



# IFLA Advisory Committee on Standards

## IFLA Standards Newsletter

Newsletter from the IFLA Advisory Committee on Standards  
Volume 1, Issue 1, March 2023 (revised April 2023)



### About our Newsletter

IFLA Standards Newsletter provides an international forum for news, information and discussions about IFLA standards and guidelines and their international counterparts.

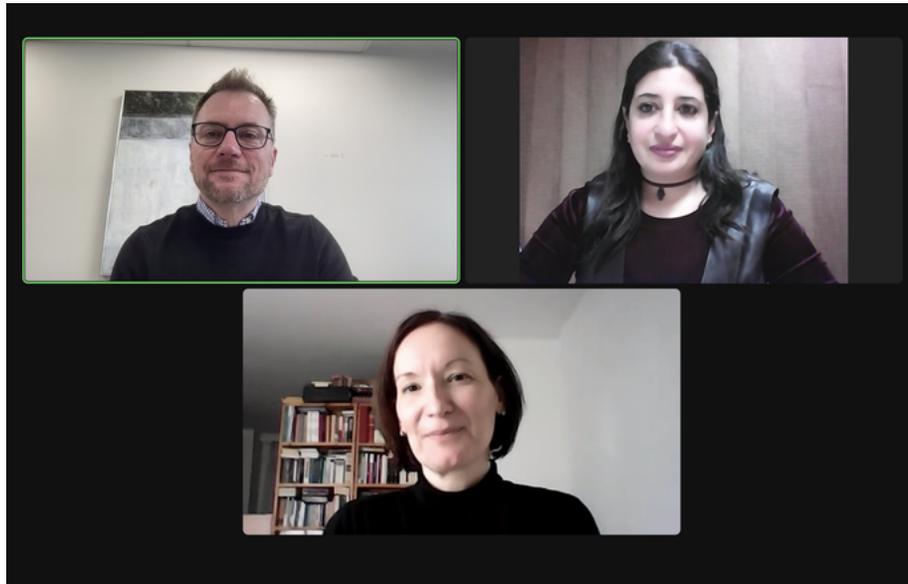
The newsletter's aim is to showcase the wide range of standards developed and maintained by IFLA's professional units, enabling libraries to assess and align their operations and performance in all aspects of librarianship.

International in the scope of standards, it also seeks to highlight the work of national and international peer institutions and standardization organizations as it relates to library and information standards.

**Welcome to our Newsletter**

**Welcome from the  
IFLA Advisory Committee on Standards  
Newsletter Subcommittee**

Ana Stevanovic (Chair), Joseph Hafner (Editor), and Rehab Ouf  
Editorial Team



We are pleased to launch this new newsletter to share information about standards and the work of the IFLA Advisory Committee on Standards. We know that sharing information about this work is important to ensure we have access to information about recent trends, updates, conference presentations, work happening in IFLA and around the world and more related to standards. Our plan is publish two issues this year, with another one coming in the fall after the IFLA World Congress in Rotterdam.

In the world that is constantly changing, evolving, and growing, especially in the digital environment, is it possible to create and maintain a standard? By the definition a standard is: “something established by authority, custom, or general consent” and it is “a model or example” or “a rule for the measure of quantity, weight, extent, value, or quality”, or “a structure built for or serving as a base or support.” It is a stable, basic, well-known, long-lasting concept. So, is it possible to keep track of a standard and all its alterations? The idea of the editorial team was to try to note and follow all the changes, alterations, and modifications of IFLA standards keeping in mind the process and people behind every standard and its evolution.

The newsletter is meant to have a widespread distribution within and beyond IFLA, presenting the state of the art of a highly connected library and information field that produces and benefits from standards.

As an editorial policy, we chose it to be a semi-structured newsletter with several fixed sections in order to maintain the focus of this type of information letters. These sections include: An Interview between two experts, a keynote article, a standards profile section featuring each issue a different IFLA standard or guidelines, featured articles and updates about recently endorsed standards.

