



**IFLA Cataloguing Section  
ISBD Review Group**

**ISBD/XML Study Group**

## **Activity Report, August 2012-July 2013**

The ISBD Review Group **ISBD/XML Study Group** is in its **fifth, extended phase of the project which was accepted by the ISBD Review Group and Cataloguing Section during 2012 IFLA meeting in Helsinki.**

An amount of 1500 Euros was allocated in 2013 for funding the project on *ISBD Namespaces Alignments and Publication as Linked Data*.

**The re-directed project goal and main objectives**, accepted by the ISBD Review Group and Cataloguing Section during 2010 IFLA meeting in Gothenburg, Sweden, are:

(1) to build a consensus on the *raison d'être* of moving the ISBD into the web environment, and define possible uses of such a product, (2) to develop an ISBD RDF/XML schema, (3) to ensure the interoperability of the product with similar ones such as MARC/DCXML schemas, at least at the conceptual level, within the current semantic web technologies and services, (4) to liaise with relevant constituencies in the field, and (5) to propose further development of software tools and services.

The ISBD XML SG's main objective, namely, the publication of a namespace for the consolidated ISBD, was attained in 2012. As a consequence, the issue of the SG's dissolution was raised on the occasion of the ISBD XML SG's meeting in Helsinki on 13 August 2012 during the 78<sup>th</sup> IFLA Conference. It was deemed premature to disband the SG, as long as the status of the Namespaces Task Group was not clarified, and it was therefore decided that the ISBD XML SG would be prolonged for one year, with the same objectives. The activity plan established one year earlier was updated in conformity with the needs and priorities of the ISBD RG.

The current document reports on the actions such as they are listed in the minutes of the ISBD/XML SG meeting held in Helsinki, Finland, on 13 August 2012.

- **Namespaces for the Consolidated ISBD**

The concept vocabularies were enriched with translations of preferred terms, along with definitions and associated scope notes in the following languages: Italian, Serbian, Chinese, Bulgarian, Latvian, and Russian.

However, the element set vocabulary does not include new translations of element names, definitions, and scope notes, into other languages.

- **Progress Report on the Activities defined in the Work Plan for 2012-2013**

### **6.1. Follow up any changes required in the ISBD namespace resulting from the Glasgow meeting in November 2011.**

This action depends on the outcome of the ISBD RG's work on the harmonization of the two standards, most notably the ISBD Profile in RDA Project and the ISBD/RDA mappings.

The ISBD/XML SG took part in the work on the ISBD-to-RDA mapping by preparing the mapping on the basis of the RDF declarations of the two standards in the OMR. The mapping was sent to the JSC in summer 2012 for it to examine it during its fall meeting (6JSC/ISBD/Discussion/1 *Alignment of the ISBD element set with RDA element set – RDA, Appendix D.1*).

The ISBD XML SG examined the JSC's response, and contributed comments for the drafting of the ISBD RG's response to JSC.

Issues that will require some changes in the ISBD namespace were identified last year (see report of activities 2011-2012), but have to be validated by the ISBD RG and reintroduced into the ISBD revision planned for 2014–15.

Those issues include the articulation between the Resource class (the only one defined for ISBD) and the WEMI entities from the FRBR model that were used in RDA. Gordon Dunsire drafted a discussion paper on that topic. See point 6.6.

### **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. (Action 4 of the ISBD RG's Work plan)**

Version 1.0 of the mapping between ISBD (Area 0) and RDA/ONIX Framework was sent to the JSC in summer 2012 for examination during its fall meeting (6JSC/ISBD/Discussion/2 *Mapping of ISBD Area 0 vocabularies to RDA/ONIX Framework vocabularies as part of the ISBD/RDA alignment*).

The ISBD/XML SG is awaiting the development and publication of the RDA/ONIX element set by JSC or ONIX. An RDF map can be developed very quickly after. ISBD RG was invited to participate in the revised RDA/ONIX steering group, which has not yet been constituted. ISBD RG accepted the invitation and is looking forward to receiving further information on these issues. (See 6JSC/ISBD/Discussion/2/JSC response/ISBD response, July 5, 2013).

### **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 as soon as conditions are met. (Action 8 of the ISBD RG's Work plan)**

The DC Application Profile still is under development by DCMI (see Singapore Framework for DCAP). ISBD is to be used by DCMI as a study case in this process.

In 2012–13, the work was left pending, awaiting further decisions and actions from DCMI.

