



IFLA Cataloguing Section's ISBD Review Group

**Summary of Meetings held in Oslo:
Sunday, Aug. 13, 2005, 13:00-15:30
Thursday, Aug. 18, 2005, 12:00-14:00**

Members Present : John Byrum (Chair), Françoise Bourdon, Bill Garrison, Renate Gömpel, Mauro Guerrini, Elena Escolano Rodríguez, Lynne Howarth, Cristina Magliano, Dorothy McGarry, Eeva Murtomaa, Glenn Patton, Mirna Willer

Guests : Göran Bäärnhelm, Eleva Zagorskaya, Natalia Kulygina, Pino Buizza, Ben Gu, Gunilla Jonsson, Aurika Gergeležin, Agnes Manneheut, Judy Kuhagen

1. Future Directions of ISBDs Study Group

With Dorothy McGarry as chair, the Study Group on the Future Directions of the ISBDs (Future Directions SG) had two very productive meetings in Oslo. In addition to discussing some of the issues related to stipulations in drafts of a merged ISBD prepared for the Oslo conference, the Future Directions SG decided on a timeline for preparing a full proposal for harmonization of the published ISBDs, with comments for suggestions for updates and changes considered necessary for cataloguing at the present time. A meeting of the Future Directions SG is being planned to be held in Frankfurt, tentatively in early April 2006.

The Future Directions SG has been working on preparing a merged text for the ISBDs as they were published. This text will be presented, side-by-side with a column containing suggestions to the ISBD Review Group for changes from the published stipulations. In addition, primary problems and suggestions will be highlighted for the RG to consider. Some of the areas will be sent to the RG by the end of October, with comments requested back by the end of November. The rest of the areas will be sent by the end of November, with comments requested by the end of December. In addition, the draft revised ISBD(ER) and ISBD(CM) will be sent to the SG for consideration of potential updates to the stipulations in the published ISBDs. The chair of the SG will also contact the chair of the International Association of Music Libraries ISBD group for updates that will be needed for the music aspects of the ISBDs.

The Future Directions SG requested that a web site be set up by Die Deutsche Bibliothek (if possible) to enter the text of the merged published ISBDs, with room for comments and discussions. It will be much easier for the SG (and later the RG) to work from a single text rather than having to keep track of the latest version sent via emails.

The Future Directions SG will work on the stipulations, taking into consideration responses from RG members, and plans to have a text ready for the spring 2006 meeting in Frankfurt. Problems left unresolved can be worked out there. The resulting text will be sent to the RG in June or July, for a full discussion in Seoul at the IFLA 2006 conference. Following that meeting, the SG will revise the text and prepare a draft version for world-wide review in September-November 2006. Following consideration of the responses received in that review, the SG will prepare a recommended text to go to the RG for approval. Following approval by the RG, a final version will go to the Cataloguing Section Standing Committee for a vote.

The Future Directions SG looks forward to a final consolidated ISBD being ready for publication early in 2007. In order to alert the cataloguing community about the work being done on a consolidated ISBD, a statement of objectives and principles will be prepared as soon as possible.

2. Material Designations Study Group

Under chair of Lynne Howarth, the Material Designations Study Group (MD SG) met once to begin discussions on two issues that had been identified for further work at the IFLA WLIC 2005 conference in Oslo, namely:

- placement of the general material designation [gmd]
- identification, clarification, and definition of content and nomenclature of the gmd, area 3, area 5, and area 7

It had become clear that the MD SG's work on terminology and nomenclature would need to parallel and complement the work of the Study Group on the Future Directions of the ISBDs (Future Directions SG) as it prepares, first, the harmonized text, and, subsequently, the consolidated ISBD. The MD SG decided that, as individual areas of the harmonized text are completed, the SG will examine and evaluate terminology used currently in the authorized ISBDs and will make recommendations for the content and terminology to be used in the gmd, and areas 3, 5, and 7 as appropriate in the proposed consolidated ISBD.

Having addressed the terminology/nomenclature issue, the Study Group then turned its attention to problems associated with where to place or locate within the record the general material designation. During its meeting at IFLA WLIC 2004 in Buenos Aires, the MD SG had agreed on the importance and primacy of the gmd as an "early warning device" for catalogue users, and, consequently, focused its discussion on consideration of a separate, unique ISBD area for gmd. During its Oslo meeting, the SG remained sensitive to the implications of a so-called "area 0" for record formats, vendor software, and OPAC/WebPAC displays. Nonetheless, after thoughtful and wide-ranging discussion, the MD Study Group formalized a recommendation that the ISBD Review Group subsequently (at its second Oslo meeting of August 18, 2005) gave the SG approval to pursue further.

Proposed MD SG recommendation approved by the ISBD Review Group, August 18, 2005, Oslo meeting:

Recognizing the ongoing difficulties with the current optionality, terminology, and location/placement of the general material designation [gmd], and anticipating that the Future Directions Study Group may be working towards producing a consolidated ISBD for which a Document Type Definition (DTD) can then be developed, the MD SG proposes the creation of a separate, unique, high level component (not a numbered ISBD area) – a “content/carrier” or “content/medium” designation that would be mandatory – i.e., not optional as with the current gmd -- for recording in bibliographic records.

The MD SG emphasizes that this component is independent of system displays – that is, different systems can display the recorded content of the “content/carrier” or “content/medium” designation as each system vendor or client institution determines appropriate, and particularly if the component is a part of the DTD that a style sheet will interpret for display (or not, as a library and/or system vendor determines).

