting, November 2011)
 - c. ISBD/UNIMARC namespaces alignment: postponed due to the lack of decision in the PUC
 - d. ISBD/FRBR namespaces mapping: the relations between the Resource class (ISBD) and the Work, Expression, Manifestation, and Item classes (FRBR) should be investigated further and specified: project⁴ proposed for 2012 was not funded; the work is postponed for 2013.
- 5) **Develop and make available guidelines on appropriate use of the ISBD namespaces** by creators of instance triples *Guidelines for use of ISBD as Linked Data* (together with the ISBD RG): project proposed for 2012 was not funded; the work is postponed for 2013.

The members of the group had two ad hoc meetings (Glasgow & Edinburgh, November 2011; Zadar, June 2012), participated in one working group meeting (DCMI, Hague, 2011), and had presentations at six international conferences and seminars.

Perspectives for the ISBD/XML SG: (1) A name change should be considered as it does not show its actual activities; (2) “now that the task of publishing ISBD elements and vocabularies in RDF is completed, the SG’s role is about to change: in addition to defining an application profile and maintaining ISBD namespaces as a follow-up to the revisions of the Consolidated ISBD, its activity will consist increasingly of creating mappings with other bibliographic standards, and liaising the ISBD with the Semantic Web communities. It begs the question of whether this liaison work could not be carried out more usefully and more efficiently at the level of bibliographic standards by the Cataloguing Section (covering both ISBD and FRBR), rather than only at the level of ISBD by the ISBD RG. As a consequence, the composition (and chairing) of the SG should be reviewed so as to ensure that all relevant standards be represented. This issue must be discussed in Helsinki, within the Cataloguing Section. The decision can depend on further development related to bibliographic standards bodies in the context of the Semantic Web – discussion is expected to start within Standards Committee meeting in Helsinki.” (F. Leresche, ISBD/XML SG’s chair)

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The ISBD RG proposed three part project Interoperability of ISBD within Linked Data environment⁵ for funding in 2012, but it was refused. Some of the planned activities were realized by the ISBD/XML Study Group, and some by the ISBD RG.

³ http://www.ifla.org/files/cataloguing/isbdrg/JSC_ISBD_ISSN_Outcomesfinal.pdf

⁴ On the proposed project *Interoperability of ISBD within Linked Data environment* see: <http://www.ifla.org/en/node/6172>

⁵ Ibid.

1) Project report

August – December 2011: Project no. D3.4.13-1/11 *IFLA ISBD RG and JSC/RDA meeting on alignment and interoperability of standards* funded the ISBD Review Group, ISSN Network and JSC for Development of RDA harmonization meeting, Glasgow, UK, November 3-4, 2011: the result of the meeting were the Outcomes⁶ which required further funding in 2012, however, the funding was refused. Under these circumstances, the following has been done by August 2012:

- a. Action 6: *National Bibliographic Agency Application Profile* – work still in progress
- b. Action 24: *Alignment of the ISBD: International Standard Bibliographic Description element set with RDA: Resource Description & Access element set, Draft version 1, 25 July 2012*: it was forwarded for comments to the ISBD RG, to the DCMI Bibliographic Metadata Task Group in April 2012, and to the JSC for the Development of RDA in August 2012. To be formally approved at the Helsinki meeting, 2012.
- c. Actions related to the musical presentation statement and ISSN issues will be developed and reported by the IAML and ISSN Network representatives to the ISBD RG at the Helsinki meeting, 2012.
- d. RDA/ISBD mapping: project proposed for 2012 was not funded; the work is postponed for 2013.
- e. ISBD/FRBR mapping: initial mapping was started but as the project proposed for 2012 was not funded, the work was postponed for 2013.

2) Other

- a. Translations of ISBD:
 - a. Preliminary ISBD consolidated edition, 2007: Spanish, Italian, French, Latvian, Serbian
 - b. ISBD Consolidated edition, 2011: Chinese, Italian; reported translations in progress: Croatian, Finish, French, Slovenian, Spanish. *Guidelines for the application of the ISBDs to the description of component parts* translated into Bulgarian.
- b. Meetings and presentations (see the above under ISBD/XML SG); FRBR Review Group's meeting, London, April 2012: FRBR consolidation meeting
- c. Cataloguing Section's ISBD - Strategic Plan: the chair gave information on the Group's plans and projects

For detailed information, and in-depth discussions of certain issues, please see, apart from the cited August-December 211 report, the report of the ISBD/XML Study Group,⁷ ISBD Review Group's draft minutes of the Helsinki meeting to be published asap after the meeting, and cited references to relevant documentation.

Mirna Willer, ISBD Review Group chair
Zagreb, 6 August 2012

⁶ Outcomes.

⁷ http://www.ifla.org/files/cataloguing/isbdrg/isbd-xml-activities_2011-2012.pdf