We hope you enjoy this new communication tool we have created, and it would be great to have your feedback on this publication, including ideas and contributions for upcoming issues.

We offer special thanks to everyone who has contributed to this new publication and made this possible.

Thanks! Merci! شكرًا! Хвала!  
Ana, Joseph & Rehab

## Welcome Letter from our Chair

Victoria Owen

Advisory Committee on Standards



Dear colleagues,

We are excited to present the Advisory Committee on Standards (CoS) newsletter for March 2023. The enthusiastic CoS Communications Working Group (Ana Stevanovic (chair), Rehab Ouf and Joseph Hafner) was eager to

prepare a CoS newsletter after a hiatus of a few years, share the news of the committee's work, and present some thoughtful discussion from standards experts in the field.

The current work of CoS includes the review and approval of IFLA's professional standards. The up-to-date list of standards in progress is on the [IFLA Standards page](#).

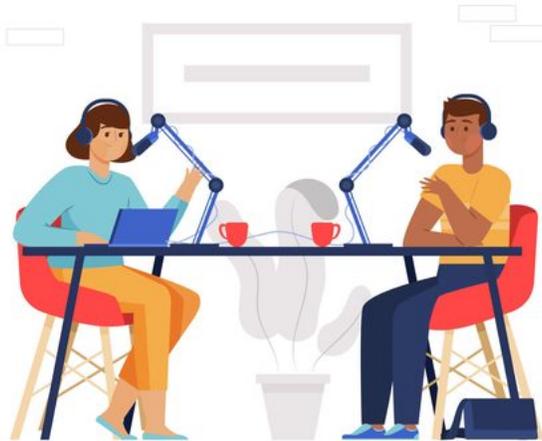
CoS is reviewing and updating the IFLA Standards Procedures Manual, which provides guidance to IFLA units on procedures related to the creation and revision of an IFLA standard. The work is ably led by Vincent Boulet and an expert working group (Renate Behrens, Beth Kilmarx, Chris Oliver, Fatemeh Pazooki, Megan Price, Mélanie Roche, Deanna White, and Peng Xiao). The procedures manual will be revised for clarity and to streamline roles and responsibilities among all stakeholders, the sponsoring units, IFLA Secretariat, and Advisory Committee on Standards. We have an ambitious timeline for undertaking and completing this work and look forward to providing this updated manual in 2023.

The newsletter main feature is an informative double interview with international leaders in the standards field, Gaëlle Béquet and Gregory Miura. You will find the Q&A format opens the reader to thoughtful positions on the work of standards bodies and the role of librarians and information professionals in that work. You may notice, as I did, that the deep, technical work, especially where it intersects with creative industries, gives the profession the opportunity to reflect on its public interest role and related information policy principles, and consider where they align and where there is misalignment. The blockchain technologies is a possible topic for further conversation and exploration. The interview concludes with the opportunity to consider IFLA's formal relationship with standards bodies, and its importance both technically and its societal role.

I'm looking forward to continued conversations with colleagues fascinated by standards, their applications, benefits, and their impact on "emancipating information".

Victoria Owen  
Chair, Advisory Committee on Standards

---



## Feature Interview with Gaëlle Béquet and Grégory Miura

*We asked two of our colleagues working in standards for interviews to help us understand why they work in the area of standards and the importance of standards in what we do. We are pleased to have Gaëlle Béquet, Director, ISSN International Centre, and Gregory Miura, Director, Bordeaux Montaigne University Library and Archives, for our first issues of this newsletter.*

### **Gaëlle Béquet**

I am a Library Curator and the Director of the ISSN International Centre. I hold a PhD in library science and communication from Sorbonne university. In 2014, I published the book *Trois bibliothèques européennes face à Google: Aux origines de la bibliothèque numérique (1990-2010)* that analyzes the creation of digital libraries in Europe (Austria, France, UK). I served as ISO TC 46 Information & Documentation Chair 2014-2023. I sit on Europeana Advisory Board and I am a member of the Knowledge Exchange Group.

