

# Notes of International ISBN Agency Board Meeting

Dark Room, London Book Fair, Olympia, Hammersmith Road, London, U.K.

Thursday 14 April 2016

## Present:

Ronald Schild (Chairman)  
Piero Attanasio  
Beat Barblan  
Miguel Jiménez  
Alenka Kanič  
Carol Riccalton  
Neil Wilson  
Jon Windus

## Apologies:

Henri Barthel  
José Borghino  
Maarit Huttunen  
Bernardo Jaramillo Hoyos  
Sophie Saint-Marc

Stella Griffiths  
Nick Woods

The Chairman, Ronald Schild opened the meeting and welcomed the participants, particularly Jon Windus who was attending the ISBN Board meeting for the first time. Before the meeting began, the Board observed a minute's silence for Dr. Norman Paskin of the International DOI Foundation who had helped to develop ISBN-A and had passed away recently.

## 1. Composition of the Board

Ronald advised the Board members present that Jens Bammel and Jonathan Nowell had each left their positions and resigned from the IIA Board. It had been proposed that the Board co-opt José Borghino to represent the International Publishers' Association and that Jon Windus from Nielsen be asked to complete the remainder of Jonathan's term. The Board members present **agreed**.

## 2. ISBN Resale

There are two issues concerning the reselling of ISBNs.

a) GS1 noticed supposedly "unused" GTINs being offered for sale on eBay – a particular individual was searching online to see if a specific string of numbers is already in use and, if not, attempting to sell the GTIN. GS1 advised us because, in some cases, the numbers were from ISBN ranges.

b) The ISBN Agency has recently written to the owner of the website isbnagency.com which claims to be "the most trusted source for ISBNs". When anyone buying these ISBNs logs on to Bowker systems to update the metadata of their publications, they can't do so because they don't own the data – isbnagency.com does. Such practices are regarded as being very misleading. Beat advised that Bowker are trying to enforce a rule that, at the very least, anyone selling on ISBNs has to state explicitly the consequences for publishers. Also, Beat reported that the US online application system permits publishers to apply for a maximum of 100 ISBNs at a time.

**Action: IIA to continue to pursue isbnagency.com**

## 3. Revision of ISBN Standard

The Draft International Standard (DIS) was issued for a 3-month ballot that started in February. It is hoped that the results will be good enough to avoid Final Draft International Standard stage. The Working Group is aiming for publication of the revised standard by about the end of 2016.

A new version of the Users' Manual will follow shortly after the Standard is published. The Working Group hope to produce a marked-up version to show the changes compared with the

current edition. The main areas of change are a new section on self-publishing and more detail on the assignment of ISBN to digital publications.

IIA will plan to issue a mailing and to release information on its website and in its newsletter. Contacting the press and/or issuing a specific press release were endorsed by the Board members present. National agencies can also mention the news on their own websites too.

#### **4. Data Licensing**

The Global Register of Publishers (GRP) is freely available and, by registering, users can obtain more detailed contact information about the publishers. If a user of the GRP initiates a search, the results are deliberately limited to display only the first 150. This offers some protection against anyone attempting to scrape the data.

Some companies had expressed an interest to the IIA in being able to view a wider range of results and/or to have the full dataset. With that in mind, the Board members present were asked for their views on the IIA exploring options to license the whole GRP dataset to certain users. Any licensing agreements would have to be specific and the data would be flagged to ensure it is attributed to the IIA. The Board members present **agreed** that, in principle, if there is nothing objectionable about the request, they would be in favour of licensing the GRP data.

#### **5. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

#### **6. Dates of Future Board Meetings**

The next Board Meeting and AGM will be held in September in Vienna, Austria. In 2017, The Board members present **agreed** to hold the Spring 2017 Board meeting at London Book Fair on 16 March 2017.