



ISBD Review Group
<https://www.ifla.org/isbd-rg>
ANNUAL REPORT
2016-2017

I. Status of the ISBD Review Group

On 23 March 2016, Patrice Landry prepared on behalf of the Committee on Standards a report *Review of the management and representation of IFLA permanent standards review groups (FRBR, ISBD and the UNIMARC Core Activity)*, which the Governing Board and Professional Committee considered in April 2016. All recommendations were approved by the PC. These include some statements:

- all Review Groups should report to the Committee on Standards and may also be affiliated with a Section;
- whilst a Review Group continues to be affiliated to a Section, the Review Group will work in an autonomous manner according to its strategic plan and objectives;
- the “Procedures for electing Review Group members” should be updated and made compatible with current IFLA rules and procedures;
- Final validation of standards should be made by the PC and Committee on Standards.

By mid-November, a draft implementation plan should have been developed by Diane Beattie, Mariam Säfström, and Joanne Yeomans.

While in what concerns the validation of standards the process seems now stable and running - despite being still too slow -, indications on the election procedures are absolutely unclear, and the meaning of “affiliation” to a Section undefined.

However, in April 2017 the chair of the ISBD RG was orally informed by Joanne Yeomans that the group is no more “reporting” to the Cataloguing section, and that there was the possibility to decide its own strategic plans autonomously.

The Review Group thus decided that the review process will start in August 2017, at the conclusion of WLIC.

The lack of clarity in what concerns the process of renewing the membership is instead still pending, and has a negative effect in finding and nominating new members for 2017-2021.

II. Strategy for the review process of the ISBD

Following discussions about the strategic plan for the International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD) review and revision at the Singapore 2013, Lyon 2014, Cape Town 2015 meetings of the Cataloguing Section’s Standing Committee, at Columbus 2016 meeting of the ISBD Review Group Françoise Leresche, Mélanie Roche, Vincent Boulet, and Mathilde Koskas volunteered to analyse the so-called *Scenario C*: “a shorter, simple and more principled version of the current consolidated ISBD”. This scenario was upheld by several members of the Standing Committee”.

On 22 February the group presented the report *Strategic plan for a revision of ISBD: assessment of scenario C*, illustrating background, methodology, possible benefits of the proposed scenario, and a detailed exemplification on areas 1 and 2, concluding that “A principle-oriented ISBD, if economical, would be anything but cost-efficient. Indeed it would result in an empty nutshell, irrelevant in the broader context of IFLA standards, useless to those in need of a set of detailed cataloguing rules and lacking the necessary flexibility needed in a fast-changing metadata environment.”.

The report was transmitted to the Cataloguing Section Standing Committee in on 13 April 2017, and at the following midterm meeting of 24 April, which he attended remotely, Massimo Gentili-Tedeschi

reported that the ISBD Review Group had decided, according to the recommendation of the Professional Committee, to decide its own strategy, thus to follow Scenario A2, “a change in structure to better accommodate FRBRised cataloguing, while keeping the same level of details as the current text”.

III. ISBD Review Group activities report

a. Project and financial reports

An application for funding the project *Development of the International Standard Bibliographic Description* was made, with the following terms:

- 2000 Euros: A two-day face-to-face meeting to be held in April/May 2017 of a working group to “draft Alignment of ISBD element set to IFLA-LRM element set, and discuss how the IFLA-LRM (new FRBR conceptual model) will impact on the ISBD in the process of revision of the standard present to the ISBD RG for further analysis.

The Professional Committee approved to support the meeting as requested. This amount was used to fund travel and accommodation for four members of the group, who met in Paris, at the Bibliothèque nationale de France, 6-8 April 2016. The meeting was thus attended in person by six members.

Thanks to funding from the institutions of some members of the group not all the amount was spent, so that the Professional Committee was able to re-allocate the remaining funds.

b. Alignment of ISBD element set to IFLA-Library Reference Model element set

A working group for the analysis of the alignment and impact of IFLA LRM to ISBD was established in December 2016. Its members were Renate Behrens, Elena Escolano Rodriguez (chair), Dorothy McGarry, Massimo Gentili-Tedeschi, Clément Oury, Pat Riva, Mélanie Roche; Anders Cato volunteered too, but then was unable to follow the work and kindly resigned.

The work started remotely, and was finalised during and immediately the aforementioned face-to-face meeting in Paris (BnF, 6-8 April 2017). Outcomes of the meeting are:

- the *Alignment of ISBD element set to IFLA-LRM element set*, which was presented to the ISBD Review Group, discussed and approved, and presented for approval to the IFLA Committee on Standards on .11 July 2017, still pending the approval of LRM by CoS, because no further delay in presenting it was possible. Nevertheless, the approval of the alignment has been postponed, for internal issues of CoS; the document includes the alignment table and an introduction outlining the method and the main issues and decisions;
- a report on the main issues encountered during the alignment work and decisions that were made, subjects for future developments and recommendations for the ISBD revision, both for the content and the overall look of the standard.