### **Grégory Miura**

University Librarian and director of the Bordeaux Montaigne University Library and Archives service since 2014, I have served as a Library General Curator since 2007. From 2002 to 2007, I was in charge of the heritage collection of native digital documents on physical carriers at the French National Library (BnF). I am a member of the working group on source codes and software within

the National Open Science Committee. I am a member of the scientific advisory committee of the French Higher education and Research Bibliographic Agency (ABES). I am the current Chair of ISO TC 46 Information & Documentation.



### ***1. How do we get involved in standardisation at national/international level?***

**Gaëlle:** With AFNOR, the French standardization association, we organize each year a 1-day conference on the topics covered by ISO Technical Committee 46 Information & Documentation and ISO in general. The mirror French National Committee 46 (CN 46) thus shares information about international standards with the community of librarians and publishers. We also encourage colleagues to get involved in standardization activities. In 2022, the conference's theme was the sustainability of digital archiving and the environmental impact of dematerialization of business records. CN 46 also contributes to the review and editing of international standards in French. Finally, the members of CN 46 participate in ISO working groups for the development or revision of standards.

**Grégory:** In practical terms, it is a matter of getting closer to one's national standards body, which is responsible for carrying the representations within ISO. The dialogue between the national and international levels is organised in both directions, with the aim of translating and adapting international work tracks, but also of having a force for reflection and design that represents the interests of a given national community in a bid to open to the outside world. The international normative character is the guarantee of the visibility, durability, and adaptability of a standard. A patient and collective effort is inherent in standardisation work. It enables different priorities to be managed collectively by organising the possibility of investment in a shared agenda which must be

made public to benefit from a real leverage effect on the teaching of the issues at stake.

## ***2. Why are standards important in libraries?***

**Gaëlle:** The [DIN Normenausschuss Information und Dokumentation](#) in Germany made a poster in 2022 that listed the international (ISO) and national (DIN) standards used in libraries. Standards are everywhere! They are key to creating the conditions for cooperation between institutions at national and international levels. ISO and the national commissions are also places for discussion on the evolution of professional practices, the revision of existing standards and the creation of new standards by librarians within TC 46.

**Grégory:** The emergence of shared rules has conditioned our development. Standards are more important today as we have become one of the players in the dissemination of information, science and culture in a globalized digital context where opportunities for convergence and development may come up against proprietary developments serving particular interests. It is imperative to go beyond the often-reductive technical aspect of standardization work to become more aware of the political stakes of innovation and leadership as well as the protection of regular and sustained standardization work.

The establishment of norms, rules and standards is at the heart of the issues and challenges posed by the structuring of our information systems and data formats in the context of the web and the diversification of digital objects. Collective reflection allows the reinforcement of approaches around quality, evaluation, skills, or risk in our sector in order to give visibility to our priorities, our expertise, our needs and our recommendations to be proposed to public and private sector operators. Finally, it is a question of pursuing and promoting the convergence between libraries, archives and museums on all subjects allowing the sharing of expertise, joint actions, innovation, and the visibility of our professions, while not neglecting to extend this dialogue to non-governmental organizations and all types of initiatives geared towards the sharing of pluralist and emancipating information.

## ***3. What are the hot topics and who is able to bear them to a normative level?***

**Gaëlle:** The use of blockchain and distributed ledger technologies by archives, libraries and creative industries is a growing trend. These technologies are key to verify the integrity of digital files, for example in the context of long-term preservation. They are also important for creative industries as they are used to acknowledge authorship over a production, apply a license and dynamic fees, and trace the transmission of an item between different parties. **ISO Technical**

**Committee 307** sets the standards in this area and **TC 46 Subcommittee: 11 Archives/Records** management has initiated a joint working group. **Subcommittee 9: Identification and description** is also interested in these technologies and a new identifier called International Standard Content Code is currently being standardized. This code could be applied, for example, to a scientific article to identify different versions of this article, which would be useful to discriminate, if necessary, between versions published on different distribution platforms.

