

ICEDIS Meeting: Frankfurt, Monday 4th October 2010

MINUTES

Attendees

Keith Abbott	Wiley
Graham Bell	EDiEUR
Mark Bide	EDiEUR
Francis Cave	EDiEUR
Tim Devenport	EDiEUR
Thilo Diechmann	Springer
Tomohiro Fuchino	Maruzen
Tiina Haarlaa	LM Information Delivery
Helen Henderson	Ringgold
Mona Hidayet	Advantage Computing Systems
John Keston-Hole	Publishing Technology
Frans Lambrechtsen	THINK Subscription
Kathy Law	MPS Technologies
Alan Medd	Turpin Distribution
Margaret Morgan	Wiley
William O'Connor	IEEE
Tiia Sainio	LM Information Delivery
Kengo Sakamoto	Maruzen
Ramon Schrama	Swets, co-chair
Babette Steinhage	Harrassowitz
Shilo de Vries	Taylor & Francis
Anthony Watkinson	UCL
Heiko Weigelt	Springer

Keith Whiter Elsevier, co-chair

Andrew Wright Oxford Journals

Apologies

Lesley Boyle Cambridge University Press

Frank Mapes EBSCO

1. Minutes & actions from Edinburgh meeting (April 2010)

Three points from the Edinburgh meeting were briefly addressed:

- Discussions with ASA are ongoing, concerning attempts to reach out to a second tier of smaller and mid-sized agents. Any such initiative is likely in part to involve the production of alternative formats, such as spreadsheet versions of ICEDIS standards.
- It is intended to launch a major membership drive early in 2011, associated with the revised governance plan but also seeking to address the under-representation of North American players. This will include, among others, contacts with members of the Advantage User Group.
- Project TRANSFER has been briefed on the willingness of ICEDIS to assist in structuring more detailed interchanges of subscription information, although this is not likely to be required in the near future.

Other actions from Edinburgh were dealt with as part of the Frankfurt agenda (see below). The minutes of the Edinburgh meeting were accepted.

2. Proposal on the Governance of EDItEUR Standards for the Library Supply Chain

Mark Bide introduced the governance proposal, circulated ahead of the meeting, and requested opinions and advice from the membership. Several members spoke in favour of the proposal that ICEDIS take responsibility for governance of all EDItEUR's standards related to the serials library supply chain. The meeting was in agreement and the proposal was accepted. Mark expressed his appreciation on behalf of EDItEUR and said that ICEDIS involvement represented a valuable and important foundation for future work in this area.

Responding to a question from the floor, Mark confirmed that the ICEDIS name would be retained. In order to achieve wider and more comprehensive representation, it is also proposed that a third ICEDIS meeting be held each year at an appropriate North American venue. Possible locations are under consideration but it is hoped to hold the first North American meeting during 2011.

3. Implementation

3.1. Overview of standards implemented

Tim Devenport introduced a summary table, indicating which existing standards have been implemented by ICEDIS member organizations and which are planned for development or testing in the near future. Links to the table will be added to the ICEDIS and EDItEUR websites and we plan to review and update the entries at least twice yearly, ahead of the UKSG and Frankfurt meetings.

- **Tim** to coordinate updates and to restructure the table slightly so that agents and publishers are each grouped together.

3.2. ICEDIS Publisher's Price List message

Keith Abbott (Wiley) introduced and presented the report (circulated ahead of the meeting) from the subgroup implementing the Price List message. Activities over Spring/Summer 2010 amounted to a significant pilot trial with useful lessons learned for wider rollout during 2011. Three publishers (Wiley, Elsevier and Taylor & Francis) have implemented the standard already, whilst three others (Oxford Journals – definite, MPS Technologies – possible and CUP – possible) are looking to follow suit in 2011. From an agent standpoint, LM Information Delivery and EBSCO are both accepting Price List files, Harrassowitz and Swets are now developing the necessary functionality, and Maruzen intends to do so during 2011. LM Information Delivery would welcome price files from other publishers.

Several specific actions were agreed:

- **Tim** to work with the subgroup to define clear timelines for rollout, as well as any modifications needed to convey the complex pricing models routinely encountered.
- **Each publisher implementing** the Price List format to submit to EDItEUR representative sample files, so that EDItEUR consultants can review the file structure and help ensure uniformity of interpretation across organizations.
- **EDItEUR** to prepare revised versions of the format as necessary, to incorporate changes from the pilots and to extend the treatment specifically of FTE-based models if this is deemed necessary by the subgroup.

3.3. ONIX for Serials SRN release notification

Keith Whiter (Elsevier) reminded the meeting that Elsevier is now producing a regular, weekly file of journal dispatch dates using the SRN release notification format. Several agents are already picking up this information and Keith urged other interested parties to contact him if they wish to be added to the list.

