



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS  
AND INSTITUTIONS

## ISBD Review Group

ISBD RG 2021 Midyear Meeting (The Transition) - 9 April 2021, via Zoom

### MINUTES

**Invited speaker:** Helen Mandl, IFLA Deputy Secretary General

#### **Attendees**

**ISBD RG members and liaisons:** Massimo Gentili-Tedeschi (corresponding member) Elena Escolano Rodríguez (Chair of the Content Update Task Force), Renate Behrens (Chair of the Manifestation Task Force, Liaison with the RDA Steering Committee) Gordon Dunsire (member, Independent Consultant to the Manifestation Task Force), Dorothy McGarry (honorary member), Mikael Wetterstrom (member, ISSN International Centre Liaison), Ricardo Santos Muñoz (Information coordinator, Cataloguing Section Liaison), Mirna Willer (corresponding member). Saeedeh Akbari-Daryan (member), Hollie White (member) Flavia Bruni (member), Judit Fejes (member), Rehab Ouf (Chair)

Isabel García-Monge (IFLA RBSCS), Regina Varnienè-Janssen, Ben Gu?

**Observers:** Szabina Ilácsa (Manifestation Task Force member),

**Apologies:** Mélanie Roche (member, Chair of the Bib-Linked Data Study Group), Adelaida Caro (IFLA RBSCS liaison)

**Invitees from other IFLA groups:** Chris Oliver (BCM RG & SAA SC member), Athena Salaba (SAA SC, chair), Suzan Morris? Agnese? Anders Cato?

#### **1. Welcome and introductions**

Rehab Ouf welcomed the attendees and introduced the invited speaker of the meeting: *Helen Mandl, IFLA Deputy Secretary General* who is honoring the midyear ISBD RG meeting to give members and invitees firsthand information about the New IFLA structures and WLIC 2021.

“*The Transition*” is the theme of the ISBD RG midyear meeting, highlighting a period of transition for the ISBD Standard and for IFLA. As for the Revision of the ISBD, a work of magnitude is taking place in IFLA with the new governance and new structures being implemented, the elections and nominations, the call for proposals and the preparation of the first virtual IFLA WLIC.

## 2. Agenda

Elena Escolano Rodriguez moved to approve the agenda. Agenda was approved.

## 3. New governance and structures

Helen Mandl started by greeting the attendees, pointing out that IFLA HQ staff have been for over a year in home office because of the pandemic. She extended IFLA HQ's warm thanks and gratefulness to all volunteers who, despite all the health, personal and professional challenges, are continuing with the work with great will in this exceptional period for IFLA. There has been in the Governing Board during 2020 a huge work to translate the Global Vision into a new governance for IFLA to make it more agile and able to "deliver on the ambition of the new Strategy" that wanted IFLA to become more inclusive, effective and transparent as per the world library community requests.

### 3.1. IFLA new structures: Professional, Regional, Governing Board

Helen Mandl gave a presentation about the IFLA new regional and professional structures, the smaller Governing Board and its composition, and the nomination processes for the various categories and positions and the timeline for all these steps. The structure will come into force on the day after IFLA General Assembly in August 2021. Helen encouraged members and attendees to use their rights to nominate and get nominated in the many positions as relevant.

(slidepacks about IFLA new structures and nominations <https://www.ifla.org/node/93786>)

### 3.2. Advisory Committee on Standards (ACS) and Review Groups

Helen Mandl pointed out that the current strategic committees as the Committee on Standards to which the RGs report will have the status of Advisory Committees in the new structure, reporting directly to the Governing Board and advising it about strategic initiatives as well as cross IFLA and beyond IFLA coordination in their areas of expertise. The RGs, LIDATEC and PUC will continue to come under the future *Advisory Committee on Standards*.

### 3.3. Appointment procedures and co-opted members in Review Groups

Rehab Ouf discussed the repercussion on membership in the RGs of the cancellation of the category "corresponding member" and its replacement by co-opted members; since many of the experts involved in the development of the standard are joining under this category. She asked if for the RGs co-opted members can be selected on the basis of their expertise instead of geographic distribution. Helen Mandl said this will be a topic of consideration by the GB; though it is not clear for the moment. The "statutes" and the "rules of procedures" will be completed by a "handbook" which will define the operation of units such as the advisory committees, the RGs and the SIGs. Together the 3 documents will indicate how IFLA as an organization works. Helen added that It is important to guarantee that the RGs will have some structure similarity in the future all with ensuring they can continue with their work and have the range of expertise needed. Rehab Ouf reminded that this election round has restricted entry to the RGs by institution

or association type of IFLA members as nominators, to ensure qualified candidates from institutions interested in the standard are nominated.