**Grégory:** Everyone may contribute. Regulation and standards must reflect every perspective to be consistent enough to play a key role in future developments for mutual benefit. In the coming years we should be able to extend the work on consistency and interoperability of system, data, and document workflow in order to guarantee the actual situation but mainly offer perspective in a common effort in guiding public institutions and their vendors for innovation.

Secondly, it seems important to leverage our efforts in handling the continuing growth in size and diversity of native digital objects that soon may be as common as printed and digital text as carrier for science, information, and culture. Software, web archives, social video or 3D objects must enter our perimeter of concern. These technical aspects are not sufficient in themselves if we don't tackle the challenge in playing a major role on people empowerment and protection, regarding knowledge commons, access of a diverse information infrastructure and digital literacy using an expanded vision of quality management.

Contributing accurately and more obviously in the global struggles linked to our field of expertise will be a powerful means to call attention upon us as we play our part in answering political and social demands on personal data protection, digital governance, social and environmental responsibility of the data and information area.

A closer work on all these subjects within the galleries, libraries, museums, and archives sector constitute a platform for a stronger alliance world-wide ensuing broader visibility and mutually nurturing our reciprocal expertise.

#### ***4. Connection with IFLA: how can it be revived? What are the mutual benefits of this cooperation?***

**Gaëlle:** As I mentioned in [my presentation](#) for the IFLA WLIC 2022, the current cooperation between IFLA and **ISO/TC 46** includes some joint work on the

development of library statistics and performance evaluation in **ISO/TC 46/SC 8 Quality: Statistics and performance evaluation. ISO 2789:2013** Information and documentation - International library statistics is currently under revision and the leader of the working group is also one of the authors of a book published by IFLA on this topic. Other collaborations could be developed, notably with **ISO/TC 46/SC 9: Identification and description**. This committee is responsible for **ISO 690:2021 Information and documentation: Guidelines for bibliographic references and citations to information resources**, which is of primary interest to IFLA members, and for other standards dealing with bibliographic description. There is already a formal liaison between **ISO TC 46** and IFLA, but the mechanism for cooperation with the Committee on Standards has yet to be created.

**Grégory:** We could work in two directions. On the one hand, we could organize an annual meeting to confront the issues raised by IFLA in a cross-cutting manner, calling for a reflection on norms and standards. On the other hand, it would be opportune to propose a support to the professionals to facilitate their position and their intervention in this field by means of communication operations, training, and subsidies to facilitate the investment. IFLA represents an opportunity for **ISO TC 46** in that the federation embodies a long tradition as a forum and laboratory for the profession, driven by a desire to undertake, an acute sense of consensus and an openness to the richness and diversity of the women and men who are involved.

---

## Updates

### Update from the Permanent UNIMARC Committee

Branka Badovinac

Member, Permanent UNIMARC Committee

The starting point for most of the UNIMARC format user proposals received by the Permanent UNIMARC Committee (PUC) in recent years is the updating of the UNIMARC/A standard towards the IFLA-LRM model. The UNIMARC/A format now generally supports structure for work and expression records for the majority of resources (print, music, etc.). In 2022, the PUC considered 13 proposals for updating the formats, two discussion papers were held on the cataloguing of numismatic objects (resources) and the possibility of introducing URI (IRI) data. The latter requires a detailed analysis of options in the view of

the existing data structure. The project of preparing data elements of the UNIMARC/A format for submission to IFLA Namespaces is also in progress.

[Permanent UNIMARC Committee](#)



## ***Presentations from the Dublin IFLA World Congress 2022***

**IFLA Namespaces**  
Joseph Hafner  
Chair, LIDATEC Review Group



IFLA Namespaces launched in July 2020. This was the culmination of several years of preparation and efforts by the members of the Linked Data Technical Sub-Committee, which is a Sub-Committee of IFLA's Advisory Committee on Standards.

