



**ISBD Review Group**  
<https://www.ifla.org/isbd-rg>

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2017-2018**

**I. Status of the ISBD Review Group**

**a. Affiliation of the Review Group**

The transition from the affiliation from the Cataloguing Section to the Committee on Standards is in practice concluded; the structure and the nomination process have been defined with CoS; the work plan, the request for funding and the proposal for the revision process 2018-2022 have been transmitted to CoS as well. The chair is in constant contact with the chair of CoS, and members of the ISBD RG participated in the discussion on the Global Vision report as part of the Committee on Standards.

However, links are maintained to the Cataloguing Section, a report of the chair is presented on the occasion of the midterm meeting of the Standing Committee, as well as at the annual conference.

Chairs of the Cataloguing and of the Rare Books and Special Collections Sections are included in the mailing list, Mélanie Roche has been appointed liaison with LIDATEC. In view of the revision process, it would be desirable to establish liaisons with other IFLA and external units that might be interested.

**b. Nomination process**

The procedure to nominate new members has been discussed at the Committee on Standards virtual meeting on 5 February 2018, including timing, has been presented to the Governing Board, and is waiting its approval.

The main points of the document are:

- each RG should have a minimum number of six and a maximum of twelve members;
- members serve for a term of four years and can be re-elected once to serve eight consecutive years. Exceptions to these numbers and terms will be considered by the CoS;
- nomination process starts with a call for nominations (HQ, October-February), selection of candidates (Chairs of CoS and RGs), nomination (CoS, April). Timeframe allows new members to register for WLIC before early bird subscription ends;
- the Chairs of the RG serve for a period of two years and can be re-elected once. In exceptional circumstances, they can be re-elected for a third term on approval by the CoS;
- chairs are elected during WLIC, appointment is endorsed by the CoS;
- RGs may appoint Working Groups to carry out specific projects;
- the RGs can appoint Corresponding Members for a period of two years with renewal once;
- liaisons between IFLA and non-IFLA groups are identified and appointed by the RGs if needed.

**c. Financial report**

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

- to cover travel and hotel expenses for two three-day meetings of subgroups of the ISBD RG, for members who do not have other sources of funding for the working meeting;
- one meeting, in Spring 2018, will focus on the structure of the revised ISBD, the second, in Autumn 2018, on drafting the revised text..

The Professional Committee approved partial funding to support this plan, as follows:

- Partial funding of 2000 Euros to support one meeting (of the group's choice).  
The Professional Committee recognized the hard work of the group and noted that the funding request was supported by the Committee on Standards. However, they did not see justification for two meetings and would like to see a clearer strategic plan detailing at a higher level, the directions, and explaining the priorities and deadlines. They were pleased to hear that this is something the Committee on Standards is working on with all the Review Groups.

It was thus decided to reserve the funding for the Autumn meeting.

## II. Review process of the ISBD

As an outcome of the Wroclaw 2017 meetings<sup>1</sup>, a Working group was established, with the task to present options for consideration to the IFLA Committee on Standards, so that a decision can be made on how to implement the LRM in the future version of ISBD. The group was formed by Renate Behrens, Elena Escolano Rodriguez, Massimo Gentili-Tedeschi, Françoise Leresche, Dorothy McGarry, Chris Oliver (FRBR RG), Clément Oury, Mélanie Roche<sup>2</sup>. The document approved by the Review Group was presented to the Committee on Standards and discussed at the virtual meeting of 17 May.

The Committee on Standards approved the plan in principle and asked the RG to work with HQ to engage in a period of communication and consultation with IFLA Members on this plan between now and August, with regular (perhaps 6-month) follow-ups to the Members with news and progress. This will help clarify and promote the work of the RG and the results, perhaps attract new input and interest, and be transparent and open. Following the period of consultation with Members, the Committee on Standards will then give a final decision or recommendation on the plan and its funding to the Professional Committee in August.

Thanks to the help of Violeta Bertolini, the plan was then published, with minor modifications, on the IFLA website, and announced on the social media, appearing as a call for involvement in the revision process of the ISBD, at <https://www.ifla.org/node/61873>.