**6.4. Consider developing specialized translation guidelines for ISBD namespaces. (Action 5 of the ISBD RG's Work plan)**

In 2012–13, the work was left pending, awaiting the final version of the general guidelines on *Translations of RDF representations of IFLA standards* from Namespaces TG.

**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.**

The project of UNIMARC representation in RDF has started. It is led by Gordon Dunsire, Mirna Willer and Predrag Perožić. A communication will be presented at the 79<sup>th</sup> IFLA general conference, Singapore:

*The UNIMARC in RDF project: namespaces and linked data* / MIRNA WILLER (Department of Information Sciences, University of Zadar, Zadar, Croatia), GORDON DUNSIRE (Independent Consultant, Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom) and PREDRAG PEROŽIĆ, Department of Information Sciences, University of Zadar, Zadar, Croatia).

When the project is completed, it will be possible to prepare mappings between the ISBD and UNIMARC namespaces, even though the alignment between the two namespaces will remain incomplete, as ISBD covers only the descriptive part of a record, while UNIMARC is broader and covers also access points, encoded information, etc.

**6.6. Write a discussion paper on *Resource vs. WEMI entity resolution*. (Action 7 of the ISBD RG's Work plan).**

Such clarification is a prerequisite for any mapping effort between ISBD and FRBR namespaces and, as such, was designed as a priority action for 2013. It is part of the project on *ISBD Namespaces Alignments and Publication as Linked Data*, proposed for 2013 by the ISBD RG and accepted by the IFLA Professional Committee.

Gordon Dunsire has prepared a discussion paper on this issue, which has been circulated for comments to the ISBD/XML SG at the end of July 2013.

**6.7. Monitor development of RDF representations of ISSN elements and instance data, and develop appropriate alignments with the ISBD namespaces.**

At the beginning of 2013, a working group gathering representatives of the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF) and of the ISSN International Centre (ISSN IC) developed an extension of FRBRoo, named PRESSoo and devoted to bibliographic information relating to serials and continuing resources.

Version 0.1 of PRESSoo was released in March and is available on the ISSN IC website: <http://www.issn.org/2-24155-PRESSoo-model.php>. It was presented to the ISSN Review Group and a panel of persons/institutions interested in the modelling of serials in April, in the ISSN IC premises. Two members of the ISBD/XML SG, Gordon Dunsire and Françoise Leresche, took part in this meeting.

PRESSoo will be presented to the FRBR Review Group during the IFLA Conference 2013, to Bibframe representatives in September and to the CIDOC CRM SIG during the 22nd FRBR -

CIDOC CRM Harmonization meeting in October. A call for comments should be also launched in fall 2013.

The ISSN International Centre would be interested in using PRESSoo as a formalism for producing RDF outputs of ISSN data in the context of a project devoted to Open Access scholarly serials. However, inputs from and validation by both IFLA and CIDOC CRM SIG as responsible for the FRBRoo model are needed before the ISSN IC makes a decision.

**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.**

ABES (Agence bibliographique de l'enseignement supérieur, France) has begun to work on the publication of records from its catalogue as RDF fine-grained data, with library professionals as a target audience. They chose to use ISBD classes and properties for the bibliographic description, but faced a number of problems when it comes to accounting in RDF for combinations of descriptive elements (e.g., an author and a title, for a publication embodying more than one work and lacking a collective title). This issue was forwarded to the DCMI Bibliographic Metadata Task Group, as it relates to the revision of the DC Abstract Model (see point 6.3 above).

So far, this issue hinders the utilization of ISBD classes and properties when expressing a complete record as RDF statements (as opposed to the utilization of one or more than one ISBD element in a data model that combines several vocabularies), because it results in the loss of the syntax induced by the order of data elements in an ISBD record.

ABES proposed, in collaboration with BnF, a modelling that accounts in RDF for ISBD Area 1 and all the combinations permitted within that area, on the basis of the response elements provided by Gordon Dunsire. The working documents were forwarded by Françoise Leresche to the ISBD XML SG and will be discussed at the SG meeting during the 79<sup>th</sup> IFLA general Conference in Singapore.

**6.9. Plan work on Guidelines for use of ISBD as Linked Data for 2013-2014. (Action 6 of the ISBD RG's Work plan)**

Gordon Dunsire has written a paper on unconstrained namespaces and extending ISBD for linked data. This paper, in addition to a general version of the paper under preparation for the Namespaces TG, will form a background document for planning work on such guidelines for ISBD.