This was a group effort of many people on the Subcommittee and involved in the various IFLA Standards, along with technical support from Jon Phipps and Diane Hillmann. Thanks to everyone involved for reaching this point.

The standards there now are:

- **FRBR**
- **ISBD**
- **MuDiCat**
- **UNIMARC**
- **LRM**

We manage the site using GitHUB behind-the-scenes, which makes it easy to keep things up to date. This is a work in progress and updates are added as we have them. Going forward this is the place where you will find the most up-to-date versions of the IFLA Standards as linked data. These are all **freely available** on this open access website, which is currently paid for by IFLA to make this possible. As time goes by, as standards are deprecated, like FRBR, we will keep them available there in their final form on the site.

For an example of the standards at work in a linked data environment, the RDA Toolkit now links to the LRM on this IFLA Namespaces site. We were really pleased when that collaboration started last year. We are working with various Review Groups from IFLA to update their standards and add other standards. We are also starting to consider how the Namespaces could be a place where information about the standards (for example introductory material, notes, examples, etc.) could be included as one of the ways to display the information about some of the standards.

If your IFLA Committee wants to add another standard or if you would like to link to one of the IFLA Standards, please feel free to reach out to me, ask me any questions you have, and I will be happy to talk with you about how it works or what possibilities there are. Use the feedback button on the site to contact me.

I encourage you to visit the site and explore it and the standards. Thanks for this opportunity to inform you about this exciting project with the IFLA Namespace.

## LRMoo, a high-level model in an object-oriented framework

Pat Riva, Maja Žumer, and Trond Aalberg  
Members, IFLA LRMoo Working Group

The LRMoo model brings the IFLA Library Reference Model (IFLA LRM) into the CIDOC Conceptual Reference Model (CRM) family of models by providing an object-oriented version of the model that is designed as an extension to CIDOC CRM. This facilitates interoperability between library and museum information systems in the broader heritage sector.

In the Committee on Standards Open Session at WLIC 2022 in Dublin, the LRMoo Working Group of the Bibliographic Conceptual Models Review Group (BCM RG), presented on the project in the paper LRMoo, a high-level model in an object-oriented framework.

LRMoo is developed from FRBRoo, approved as an IFLA standard in 2016, which was based on the FR family of models which are superseded by IFLA LRM. In comparison to FRBRoo, LRMoo is streamlined and at a higher level of generality, while retaining full expressivity. Specialized subclasses and properties, notably of F1 Work and F2 Expression, have been deprecated, reducing their number by more than half. Specialized examples have been replaced with ones chosen to aid in comprehension of the model.

Aspects of the model have been revised to align more closely with the IFLA LRM model. Developments in CIDOC CRM allow LRMoo to align the F3 Manifestation class with the IFLA LRM entity manifestation, rather than split it into two classes as was the case in FRBRoo. Properties have been added to correspond to all IFLA LRM relationships and attributes that were not declared in FRBRoo. The classes that represent the creation events of the main WEMI classes, F27 Work Creation and F28 Expression Creation, were revised.

Integration of preexisting expressions into expressions of new works is an aspect still to be addressed in IFLA LRM. Examples include poems put to music or reusing music in new compositions. LRMoo proposes two properties, R74 uses expression of (has expression used in) and R75 incorporates (is incorporated in). The latter is a relationship between expressions, where the first expression includes as an integral part the second expression (which is a

realisation of a different work). R74 uses expressions that deal with the work level: all expressions of the first work will include some expression of the second. A well-known example is Beethoven's 9th Symphony, which uses an expression of 'An die Freude' by Friedrich Schiller (but it can be any language version).

The BCM RG held an open meeting in Dublin to receive feedback on the model. This discussion led to a structural change modifying the class hierarchy originally proposed between F2 Expression and F3 Manifestation in LRMoo, which were made equal subclasses of the CRM class E73 Information Object. This change, and the changes to properties it implied, were confirmed at the CIDOC CRM Special Interest Group meeting in Rome, Italy, in September.

