



International Federation of  
Library Associations and Institutions

**ISBD Review Group**  
<https://www.ifla.org/isbd-rg>

## **ISBD Editorial Group**

### **Terms of reference**

#### **Background**

The International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD) is intended to serve as a principal standard to promote universal bibliographic control, that is, to make universally and promptly available, in a form that is internationally acceptable, basic bibliographic data for all published and unpublished<sup>1</sup> bibliographic resources in all countries. From the beginning, the main goal of the ISBD has been to provide consistency when sharing bibliographic information.

The ISBD is the only freely accessible and open standard maintained by IFLA that determines the data elements to be transcribed and recorded as the basis of the description of the resource being catalogued. Its existence corresponds to the IFLA objective of providing accessible and open standards and tools for all, including communities that need simple and easy to use rules for describing resources. In addition, it employs prescribed punctuation and a specific sequence of recording information as a means of identifying and displaying data elements and making them understandable independently of the language of the description.

The need to revise the ISBD has been recognised for several years by the library community as a whole, and by the relevant expert bodies within IFLA (especially the Cataloguing Section, the Committee on Standards, and the ISBD Review Group).

- There is a general need to revise IFLA standards periodically in order to ensure that they remain up-to-date and that they continue to answer to the needs of their user communities.
- Since the ISBD Consolidated Edition was published in 2011, the ISBD Review Group has received several comments and revision requests.
- The ISBD should be aligned with the overarching conceptual model provided by IFLA, the IFLA Library Reference Model.
- The content of the ISBD should be extended in order to include a larger array of resources, especially unpublished resources.

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<sup>1</sup> The extension of the ISBD to the description of unpublished resources was decided by the ISBD Review Group in 2012.

## Scope

After the approval of the *Proposed work plan for ISBD revision 2018-2022*<sup>2</sup> by the IFLA Committee on Standards on 24 August 2018, the ISBD Review Group has appointed an ISBD Editorial Group (IEG) with the following tasks:

1. review the impact of the manifestation entity of the IFLA LRM on the current text of the ISBD Consolidated edition;
2. identify the parts of the ISBD Consolidated edition where revisions should be considered;
3. take into account the comments and revision requests received since 2011;
4. make recommendations for the future display of the ISBD;
5. produce a draft revision of the ISBD.

## Timeline

The group is expected to complete the work and submit it to the ISBD Review Group by April 2020. Within this timeline, the group is expected to report regularly to the ISBD Review Group.

## Membership

Members of the group are:

Renate Behrens  
Elena Escolano  
Dorothy McGarry  
Rehab Ouf  
Clément Oury  
Mélanie Roche (chair)

## Proposed workflow

The Editorial Group will be supported by content groups focusing on special topics.

Established in Kuala Lumpur  
30 August 2018

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<sup>2</sup> [https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/cataloguing/isbdrg/proposed\\_work\\_plan\\_for\\_isbd\\_revision\\_2018-2022.pdf](https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/cataloguing/isbdrg/proposed_work_plan_for_isbd_revision_2018-2022.pdf).