Concerning the main issues, it was decided to align ISBD domain class Resource, as well as ISBD Encoding schemes as subclasses of LRM entity Res; it was realised that several ISBD elements could have been aligned as relationships, although ISBD in its current version is not relational; it was thus decided to restrict relationships mainly to Series, Note and Identifier areas, or where relationships were unavoidable (such as when parallel elements are mentioned) and to register only at Work level relationships that are possible also at Expression, Manifestation and Item levels. Related entities will in any case consist in statements, not authority data. All relationships that were excluded from the present alignment, such as categorisations, will be considered for the revision of the ISBD, if there will be an advantage. When ISBD will be extended to non-published resources in the revision process, an updating of this alignment should be done.

The alignment table will be included in the future version of the ISBD.

The group thanks the Bibliothèque nationale de France for kindly hosting the meeting, and especially Mélanie Roche who organised it and provided editing the document during the meeting.

c. ISBD Linked Data Study Group

The ISBD Linked Data Study Group completed the *Guidelines for use of ISBD as linked data* and the *ISBD to FRBR namespaces alignment*. Both documents were submitted to the Committee on Standards for approval. The first were approved, approval of the latter is still pending.

d. ISBD and RDA

As part of the activities defined by the protocol set up between the RDA Steering Committee and ISBD RG to “support the maintenance and development of functional interoperability between data created using the RDA and ISBD instructions and element sets”,¹ the chair of the ISBD Review Group could take part to the RSC meeting in Frankfurt, 7-11 November 2016, and gave a short report on the status of the ISBD, recalling that there is consensus on the fact that ISBD could become a content code for LRM, at least in part, and the alignment highlights attributes and relationships that may become extensions of the model. During the meeting, some issues were raised that may be relevant for the future development of the ISBD: a discussion was focused on the importance of declaring the provenance of data.

Another point of interest is the attention of RDA to the Manifestation statement as considered by LRM.

IV. Working meeting, 25 August 2017

The ISBD Review Group, RSC, NUKAT (the union catalogue of Polish academic and research libraries), and EURIG/RDA Europe region have decided to co-organise a working meeting on “Impact of the IFLA Library Reference Model on ISBD, RDA and other bibliographic standards”. The meeting will take place on Friday 25 August 2017 from 9:00 to 16:00 in the new building of Wrocław University Library (Fryderyka Joliot-Curie 12) following the IFLA World Library and Information Congress. This working meeting is and is sponsored by Ex Libris, a ProQuest company.

Following introductory presentations by the standards organisations, topics proposed for discussion include transcription and manifestation statements; the harmonization of serials and issues with serial aggregates; access points; and rare materials.

V. ISBD namespaces

The *ISBD vocabularies*, that is, full sets of ISBD elements as properties in RDF with and without defined domain and range are since a long time a stable part of the IFLA namespace.² The management of IFLA namespaces is at present under discussion at the Governing Board, as the present version maintained by MMA at the metadata registry is outdated and choosing to update it or change maintainers would imply costs or disadvantages. Joanne Yeomans has drafted and circulated within interested groups a document recommending to adopt MMA solution as the only practicable one. A decision should be taken at 18 August GB meeting.

VI. Publications and presentations

Serbian translation of the ISBD Consolidated edition has been published,³ Polish, and Slovenian are in preparation, which will bring the number of languages in which the ISBD is available to 13.

VII. Membership

In August 2017 some of the ISBD RG members will end their second terms; on behalf of the group I would like to thank Irena Kavčič and Françoise Leresche for the hard work they did in the past 8 years.

The ISBD Review Group has welcomed two new liaisons: Luciana Grings (National library of Brazil, Brasilia), and Iman Khairy Weheba, إيمان خيرى وهيبه (National library of Qatar, Doha).

VIII. Communication

a. Meetings in the official WLIC Programme

According to the decision taken at the WLIC 2016 meetings, the Review Groups meetings at the IFLA annual congress are now included in the official programme. This will raise visibility, help observers attend the meetings, and ease programming the working activity.

¹ 6JSC/Chair/13 [Protocol between the JSC and the ISBD Review Group], <http://www.rda-jsc.org/docs/6JSC-Chair-13.pdf>; - 6JSC/Chair/13/Shared documents [Documents shared between the JSC and the ISBD Review Group], <http://www.rda-jsc.org/docs/6JSC-Chair-13-Shared-documents.pdf>

² <http://iflstandards.info/ns/isbd/>.

³ <https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/cataloguing/isbd/isbd-translations-2011-sr.pdf>.

b. Internal communication

Communication within the ISBD Review Group is done mostly by email. At WLIC 2016 it was decided to establish a restricted mailing list reserved to members and liaison, that was set up in October 2016, with the address isbd-rg@infoserv.inist.fr. Working documents and discussions are shared also through a Wiki hosted on the platform PBworks, activated in 2011, including preparatory documents for the ISBD revision; the web pages on the IFLA website (<http://www.ifla.org/en/isbd-rg>) are constantly updated.

The ISBD Review Group thanks Agnese Galeffi, Cataloguing Section information officer, for maintaining the ISBD pages on the website and Sophie Felföldi, IFLA discussion list administrator, for setting up the mailing list and all the help given in instructing and solving initial issues.

Respectfully submitted by
Massimo Gentili-Tedeschi
ISBD Review Group, Chair
August 2017