The LRMoo WG has since completed the mappings and introductory text required to present a complete document for world-wide review. We invite all with an interest in conceptual models to participate in the review, which is to run until March 31, 2023.

The logo for LRMoo, consisting of the text "LRMoo" in white, underlined, and centered within a teal square.

---

## **IFLAPARL's Guidelines for Parliamentary Libraries About IFLAPARL**

Julie Anderson, Edward Wood, Gale Galloway  
Members, IFLAPARL

IFLA Library and Research Services for Parliaments Section (IFLAPARL) is the section within IFLA that represents parliamentary libraries and research services. Our members' primary focus is the provision of timely, authoritative, concise, and objective information to parliamentarians.

IFLAPARL provides a forum for exchanging experience, knowledge and problem-solving strategies. We promote standards, best practice and networking amongst parliamentary libraries. We support openness, transparency and the strengthening of democratic participation through the provision of information about legislation and parliaments to citizens.

We are an active producer of context-specific guidance. Our latest is the 3rd edition of the Guidelines for Parliamentary Libraries, published in partnership

with the Inter-Parliamentary Union in July 2022, to coincide with the annual IFLA Congress.

### ***What's special about parliamentary libraries?***

- The unique characteristics of parliamentary libraries stem from their client group. Legislators have many roles, and parliamentary libraries can support them all: scrutiny, advocacy, oration and policy development.
- There is often a research and analysis service within the library, or alongside it, so that policy topics can be explored in more depth.
- Because their roles are so complex and demanding, all legislators are time poor. Therefore it's vital that information provided for them is timely and relevant.
- Our work is often used in high-profile situations, such as when legislators question ministers or government officials, so accuracy is at a premium. And because we serve representatives from all parties elected to the parliament, our work needs to be strictly impartial.

### **The Need for a Standard**

#### ***Standards are important in this corner of the library world as in others.***

- We believe passionately that accurate, non-partisan information is essential for effective democratic discussion and deliberation. We have many years' experience in how to provide a trusted information service in a highly politicized environment.
- Our domain knowledge enables us to identify what works in the parliamentary context, based on deep knowledge of our client group, parliamentary processes and public policy.
- And through IFLAPARL we actively share best practices to support development of newer services. We're proud to say that parliamentary libraries in many democracies which have emerged or developed since the late 20th century have grown into assured and respected services.

### ***What's New?***

#### ***The new edition of the guidelines takes account of the many developments since the last edition, published way back in 2009.***

- Most of us now make some or all of our research and analysis freely available online, in line with UN SDG 16.
- There is increasing awareness of the richness and utility of data generated by parliamentary procedures, thanks to the work of NGOs that monitor the work of parliaments.

- As the demand for instant information and analysis increases, so does the tension between speed and other aspects of quality.
- Our Ethics Checklist, created in 2020, helps parliamentary libraries identify potential ethical issues in various aspects of our service.
- And finally, the pandemic has forced us to rethink the way we work, increasing the pace of the digital revolution and making hybrid working the norm in many parliaments.

[IFLAPARL](#)

---

## Standards Profile

### ISBD: A Standard Profile

Elena Escolano Rodríguez  
Chair of the ISBD Content Update Task Force

*Importance of standardization depends on the moment's needs and objectives.*

#### **Background:**

During the Conference on Cataloguing Principles (CCP) in October 1961, which had as a goal to agree on a set of cataloguing principles, which are now known as the [Statement of principles or Paris principles 1961](#), the comparison of records from different libraries revealed the differences between records were not so important, but these differences affected the presentation and the possibilities of exchange and reuse between libraries.

The order of presentation of the information was similar, as it obeyed the order of information in the main sources of the resource, following the editorial patterns at this time. As a result, it was decided to normalize the description. This resulted in the birth of the *International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD)*. The structure accepted for ISBD in areas obeyed this order of presentation of information present already in the records.