Benefits: The MD SG believes that several benefits derive from this proposal, as follows:

- a separate, unique, distinct component makes explicit important information regarding the content and medium of a resource
- as the order and location of the component is not specified (DTD elements can be ordered according to style sheet specifications), there is flexibility as to how the “content/carrier” (or “content/medium”) information displays
- the creation of a unique component, along with specification of its content, will help to focus the content of area 3 (i.e., truly unique/exceptional material), area 5, and, to some extent, area 7. Thus, terminology within each element will be more precise and distinct, addressing current problems with information overlap across related areas
- a separate component, rather than a named and ordered area within the current ISBD framework, may encourage rethinking of the numbering, naming, defining, and ordering of data elements for the future ISBD consolidated.

Next Steps for the MD SG: Having determined a unique place for designating content/carrier, or content/medium, the Study Group can now focus on what information to embed within that component (gmd), as well as within areas 3, 5, and 7. The MD SG will work closely with the Future Directions SG, and will also liaise with the JSC appointed GMD/SMD Working group whose initial report is expected shortly - i.e. August 2005. Tom Delsey will be consulted as appropriate or required for “sorting”, clarifying, and defining terminology as it evolves throughout the process.

3. Status of Revision projects

ISBD(A): Gunilla Jonsson, chair of the ISBD(A) Study Group, reported that much progress has been realized since the group was appointed in 2004, with a basic consideration of issues in Areas 1-2, 4-7 already well underway. In particular, area 4 has proved difficult due to problems that sometimes arise regarding observing traditional ISBD practice for transcription, while satisfying the needs for identification, given the

nature of many early imprints. Some debate over optionality vs mandatory aspects of Area 5 is still ongoing, and there is lack of agreement yet regarding definition of "facsimile reprint". In reply to her question about procedure to follow failing consensus on a matter, Jonsson was advised to accept the majority view. Mauro Guerrini briefed the Review Group on the Italian perspective regarding some of the unresolved topics. Jonsson advised that the ISBD(A) SG hoped to complete its work on a draft for world-wide review by the end of 2005. She will keep the Future Directions SG informed concerning changes from the 1991 edition that is being revised.

ISBD(ER) and ISBD(CM) : Dorothy McGarry introduced the discussion by reminding the RG that, since the last meeting, ISBD(ER) had been overwhelmingly approved by the Standing Committee, but that one dissent had been cast. The ballot conveyed objections to treatments set out in Areas 3 and 5. She noted that, although the recent revision of ISBD(CM) had undergone world-wide review, the very same issues would need to be resolved before it could go forward for review by the RG. After discussion of the concerns, it was decided that Area 3 should be omitted in ISBD(ER), but that the information formerly contained might be placed elsewhere in the description. Discussion of Area 5 concerns led to the conclusion that they should not be settled in isolation from the other ISBDs. As a result, the RG decided that further work on ISBD(ER) and ISBD(CM) should be postponed until summer 2006 in order to ensure that the Future Directions SG is able to focus on its initial task of harmonizing the existing, validated ISBDs and work on updating stipulations. Once consolidated, the RG could then consider changes needed to address the issues raised by the current revision projects.

ISBD(CR) : Dorothy McGarry reported regarding an exchange of communications with Francesco Dell'Orso regarding some aspects of ISBD(CR). In discussion, it was decided that these concerns should be addressed by the Future Directions SG. Françoise Bourdon kindly offered to discuss these issues with colleagues at BN and AFNOR and to share their advice with the SG.

4. Final report of the Series Study Group :

Françoise Bourdon reported that the Series SG had completed its work last year. The main issues related to differences in prescribed sources, with the SG preferring, in the case of multi-volume monographs, to give priority to the title page for the series when present. The Future Directions SG will take this work into account when harmonizing Area 6.

5. Discussion of report regarding AACR3/RDA project

The chair reported that he not received a report from Sally Strutt, as had been expected, on developments arising from the Joint Steering Committee's meeting in late April, at which the JSC determined new directions for the development of AACR3, to be re-named Resource Description and Access. However, Strutt wrote to reconfirm JSC's interest in the work of the ISBD RG, to offer to address any specific questions the group might have, and to indicate that she would report on the outcomes of the next JSC

meeting to be held in October. Judy Kuhagen observed that the ISBDs would continue to serve as the foundation for bibliographic description in RDA. Mauro Guerrini and others observed that in 2007 RDA, the ICC, and the consolidated ISBD would emerge ; these initiatives should be linked as closely as possible during development. The chair will formally convey the objectives and principles statement to be proposed by the Future Directions SG to the JSC, once approved by the RG.

A round-the-table discussion by all the members confirmed that European interest in the ISBDs is firm, and typically they are the foundation of the national cataloguing code where the ISBDs themselves are not used for that purpose. Expressed was the view that national and multinational codes like RDA should follow the ISBDs and not the other way around. Some favor maintaining traditional practices now in place, while others are hoping for simplification and more cost-effective practices that, for example, would enable publishers to contribute data for use in the bibliographic description. There was interest in the report that RDA will give greater emphasis on transcription of “what you see” rather than requiring the cataloguer to reformulate data, for example, to introduce abbreviations or standardize capitalization. There is some interest in a matrix format for the consolidated version. Some members endorsed consideration of a variety of levels of description, according to particular needs; these levels might be based on FRBR’s user tasks, as will be done with RDA. The question of whether individual ISBDs would be needed once the consolidated version is produced was raised as a matter for future decision.

Meeting adjourned.