

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS  
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WORLD LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CONGRESS



77<sup>th</sup> IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE, SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO – 13-18 AUGUST 2011  
CATALOGUING SECTION

**ISBD/XML Study Group**  
<http://www.ifla.org/en/node/1795>

**Report (Draft)**

**Meetings:** Monday, 15 August 14:45-16:45  
Tuesday, 16 August 15:30-17:30

**Attendees:** Gordon Dunsire , Elena Escolano, Lynne Howarth, Françoise Leresche, Dorothy McGarry.

**Apologies:** Mirna Willer.

The Study Group met twice, addressing all the agenda topics. The final part of the first meeting, and all of the second, were taken up with discussions on activities for 2012.

**Minutes:**

1. As Mirna Willer was unable to attend IFLA 2012, Gordon Dunsire chaired the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 14:50. G. Dunsire welcomed the numerous observers.
2. Minutes of 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of ISBD/XML Study Group, Gothenburg, Sweden, August 2010, were adopted as recorded.
3. As Mirna Willer had been elected as chair of the ISBD Review Group, the meeting was informed that Françoise Leresche has been elected as the new chair of the Study Group.
4. Review of the project: G. Dunsire reviewed activities as outlined in the "Status report of activities: August 2010-June 2011" document, distributed to the Study Group by Chair, Mirna Willer, 24 June, 2011. The update detailed meetings held:

- 4.1. October 4, 2010, Zagreb, Croatia (G. Dunsire, M. Willer, B. Bosančić); and November 16, Poreč, Croatia (G. Dunsire, M. Willer, B. Bosančić). Topics discussed: Further revisions to representation of ISBD in XML; development of Application Profile; mandatory status of Title Proper element and status of ISBD Element Table in the Consolidated ISBD.
  - 4.2. February 25, 2011, Edinburgh, Scotland, (G. Dunsire, M. Willer, E. Escolano Rodriguez). Topics discussed: Revisions of registered elements and definitions following approved ISBD; Application Profile; treatment of translations in Open Metadata Registry (OMR) (Spanish, Croatian, etc.).
5. Matters arising from minutes and project report:
- 5.1. Continuation and maintenance of ISBD namespaces and RDF: prior to publication of the ISBD Consolidated, there were a number of revisions which required changes to ISBD elements in the Open Metadata Registry (OMR). For example, elements no longer included in the ISBD were removed from the Registry. As ISBD revision continues, it will be necessary to monitor changes to the ISBD RDF in the OMR. The ISBD element set and Area 0 vocabulary namespaces have now been published, so any substantial changes to elements or vocabularies require additions to the namespaces and deprecation of superseded URIs, rather than amendment of the semantics or deletion of published URIs.
  - 5.2. Work on developing the ISBD Application Profile (AP) has been taken as far as possible. A draft AP for ISBD resources in general has been produced and circulated to Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI) colleagues for comment. DCMI needs to complete its development of a technical infrastructure for APs, and is using the ISBD work to identify issues. This will help the development of APs for related namespaces such as RDA. One issue to be discussed is the treatment of "mandatory if applicable" elements, which can only be accommodated by creating APs for specific types of resource; this suggests that a template approach for refining APs from general to specific applications would be useful.
  - 5.3. Although the ISBD element set and vocabularies have been set to Published status in the OMR, there is currently no de-referencing service for the namespaces. This is awaiting development of de-referencing services for the FRBR namespace by the IFLA Web team. As a result, no general notification of the publication of ISBD in RDF has been made, although it is recorded in the deliverables of the W3C Library Linked Data Incubator Group.
  - 5.4. Translation issues: The English to Spanish and Croatian translations surfaced a number of problems. For example, translating labels and definitions exposed differences in capitalization, in the use of articles (definite and indefinite, and when to use), etc., which might seem trivial until one takes into account the labeling of

syntax encoding schemes, which can be lengthy but need to be informative. G. Dunsire noted that, if we are considering translating the ISBD namespaces, then it was not necessary to make a complete translation in one go; the granularity of RDF and the version control capabilities of the OMR allow translations to be published element by element. It might be useful to prioritise the translation of ISBD in the OMR as: Area 0 labels (terms), definitions, and scope notes first, then element set definitions and scope notes, and finally element set labels, which are less important than definitions for semantic clarity. This was only a rough guideline, and should not preclude ad hoc translation of any part of the ISBD in the OMR.