The objective for the standard was also to pursue **a general understanding independent of the language and script used**. To meet this requirement, the assignment of **punctuation** to differentiate each element of information provided for this international understanding of the information in the resulting computer-generated records. ISBD has always developed and evolved in parallel with technological developments, adapting to them, but according to IFLA's main objectives to provide for guidance **to all types of libraries, general and special, and also to libraries at different levels of technological development**. ISBD is applicable for all types of libraries, serving as a bridge to improve their catalogues with the technology available.

### **Content standard:**

ISBD(G) General was the 3rd ISBD published. It had the objective of providing a general international standard bibliographic description suitable for all types of library materials. This would be reached by standardizing the structure developed for ISBD(M) for monographs and ISBD(S) for serials, which had already been published. Its motivation was international understanding and agreement. However, the different specific ISBDs were all "**content standards**" with specific rules guiding increasingly expert cataloguers in different specialized fields who wanted to internationalize their practices for a better general understanding, pursuing a goal to increase **quality and precision**.

The rules represent an international agreement on the needs specialists have about where, what and how the information should be recorded: agreement independent of the cultural patterns on what the object of the description would be, the sources of information and the order of preference to select one among others to use the information, and the valuable information to be recorded depending on the scientific field, and how to recognize and record the information.

The consolidation of the seven individual ISBDs in 2007 was a natural step. The objective was an **integration process**, without losing specificity and quality, that provided for **coherent and cohesive interrelationship** among the specific rules of description for the different types of materials; that is, to **increase consistency** of the standard. Integrated catalogues demonstrated the power of relationships and connections of the information that could be made. In such action, ISBD was in advance but in accordance with the IFLA [Statement of International Cataloguing Principles \(2009\)](#) that stated: "2.9. Integration. The descriptions for all types of resources ... should be based on a common set of rules, insofar as it is relevant."

This consolidation was produced at the same time that the standard was analysed to adapt it with respect to the [Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records](#) (FRBR) model that was published in 1998. ISBD elements had been one of the sources that the FRBR conceptual model used and was especially important to assess the value and obligation of recording the attributes. However, it was necessary to revise in the context of all entities and relationships. This set of [ISBD elements](#) was declared in the Open Metadata Registry, with the status as published in 2011, to adapt it to linked data (LD) technology.

The [ISBD consolidated 2011 edition](#) simply continued with the process of reviewing a standard, but this time only a consistent one, updating and refining the consolidation, taking into account the responses received and suggestions coming from specialized communities after a period of implementation. An area was added at this time, as necessary for the **organization and categorization** of the records representing different specialized fields in an integrated catalogue. This edition also paid special attention to making the content of the standard **internationally consistent across all languages and scripts**.

The [2021 Update to the 2011 Consolidated Edition of ISBD](#) has finalized the integration including all possible objects of description, **increasing the different levels of description** that can be used attending to the different library policies that can consistently coexist in an integrated catalogue, and increasing the **flexibility** of the standard to attend to the specific needs of the libraries. There are bibliographic resources issued with, in, or as part of a hosting resource, and are dependent on the hosting resource for purposes of bibliographic identification or access (e.g., chapters of books, articles in serials, tracks from sound recordings, etc.). ISBD has to provide stipulations for the different levels of granularity needed by different types of libraries, including those that perform cataloguing of analytics.

Also, this update has focused on revising and **enhancing the content rules** of the standard, bringing the description of some specialized types of resources that were less developed to the same level of treatment as others in the same specific field. These refinements were required by communities of specialized scientists, interested in **reusing the information provided by libraries** and even the use of the ISBD standard in their own fields. For example, there were requirements coming from astronomy specialists to make more explicit some stipulations for celestial cartography. Moreover, it was necessary to pay attention to the requests from the IFLA Rare Books and Special Collections Section and from the International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres (IAML) to extend the coverage of ISBD to encompass unpublished resources.