The development of unconstrained namespaces for ISBD will allow establishing mappings from specific schemas representing bibliographic information developed by libraries with the ISBD namespaces and so increase the interoperability in a Linked Data context.

**6.10. Develop mappings between the ISBD and Dublin Core Terms (DCT) namespaces.**

A number of draft maps between elements and concepts from multiple bibliographic namespaces, including ISBD and DCT, have been developed during the UNIMARC namespace activity, and are being considered by the DCMI Bibliographic Metadata Task Group. The maps are available at

[http://wiki.dublincore.org/index.php/Maps\\_between\\_bibliographic\\_vocabularies](http://wiki.dublincore.org/index.php/Maps_between_bibliographic_vocabularies)

**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.**

Gordon Dunsire is a member of a working group developing extensions for bibliographic metadata to the schema.org element set; the work is ongoing. There have been no significant developments in other related namespaces.

**6.12. Report to the ISBD RG on any issues relevant to the ISBD revision process. (Action 9 of the ISBD RG's Work plan)**

Gordon Dunsire has reported a number of issues to the Chair of ISBD RG.

**6.13. Develop a diagram of mappings/alignments and related projects. (Action 10 of the ISBD RG's Work plan)**

Gordon Dunsire has produced a diagram, inspired from the LOD cloud diagram, which shows with which value vocabularies and element sets the ISBD vocabularies for area 0 and the ISBD element set have a partial or complete alignment table.

This diagram was sent to the ISBD RG prior to the IFLA Conference in Singapore.

- **Meetings**

The ISBD/XML Study Group held no working meeting during this year.

The ISBD/XML SG participated in the meeting organized by the ISSN International Centre, Paris, 24 April 2013

Present: Gordon Dunsire (co-chair of DCMI Bibliographic Metadata Task Group and consultant for the ISBD/XML SG), Françoise Leresche.

Gordon Dunsire represented ISBD and other IFLA namespaces at the NISO Bibliographic Roadmap Meeting, Baltimore, USA, 15-16 Apr 2013, and at the Sixth Multilingual Web Workshop: Making the multilingual web work, Rome, Italy, 12-13 Mar 2013.

- **Presentations at conferences**

*Mapping FRBR, ISBD, RDA, and other namespaces to DC for interoperability.* Presented by Gordon Dunsire at Kunnskapsorganisasjonsdagene 2013, Oslo, Norway, 7-8 Feb 2013.

*Granularity in Library Linked Open Data.* Keynote presented by Gordon Dunsire at Code4Lib 2013, Chicago, USA, 12-14 Feb 2013.

*Multilingual issues in the representation of international bibliographic standards for the Semantic Web.* Presented by Gordon Dunsire at the Sixth Multilingual Web Workshop: Making the multilingual web work, Rome, Italy, 12-13 Mar 2013.

IFLA in RDF (+ RDA). Lightning presentation by Gordon Dunsire at the NISO Bibliographic Roadmap Meeting, Baltimore, USA, 15-16 Apr 2013.

▪ **Perspectives for the ISBD/XML SG**

At the ISBD/XML SG's meeting in Helsinki on 13 August 2012, it was deemed premature to disband the SG, as long as the status of the Namespaces Task Group was not clarified, and it was therefore decided that the ISBD XML SG would be prolonged for one year, with the same objectives.

During this year, Mirna Willer, as chair of the ISBD RG, had some discussions about the future of the ISBD/XML SG with Gordon Dunsire in his capacity as the Namespaces TG chair and the consultant to the ISBD/XML SG, and with Françoise Leresche, as chair of the ISBD/XML SG, taking into account the SG'S objectives and remit as well as the situation of the Namespaces Task Group.

The present situation is that the IFLA Professional Committee would not discuss the Namespaces TG and decide on it in Singapore, but wait until its December meeting. So nothing would happen about the organization of the Namespaces TG and the ongoing technical support of individual namespaces until the 80th IFLA General Conference on 16-22 August 2014 in Lyon, France.

The consequence is that maintaining the status quo should pertain while waiting decisions from IFLA about the status of the Namespaces Task Group.

The impact of this situation on the ISBD/XML SG, its name and its future work, will be examined and discussed at the ISBD RG and ISBD/XML SG meetings during the 79<sup>th</sup> IFLA general Conference in Singapore.

Respectfully submitted,

Françoise Leresche  
ISBD/XML Study Group chair, August 6th, 2013