4. Claims project

Andrew Wright (Oxford Journals) introduced and presented the report (circulated ahead of the meeting) from the Claims subgroup. As previously reported, the subgroup chose deliberately to focus first on claims for print journals although some discussions have already been held around claims for online resources. It was also mentioned that the subgroup believes there is a place for both efforts to reduce claims (e.g. by wider use of SRN) and mechanisms to handle claims (using the new Claims message).

4.1. Claims for print journals

Business information gathering is complete and code lists have been developed, starting from EDIFACT values but extended at the request of the subgroup. Prototype message structures and sample files, for both Claims and Claims Responses, have been developed and agreed in principle with the subgroup.

Claims are the first truly “transactional” – as opposed to “catalogue or metadata” – exchanges designed recently for ICEDIS. Building upon previous experience, the EDItEUR team is proposing that it would be most appropriate to structure the messages in a form more similar to the EDItX transactional messages, instead of the ONIX structures used, for example, in the Price List message.

Message descriptions, schemas and sample files should be delivered to the subgroup no later than November, to allow review and pilot development to get underway. At least eight of the organizations represented at the meeting (see below) reported Claims as their first or equal-first priority for ICEDIS development over the coming months.

4.2. Claims for online resources

There was discussion of whether, or how best, to proceed with work on claims for online resources. Because there is some under-representation of key players in the subgroup (for example, no-one speaking for content hosting platforms) it was decided that it would be useful to hold a special meeting to evaluate this area further. We should involve member organizations such as Ingenta (via John Keston-Hole) and perhaps others (including non-members if necessary). **Tim** will convene such a meeting.

5. Structured Addresses & Standard Identifiers

Ramon Schrama (Swets) gave a short presentation, outlining the main topics discussed so far by the subgroup. A document detailing the subgroup’s work was also circulated ahead of the meeting. Ramon commented that the introduction of structured addresses and the ability to convey standard identifiers (e.g. GLN, Ringgold Identifier, NISO I²) are in fact complementary: both would improve current processes in different ways.

Ramon summarized the business benefits that should be attainable in this area:

- Automation of processing:
 - Setup of orders & renewals, setup of online access, claiming
- Better understanding of addresses:
 - Languages, country specifics, postal needs
- Easier recognition of customers:
 - Hierarchies, parts of institutions
- Easier maintenance & processing:
 - Exchange of address changes, IP changes, bill-to vs. ship-to roles, etc.

It was agreed that:

- **The subgroup** should continue its work, including a search for existing standards that may be useful.
- **The subgroup** should develop a standard structured address “module” that can be used in whichever message or context is necessary.
- **EDItEUR and the subgroup** should also ensure that the various standard identifiers can be included as appropriate in all the XML messages but that existing fixed-format messages will be left unmodified “as they are”.

6. Next priorities

6.1. EBSCO proposal to improve payment/financial reconciliation processes

In the absence of Frank Mapes and with no written proposal available, it was agreed that we should postpone discussion of this topic until the next meeting.

6.2. Structured addresses & standard identifiers

Proposals in this area should go ahead (see Section 5 above). The first concrete application of the structured address module is likely to be in conjunction with a message for new orders (see next).

6.3. New orders

There was considerable discussion of the meaning of “new orders”, which could be taken to mean new orders from existing customers, new orders from new customers, and possibly even transfers that may look like new orders if not otherwise recognized. Agents cannot always detect which is which and the use of institutional IDs would definitely help. Currently, almost all new or transfer orders are handled manually.

It was noted that all of these variants can, in principle, already be handled within the ORT (Order, Renewal & Transfer) fixed-format standard. It is always useful to populate the transfer flag where appropriate and if the order can be recognized as a transfer. Different business partners may request varying treatment (e.g. including new and renewal orders in the same file or putting them in separate files, etc.). Free-text annotation can be used and this text is *sometimes* read: but remember that free-text additions generally militate against process automation!

It was agreed that a message format for new orders should be the first transactional test-bed for the structured address standard, and that the subgroup responsible would also have to clarify very precisely the meaning of “new”!

6.4. Re-engineering the fixed-format standards

This is of mid-term strategic interest to many ICEDIS members, but should not be the immediate priority. Existing standards continue to do an important job and we must minimize risk in any eventual transition.

6.5. Claims and responses

There is widespread support for this work, which should continue in parallel with other projects.