#### 4. WLIC 2021 Virtual Congress

Helen Mandl introduced the new WLIC 2021 first virtual conference to be held 17–19 August 2021 accommodating different time zones. The Business meetings I and II will be held outside the congress, before and after it. The call for proposals for the units to have their open sessions proposes different formats: Presentations, Ignite talks, Provocations, Panel discussions, Interviews, Case studies, Open Forum and Solution Rooms. There will be registration fees, to help cover the cost for the conference platform, but they will be substantially lower than the physical congress. Very few exceptions to waive the registration fees to some presenters will be made, criteria for this are not defined yet. IFLA resorted to a firm to provide the virtual congress' platform, manage the registration and the pre-recordings, because it is sophisticated, technologically complicated and requires a lot of logistics and technical support behind.

#### 5. ISBD RG – WLIC 2021 - Business Meetings

IFLA has required that professional units have 2 business meetings this year. The first meeting will be 2 weeks ahead of WLIC 2021 to evaluate and finalize our work during the past 2 years; and the second business meeting should take place 2 weeks after WLIC 2021 for the farewell for outgoing members and the development of new action plan.

#### 6. ISBD RG presence in WLIC 2021

##### 6.1. Annual congress session (proposals due April 9)

Rehab Ouf asked the RG members if they support the idea of having an open session for the ISBD RG in WLIC 2021 to publicize the ISBD revision works achieved and underway; knowing that RGs are normally not eligible to have theirs and that the deadline to submit a proposal is today. Despite some reservations expressed, - suggesting that it would be better to have an event disjoint from IFLA WLIC -, most of the opinions were in favor of having an open session. Isabel Garcia from the IFLA RBSCS pointed out that the congress is a good opportunity to address people who are not usually connected to the ISBD like the rare books and special collections communities and to pass the message that our work is relevant to them. Rehab Ouf summed up that an ISBD session would be a good marketing tool. Helen Mandl enthusiastically encouraged the ISBD RG to submit a proposal and granted an extension of 2 weeks for that.

**Action:** the chair will set a group to explore the theme and the format and work out a proposal for an ISBD RG session. *Post-meeting updates:* ISBD RG proposal was submitted and accepted by the committee curating the conference program.

##### 6.2. Metadata reports session, May 27 2021

This year the metadata report session will be disjointed from the congress in a special virtual event titled “*New horizons: emerging metadata standards and practices in the 21st century*”( <https://www.ifla.org/node/93730>). It will be held on 27 May 2021, and will take the form of a

webinar. The format will feature 30 minutes *lightening talks* by metadata sections and RGs and 45 minutes for the *new horizon panel*.

Chris Oliver (BCM RG and SAA Section), the event planning group chair, explained the thinking behind this format: the webinar will be an interesting opportunity to reach a wider audience, this is why a panel discussion is added to the reports. The lightening talks are to promote IFLA standards and the outstanding work by the groups behind them through short presentations (1-2 slides) highlighting the essentials and redirecting for further information. The panel moderator Athena Salaba (SAA SC Chair), emphasized that for a more catchy webinar the panel discussion will have three invited experts from various backgrounds and parts of the world addressing the same questions revolving around the future and evolvement of bibliographic description in 5 years from different perspectives.

**Action:** Rehab Ouf asked for a volunteer to be the ISBD RG representative to give the ISBD RG lightening talk in the webinar. This will be set after the Zoom via emails. *Post-meeting updates:* Gordon Dunsire prepared and presented the ISBD RG lightening talk in the event.

### 6.3. CoS Business meetings and WLIC 2021 Open session

Renate Behrens, also Chair of the Committee on Standards, said that CoS applied for a “panel discussion” session with as theme IFLA standards in the digital age, that will hopefully get the approval of the conference curating committee. CoS Business Meeting I will take place in the first week of August and they will be open to observers.

This year the Committee on Standards

## 7. ISBD Revision: Update 2021

Rehab Ouf presented Elena Escolano Rodriguez, Content Update Task Force Chair and pointed out the Update 2021 of the ISBD Consolidated Edition was successfully achieved by the Content Update TF with the contribution of some users communities of the standard for special formats (i.e. manuscripts and maps), and with the involvement of liaisons of the ISBD RG as the IFLA Rare Books and Special Collections Section.

Elena Escolano stated that the draft of the Update has completed all its reviews by peers, liaisons, relevant IFLA sections, as well as external library and scientific institutions; the TF debated and applied the received comments. The draft of the Update then passed to the ISBD Review Group in December 2020 for approval and was approved. Elena pointed out that the TF met the original schedule in the Terms of reference for producing this updating revision of the Consolidated ISBD 2011. She thanked all the members of the TF for their expert insights and hard work despite the hard times, the confinement and the cancelation of the required physical meetings. The TF organized itself in three subgroups, by specialization: cartographic resources, unpublished resources and component parts.

Despite the readiness of the draft and its approval by ISBD RG, some formatting issues delayed its submission to CoS and PC for approval and endorsement, as the submitted standards must be in their final format, because the presentation of the publication is among the evaluation criteria. The issues were fixed and the final draft to be submitted to CoS was sent to the chair of the ISBD RG that will send it to CoS and IFLA HQ next week. Elena said that once the Update is approved the ISBD namespace will include the new elements created for user communities to be able to use them in their work and applications. Elena added that

more examples than those included in the Update will be developed to demonstrate the application of the new stipulations, as part of user training and of publicizing of the Update. The TF is currently in the process of collecting examples in languages different from English. She pointed out that the publication of the Update will incite users of the standard to contribute more examples in their languages of cataloguing.

