

Notes of the International ISBN Agency Board Meeting

Gallery Suite Room 2, London Book Fair, Olympia, Hammersmith Road, London, U.K.

Thursday 16 March 2017

Present:

Ronald Schild (Chairman), Piero Attanasio, Beat Barblan, José Borghino, Miguel Jiménez, Alenka Kanič, Carol Riccalton, Sophie Saint-Marc, Neil Wilson, Jon Windus, Carol Cheesman, Stella Griffiths, Nick Woods.

Apologies:

Henri Barthel, Bernardo Jaramillo Hoyos, Maarit Huttunen.

Ronald Schild (Chairman) opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He especially welcomed Sophie Saint-Marc to her first meeting and all attendees introduced themselves.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were **approved**.

2. Composition of the Board and Elections for 2017

a) Election of Directors and Officer Appointments

Three directors complete their terms this year - Carol Riccalton and Miguel Jiménez have both kindly confirmed that they wish to stand again and Maarit Huttunen has confirmed that she does not wish to do so. In line with its Articles of Association, IIA will write to all agencies in May and invite nominations for the Board (only agencies that are up to date with membership dues and have signed the Contract, etc. may make nominations). If there are more than three nominations there will be an election, if there are less, the Board can agree to co-opt an individual to serve.

b) Ex-Officio – IFLA representative reappointment

The Board members present congratulated Neil Wilson whose term as the IFLA representative on the Board had been renewed by IFLA for a further two years.

3. Review of Management Report

a) After several months of correspondence, isbnagency.com was instructed in December 2016 that it would not receive further ISBNs and IIA reserved the right to take further action if it did not take down its website. Isbnagency.com remains in violation of its agreement with Bowker and continues to pass itself off as an agency.

Action: Beat to ask the lawyer at Bowker to look at the issue again and assess further action

b) The website offering the non-existent “Universal Book Number” identifier is no longer accessible in the UK but is still visible elsewhere because Google respond to requests for removal on a country-by-country basis. It was **agreed** IIA would give agencies in countries where this was likely to be a major problem copies of what had been sent to Google, in order to ask them to try and take equivalent action.

Action: IIA to contact some key agencies to request their assistance

4. Revision of ISBN Standard

The text of the Standard is ready, but it cannot be published until the IIA signs the draft Registration Authority Agreement with ISO. The Board were asked to consider whether to publish the Users’ Manual anyway since this is entirely under IIA control but to temporarily remove any references to the fifth edition of the Standard. Stella noted the optimism around agreement of

the draft ISO agreement and suggested that it may be possible to publish the Standard in three months.

Action: if the Standard is published by July, IIA will publish Manual at the same time. If not, it should plan to publish the Manual at that point

Next, the discussion moved onto activities to promote the new Standard and Manual. It was **agreed** that the IIA would issue a press release and encourage national agencies to issue one of their own. It was further **agreed** to flag the new Standard heavily at Frankfurt Book Fair: possibly with a session at an event there (e.g. Supply Chain Seminar) and an article in the Fair press. BIC Breakfast sponsorship was discussed although the subject matter had to be relevant.

5. ISBN Agency Applications

There is no further news on any applications.

6. ISBN AGMs

a) Update on AGM 2017 arrangements

The AGM will be on 11 and 12 September 2017 and there may be a CERLALC Regional Meeting on 9 and 10 September.

b) First draft of the 2017 ISBN AGM agenda

Noah Genner from BookNet Canada will be the guest presenter, and Alenka Kanič has proposed a case study about promoting national libraries. A presentation from Estonia on their recently released online portal would also be considered. The Board members present **agreed** that Michael Healy (Chairman of ISNI and based in the US) might be asked to present on ISNI. Regarding DOI, Carol Riccalton is unsure if she will attend the AGM. She also suggested a report on the results of the ISBN and the Law survey from last year.

Action: IIA to contact Michael Healy

Action: Board members to consider the draft and propose any other agenda items

c) Future AGMs

Malta signed the contract to host the 2018 AGM so this will be announced to the agencies. As yet, no offers have been received for the 2019 AGM.

10. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

11. Date of Future Meetings

The next Meeting will be in Ottawa on 10 September 2017. In 2018 London Book Fair is back to an April slot and so that Meeting will be on 12 April 2018.