6.6. Price Quotation messages

Ramon repeated a request from earlier meetings, expressing interest in a mechanism for obtaining a price quotation from publishers, particularly for complex or negotiated deals. The precise choreography and workflow surrounding such a mechanism needs some further definition but this could be a very useful application. Helen Henderson (Ringgold) mentioned that Ringgold holds tier information (including FTEs) in its database.

6.7. Extending ONIX for Serials to handle e-books etc.

The meeting discussed the proposal (circulated ahead of the meeting) from EDItEUR’s Kathy Klemperer to enhance the ONIX for Serials formats so that they could handle newly emerging subscription products such as e-book collections, databases and learning resources. There was broad agreement that this represents a real business need and that work should go ahead in reviewing and then implementing the proposals. Heiko Weigelt (Springer) and Margaret Morgan/Keith Abbott (Wiley) stated their willingness to participate in a detailed review process. **Tim and Kathy** will convene a small review group and invite participation from the wider EDItEUR membership and specifically ProQuest. They will provide reviewers with detailed proposals for consideration and eventual sign-off.

6.8. Confirmed sequence

There appeared to be general agreement on the following sequence of activities:

1. Print Claims AND Structured Address Module AND Review of e-Books Proposals

2. New Order, incorporating Structured Address
3. Review suitability of ONIX for Serials SPS for Price Quotation applications and define workflows and choreography
4. Begin the work of re-engineering the ORT Renewals and other fixed-format standards.

6.9. Participation in working groups and pilots

To allow for more coherent planning and to avoid overloading particular individuals or organizations, we held a quick round-table survey of which initiatives are of most interest to each member organization. Results were as follows:

Organization	Priorities and remarks
Elsevier (and Publishing Technologies)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Claims AND Structured Addresses 2. Later, TBC, New Orders
Harrassowitz	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Price List rollout 2. Claims
IEEE	No immediate developmental plans for print work, since working to "sunset" print offerings over coming years
LM Information Delivery	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SRN for publication schedules and dispatch dates 2. Claims AND Structured Addresses
Maruzen	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Claims 2. Price List (later)
MPS Technologies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Claims (TBC outside meeting) 2. Price List (TBC outside meeting)
Oxford Journals (and Advantage)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Claims 2. Structured Addresses 3. Price List
Springer	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Claims 2. Structured Addresses 3. THEN other messages
Swets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Claims 2. Structured Addresses/New Orders

Organization	Priorities and remarks
Taylor & Francis	Resource currently scarce, priorities TBC outside meeting. Price List formally live from w/b 11 th October.
THINK Subscription	Need to check situation outside meeting
Turpin Distribution	1. Claims 2. Structured Addresses
Wiley	Resource currently very scarce, priorities TBC outside meeting but probably 1, Claims; 2, Structured Addresses.

Tim will suggest membership of subgroups and plan the various workstreams involved.

7. Involving smaller agents/publishers in automated exchanges

This topic was again discussed, alongside the possible need to introduce alternative formats like CSV/Excel alongside the existing XML standards. Although in principle this is a desirable initiative, we need to find ways of funding the necessary analysis and development as well as checking that this is broadly a priority for the ICEDIS membership.

We would need to put in place a reliable and easily maintainable methodology, so that derived or cut-down formats could be produced from a data model shared with the corresponding, fully-featured XML message. There seems to be a perception that XML is “harder” than Excel, although whether this is actually true probably varies between organizations.

EDItEUR will investigate requirements further and report back to the Harrogate meeting in April 2011. Wiley promised to share details of its spreadsheet format for the Price List, by way of a worked example.

8. EDItEUR update

Mark gave a short update on some recent and planned EDItEUR developments, as well as introducing Graham Bell as EDItEUR’s new Chief Data Architect. Alongside the serials work already known to ICEDIS members, Mark mentioned approaches from EDINA and the PEPRS project regarding the use of the SOH format to convey information about preserved or archived journal resources.

EDItEUR has been active in message development for the ARROW project (which is establishing an infrastructure for rights discovery by European libraries seeking to digitize their existing print collections) and is managing an Enabling Technologies Framework project (to develop best practice guidelines that can more readily support accessibility

requirements). Last but not least, EDItEUR continues to maintain and promulgate ONIX for Books (now in a Version 3.0 specifically enhanced to better handle e-books) and the family of EDItX transactional messages.

9. Other business

Several ICEDIS members had questioned the practice of holding the Spring meetings of ICEDIS on the *Sunday* preceding UKSG. After brief discussion it was decided on a show of hands to move future meetings to early in the afternoon of the final day (Wednesday) of UKSG.

10. Next ICEDIS Meeting

The next meeting of ICEDIS will be held on the afternoon of Wednesday 6th April 2011 in Harrogate, UK to coincide with UKSG 2011. Details of the venue and starting time will follow.