Rehab Ouf thanked Elena warmly for the scientific and dedicated work that led to this achievement. She added that the Update is an enlarged edition that will extend the scope of the ISBD to unpublished resources and that it incorporated stipulations for the granular description of component parts.

## **8. ISBD Revision: ISBD for LRM-Manifestation**

Renate Behrens, Manifestation Task Force Chair gave a brief report about the developments of aligning the ISBD to IFLA LRM and how the work has progressed in the past months. The Manifestation Task Force is working intensively in monthly meetings and through basecamp and responsibilities are divided among members who organize themselves according to areas of ISBD. In January 2021, the TF had a two day workshop that helped thinking and deciding about many issues related to the transforming of the ISBD which need to be treated differently in the future. The basis of the work are the text of the ISBD Consolidated Edition 2011 + the new elements introduced in the Update by the Content Update TF.

As a first result of the work of the Manifestation TF, questions to the ISBD RG about crucial decisions that will help determine direction for the new ISBD: the granularly and degree of prescriptiveness of the new ISBD. Renate added that the TF is working on the feasibility of: restructuring the stipulations taking Area 4 as an example; discussions on punctuation issues; sources of information; elements template, and have first drafts for these issues. This will be extended to all applicable Areas of ISBD.

### **8.1. Strategic decisions RE-new ISBD: prescriptiveness and publication format**

These are the questions that were raised by the Manifestation Task Force to the ISBD Review Group and posted by the chair of the ISBD RG on Basecamp: *prescriptiveness of the future ISBD* and the *form of publication*. The TF has made a recommendation to the RG that the ISBD should remain prescriptive, as this is distinguishing it from other standards like RDA. The ISBD RG has to agree to such issues being the group that entrusted the TF with this mission. To date three comments on that post were made, by Dorothy, Massimo and Ricardo, all agreeing on the prescriptiveness; other opinions are still needed for a broader perspective. The second question asked to the RG is about publishing the new ISBD like an online toolkit with all linking and navigation functionalities like all new standards.

Renate Behrens noticed that the second question is in a way up to IFLA itself and should be the subject of a broader discussion by all standards bodies and IFLA itself under the umbrella of the Committee on Standards, all with keeping the possibility of having a printout for the user communities and institutions that prefer it. The prescriptiveness is the more pressing and urgent issue for the TF to pursue its work and a consensus is needed now. Elena Escolano moved to agree on the prescriptiveness of the future ISBD stressing that members of the Manifestation TF are also members of the bigger ISBD RG and their recommendations to the RG should be counted as agreement. Renate Behrens seconded Elena, asking Rehab Ouf, as the Chair of the ISBD Review Group to take a decision. Rehab Ouf agreed that the ISBD

should remain prescriptive as this is one of the strengths of ISBD that make it easily used as implementation for other standards, with some flexibility and options where appropriate, in the form of general guidelines, to assist libraries and bibliographic agencies to formulate their policies.

**Decision: The prescriptiveness of the new ISBD was agreed upon and the Manifestation TF will work to this end.**

## **9. ISBD vocabularies and namespaces**

Rehab Ouf said that all IFLA vocabularies are now on the IFLA Namespaces website thanks to IFLA HQ. She extended warm thanks to Helen Mandl for all her support to get this issue done, specifically her advocacy in IFLA HQ and to the Governing Board, especially with the huge cost involved. Helen has also provided an ambitious action plan for LIDATEC and the RGs, that are working on implementing it through trainings on the platform and further through definition of policies, all under the umbrella of LIDATEC. Once the policies defined for all IFLA standards, the promotion and advertising phase can start. Rehab Ouf also reported that Joseph Hafner, Chair of LIDATEC has put together some guiding points in a document to guide the RGs and IFLA through the definition of their policies. Renate Behrens, chair of CoS, said that she is in close contact with Joseph Hafner for this.

## **10. Meeting wrap-up and final comments**

ISBD RG members and the attendees of the midyear meeting valued the participation of Helen Mandl, the Deputy Secretary General . They warmly thanked her for the great presentations and the useful information. Rehab Ouf warmly thanked Helen Mandl, emphasizing that her participation made the ISBD RG 2021 midyear fruitful, productive and informing about strategic matters, moreover a very special event exceeding the scope and format of a regular business meeting.

Helen Mandl expressed her happiness to be here and to listen to the work of the ISBD RG. She extended warm thanks and appreciations on behalf of IFLA HQ to the ISBD Review Group and its members for their important work on IFLA standards.

Rehab Ouf also thanked all observers of this meeting some of whom happen to be chairs of other professional units in IFLA and members of its standards bodies.

The meeting was adjourned.