- 5.5. RDA/ONIX work and Area 0: The Study Group and Review Group have carried out some work on a mapping between RDA and ISBD Area 0 via the RDA/ONIX Framework. Issues related to aligning RDA and ISBD more closely will be discussed at the meeting with the Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA (JSC) in Glasgow in November 2011. RDF representation of the Framework in the OMR will also be discussed by JSC. If this work goes ahead, there will be opportunities for representing the ISBD/RDA mappings as linked data by adding a mapping from ISBD to the Framework.
- 5.6. Crosswalks to other namespaces were discussed, particularly regarding FRBR, which would be relevant to alignment of ISBD and RDA. Mapping ISBD elements to other namespaces will improve the interoperability of linked data based on ISBD with that from related standards, so this is an important issue to be pursued. G. Dunsire reported that the Study Group had carried out some preliminary work with UNIMARC to create an RDF representation which was reported in a paper to be presented in the UNIMARC session at IFLA 2011 and discussed by the Permanent UNIMARC Committee. The work included looking at a small sample of tags and ISBD to see where there might be overlap. He noted opportunities to take advantage of ISBD properties that appear in UNIMARC to help develop the RDF representation.
- 5.7. Publication of ISBD consolidated edition was discussed. It was very important that an online version be made freely available to act as supporting documentation for proper use of the ISBD namespace, giving context and additional information about ISBD elements.  
**Recommendation:** Arrange for online publication of the consolidated edition as soon as possible.
6. Workplan for 2011-2012: Potential activity for the Study Group was discussed. The following activities are recommended for 2011-2012; specific recommendations involving other groups are noted.
  - 6.1. Follow up any changes required in the ISBD namespace resulting from the Glasgow meeting in November 2011.

- 6.2. Collaborate with JSC on the development of a representation of the RDA/Onix Framework in RDF, and ensure that ISBD's interests are represented in further development of the Framework itself.  
**Recommendation:** Seek and support representation of the ISBD/XML Study Group on the RDA/ONIX working group, if it is reconstituted.
- 6.3. Liaise with DCMI on improving its infrastructure and support for Application Profiles, using the ISBD AP as a case study, and subsequently further develop the ISBD AP. This includes developing an RDF version based on the current XML representation, and investigating the use of templates for multiple, related Application Profiles, which will be essential for representing ISBD elements which are "mandatory if applicable".
- 6.4. Continue to liaise with appropriate groups on translation issues. The OMR will be upgraded by the end of 2011 to provide secure maintenance of translations of namespaces; this service will be available via a fee-based subscription. Ad hoc translations can continue to be made via G. Dunsire, who is trained in correct use of the OMR.  
**Recommendation:** Translations of the ISBD namespace should be maintained using the OMR service, with fees paid from project funds.
- 6.5. Continue to monitor and liaise with the Permanent UNIMARC Committee on the proposals to represent UNIMARC in RDF and develop mappings between the ISBD and UNIMARC namespaces.
- 6.6. Monitor and liaise with the FRBR Review Group on the development of mappings between the ISBD and FRBR namespaces. This will require coordination with the alignment work between ISBD and RDA to be discussed at the Glasgow meeting.  
**Recommendation:** Formal liaison between the ISBD Review Group and FRBR Review Group should be developed, including cross-representation and protocols for ensuring that alignment between the namespaces is maintained.
- 6.7. Monitor development of RDF representations of ISSN elements and instance data, and develop appropriate alignments with the ISBD namespaces. This will be discussed at the Glasgow meeting session with representatives of the ISSN Agency.
- 6.8. Monitor developments in the release of instance data based on legacy catalogue records, especially standard identifiers that can be linked to URIs that may apply to instances of ISBD Resources. Monitor use of ISBD classes and properties in library linked data triples.
- 6.9. Develop and make available guidelines on appropriate use of the ISBD namespaces by creators of instance triples. Develop and make available guidelines on refining the ISBD namespaces, for example with properties for notes at a lower level of granularity. Such guidelines will promote use of the ISBD namespaces.

- 6.10. Develop mappings between the ISBD and Dublin Core Terms (DCT) namespaces. All ISBD elements can be considered refinements of the broad DCT elements. ISBD data can thus be "dumbed-up" to interoperate with instance data from non-ISBD communities. Liaise with DCMI on any development of the DCT or associated namespaces, and on mappings with ISBD. Mappings can be direct or indirect, via mappings to other namespaces.
  - 6.11. Monitor developments in related namespaces such as Bibliographic Ontology (BibO), SKOS (Simple Knowledge Organization System), and Friend of a friend (FOAF), and take ad hoc action to liaise with related namespaces and develop appropriate mappings from the ISBD namespaces.
  - 6.12. Seek representation of ISBD's interests in the proposed W3C Library Linked Data Community which will succeed the W3C Library Linked Data Incubator Group.
  - 6.13. Seek representation of ISBD's interests in a proposed expansion of the remit and membership of the current DCMI/RDA Task Group. This would cover Application Profiles and mappings between bibliographic namespaces.
7. Financial issues: The ISBD/XML Study Group requires funds for 2011 to support travel for face-to-face meetings of the Group, attendance at related meetings, and OMR maintenance fees.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordon Dunsire for Mirna Willer  
ISBD/XML Study Group, chair 30 August 2011