## III. Working meeting, 30 August 2018

Thanks to our colleague Anisatul Wahidah Abdul Wahid who assisted in the organisation, and the Director General of Malaysia who kindly agreed to give to the ISBD RG a room at the National Library of Malaysia, a full-day extra working meeting of the ISBD RG after WLIC has been programmed on Thursday 30 August in Kuala Lumpur, hosted by the National Library of Malaysia, in order to work on the update of the ISBD. The meeting is planned at 9.30-16.00.

## IV. 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.<sup>3</sup> The management of IFLA namespaces is at present still 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. A decision was expected at 18 August 2017 Governing Board meeting, but it was instead decided to postpone and to ask interest and possible co-funding to potential stakeholders. Despite the urgent need, highlighted among others by LIDATEC, no decision has been taken until now.

## V. Publications and presentations

Polish, and Slovenian translations of the ISBD Consolidated edition are still in preparation, which will bring the number of languages in which the ISBD is available to 13.

## VI. Membership

In August 2019 two ISBD RG members will end their second terms, and a new chair will have to be elected, two positions will be available if the RG wishes to maintain the present maximum number of 12 members.

As already mentioned, according to the draft nomination procedure, a call for nominations should start in October 2018, deadline for presenting candidacies within 4 months.

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<sup>1</sup> Papers of the extra meeting of 25 August are available at <http://www.bu.uni.wroc.pl/en/ifla-presentations>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/cataloguing/isbdrg/proposed\\_work\\_plan\\_for\\_isbd\\_revision\\_2018-2022.pdf](https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/cataloguing/isbdrg/proposed_work_plan_for_isbd_revision_2018-2022.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <http://iflstandards.info/ns/isbd/>.

## VII. Communication

### a. Meetings in the official WLIC Programme

The Review Groups meetings at the IFLA annual congress are again included in the official programme. This raises visibility, help observers attend the meetings, and eases programming the working activity.

### b. IFLA website

Review Groups pages are now highlighted and directly linked in a separate section of the Activities and Groups webpage, <https://www.ifla.org/activities-and-groups#review-groups>. The content of the website is under revision, information coordinators and all units are involved in the process.

### c. Internal communication

The mailing list that was set up for members and liaisons in October 2016, with the address [isbd-rg@infoserv.inist.fr](mailto:isbd-rg@infoserv.inist.fr) is up and running. Working documents and discussions are shared also through a Wiki hosted on the PBworks platform at <http://isbdrg.pbworks.com/>, 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.

IFLA officers and chairs of IFLA units, including the ISBD RG chair, may communicate, post messages, upload and download documents through a new communication platform, Basecamp.

On behalf of the ISBD Review Group I wish to thank Agnese Galeffi, Cataloguing Section information officer, for maintaining the ISBD pages on the website, and Joanne Yeoons for all the efforts she does in communicating through Basecamp.

### d. External communication

The importance of communicating IFLA's activities has been constantly recalled at the Global Vision meetings. The use of social media has been also recommended, and actions like the announcement of the start of the ISBD revision process on social media and as IFLA news should be repeated, as they prove to be effective in disseminating information on the RG's activities. All members of the ISBD RG should feel committed to spreading out the progress of the work.

## VIII. IFLA Global Vision

The chairs of the Review Groups participated to the Global Vision kick-off meeting in Athens on 4-5 April 2017, but were not invited to the following meeting that was held in Barcelona on 20-21 March 2018. Between 25 May and 18 June 2018, the Committee on Standards members and representatives of the Linked Data Technical Subcommittee, and the three Review Groups (RGs): Bibliographic Conceptual Models RG, ISBD RG and Permanent UNIMARC Committee, contributed data and comments on the most relevant opportunities for them via an online Google document. Two members of each Review Group were invited to discuss the document presented by the Committee on Standards, highlighting the five ideas for action to be taken by IFLA within ten opportunities: together with the chair, Elena Escolano Rodríguez could send proposals and attend the virtual meetings on 5 and 10 July this year.

The ideas opportunities considered by CoS or recommended by the PC were in these fields:

- 4: We must keep up with ongoing technological changes
- 8: We need to challenge current structures and behaviours
- 9: We need to maximise access to the world's documentary heritage
- 5: We can advocate for libraries
- 7: We can improve collaboration within IFLA and with external people and partners

The final draft was then sent to the Professional Committee.

Respectfully submitted by  
Massimo Gentili-Tedeschi  
ISBD Review Group, Chair  
8 August 2018