IFLA’s Evolving Program to Produce and Promote the International Standard Bibliographic Descriptions: Past, Present, and Future

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Origins of ISBDs

• Opportunities arising from the automation of bibliographic control and economic necessity of sharing cataloging
• Envisioned as a principal component of IFLA’s UBC program
Purposes of the ISBDs

• Enable interchange of bibliographic records from different sources
• Assist in the interpretation of records across language barriers
• Facilitate the conversion of bibliographic records to electronic form
Family of ISBDs

- ISBD concept born in 1969
- ISBD(M) published in 1971
- Others followed: Serials, NBM, CM, Rare books, PM, CF/ER, Component Parts, General

(“Family of ISBDs” available at: http://www.ifla.org/VI/3/nd1/isbdlist.htm)
Purposes of Recent Changes to ISBD Procedures

• To enable publication of the ISBDs electronically
• To speed up the review process by using email and improve flow communication regarding drafts to and from the ISBD Review Group
Procedures for New or Revised ISBDs

- Creation of draft text
- Worldwide review
- Final revision
- Balloting
- Publication and workshop
First General Review: Purposes

- To harmonize provisions
- To improve examples
- To better accommodate non-Roman scripts
Second General Review: Purpose

- To ensure conformity between the provisions of the ISBDs and FRBR’s data requirements for the “Basic Level National Bibliographic Record” (BLNBR).
- To revise ISBDs to make optional data elements previously mandatory in accordance with BLNBR specifications.
Second General Review: Progress

- ISBD(M) – Done in 2002
- ISBD(CR) -- Done in 2002
- ISBD(G) – Done in 2003
- ISBD(A) – Scheduled for 2005
- ISBD(ER) – Postponed
- ISBD(CM) – Postponed
- ISBD (NBM) – Postponed
- ISBD(PM) – Postponed
Significance of the ISBDs

• Standards for representing bibliographic data for all types of library materials
• Translated into 25 languages
• Guided the work of national cataloguing committees
Current priorities and activities: Terminology

- Clarify relationship of FRBR terminology in relation to ISBDs
- “Mapping ISBD Elements to FRBR Entity Attributes and Relationships”
- Use of the term “resource” rather than “item” or “publication”
Current priorities and activities: Material Designation

• Material Designation Study Group; Lynne Howarth, chair

• Recommendation: Create separate descriptions for works issued in multiple formats

• Recommendation: Use of a separate, unique, mandatory component for recording “content/carrier” or “content/medium” designation
Current priorities and activities: Consolidated ISBD

• Study Group on Future Directions; Dorothy McGarry, chair

• Objectives:
  – 1. Integrated, updated ISBD to meet the needs of cataloguers and users of bibliographic information
  – 2. Consistent stipulations for description where possible, but with specific stipulations for specific types of resources as required
Consolidated Edition: Principles

• Provide stipulations for compatible descriptive cataloguing world-wide

• Accommodate different cataloguing levels

• Specify elements needed

• Focus on needed elements themselves

• Provide cost effective practices
Consolidated Edition: Recommendations

• Restructure areas
• General stipulations given first followed by exceptions/additions
• Definitions brought together
• Distinction between “transcribed” & “recorded” information

• Area 3 omitted for electronic resources
• ISSN will be mandatory for all materials
• Full examples to be published separately
Current priorities and activities: Timeline

• Preparation of merged text: Done
• Preparation of draft for world-wide review: April 2006
• World-wide review: Summer 2006
• Text to Review Group for approval: Fall 2006
• Text to Cataloguing Section Standing Committee for approval: Early 2007
• Throughout the project, collaboration with appropriate code-makers
Current priorities and activities: ISBD(A)

- Invitation to participate in world-wide review at:
  http://www.ifla.org/VII/s13/pubs/Invitation4WWreview2-22-06.htm
Cataloguing Section

ISBD REVIEW GROUP

ANNOUNCEMENT

The draft revised version of ISBD(A) (2006) is available for world-wide review from: Invitation4WWreview12-04.htm.

Comments are due by May 1, 2006.

ORIGINS OF ISBDS

The International Standard Bibliographic Descriptions
Future of the ISBDs: Some personal thoughts…. 
Introduction of Elena Escolano Rodríguez, incoming ISBD Review Group chair

Thank you for your interest and attention!