These requests came to the Review Group a long time ago but it was not possible to add unpublished resources at the time of the 2011 updating; however, during the [ISBD Review Group meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico in 2011](#), it was agreed to add the stipulations during the next revision. The decision, after a thorough study of the impact on ISBD, was made too late to include unpublished resources as part of the 2011 edition. Including unpublished resources has required adding specific stipulations for these types of resources under the general ones and revising other stipulations to be extended. This has required the revision of the entire standard for purposes of consistency.

As a result of all these revisions, new elements were introduced in appropriate areas and in the glossary as required, and examples have been added to the new stipulations to support implementation by the users of the standard. To assist in the application of these new stipulations the document [Full ISBD Examples was updated and published also in the IFLA Repository as Full ISBD Examples – Supplement to the 2021 Update to the 2011 Consolidated edition of the ISBD](#). The Supplement includes a collection of full bibliographic descriptions in a variety of languages provided for many different countries.

ISBD is a long-lasting standard that has evolved from its beginnings by adapting to time requirements and to technological advances and is also in a close interrelationship with other IFLA standards, such as the Statement of International Cataloguing Principles and the current LRM conceptual model. ISBD as a content standard that normalizes the practice [analysed the conceptual model to prove the applicability of the LRM](#), a condition necessary to get approval from IFLA; that is, the necessary consistency between standards.

ISBD represents a standard of **long duration, prestige, and reliability** for its **quality and usability**. It has been used as a basis by many national and regional cataloguing codes, as well as being used directly by some libraries. This standard is the best to represent the IFLA brand as synonymous with **trust and global expertise** in the library and information sector. It fulfils the **IFLA mission and vision of delivering high quality library and information services that helps to guarantee access** by providing a method for libraries internationally to work toward universal bibliographic control.

The logo consists of a teal square with the text "ISBD" in white, underlined, centered within the square.

ISBD

---

## Featured Articles

### **The Identification and Description of publishers in the ISNI database: A Work in Progress**

Gaëlle Bequet

Library Curator and the Director of the ISSN International Centre

The management of public identities for corporate bodies and organizations falls under the remit of the ISNI International Agency. The latter uses the data shared by its Registration agencies. Publishers, whatever their business model or their legal status, can be considered as a specific type of organization. There are already multiple entries for publishing entities in the ISNI database but the challenge today is to review the existing records, check their consistency and improve the data schema for the identification of publishers.

The ISNI Library Sector Steering Group set up a Working Group in 2022 to address the following actions:

- Describe the current ISNI data schema for publishers as organizations;
- Benchmark against existing data models for publishers;
- Check whether the OCLC 2016 report's recommended amendments are relevant to enhance the identification of publishing entities;
- Define a specific data schema for publishers OR suggest relevant amendments to the current data schema for organizations;
- Describe the processes necessary to create and update data re publishing entities;
- Submit a final report to the ISNI Library Sector Steering Group for comments and further implementation.

Currently, the technical documentation provided by ISNI IA does not contain a standard minimal description of the entity Publishers, nor a full data profile based on the list of existing ISNI data elements. However, the [ISNI list of data elements](#) provides the current field names and their values. The ISNI website also displays the ISNI XML request schema that explains how to send the data through AtomPub and how to manage ISNI data elements values. For example, the field Name Use Organization can contain one of the following values to name an organization: legalName, acronym, nickname, assignedName, transliteratedName, disusedName, commonForm. This field can contain the name of a publisher.

The ISNI database results from the aggregation of data from various sources at various periods. When looking at the data, it appears that fields not mentioned in the public list of data elements can actually be found, e.g. 003Z, 021A, 028Z, and MARC21 fields, e.g. 410, 668. The documentation does exist though and it should be shared more widely.

When reviewing existing ISNI records, one can also encounter great discrepancies as far as the comprehensiveness of records is concerned. Depending on the registration agency and the date of creation, records can be minimalistic while others are very comprehensive. It is thus important to assess and refine the existing standard basic version of a record describing a publisher to minimize the risk of duplicate assignments.

It is also important to check existing databases that contain information about publishers. The ISBN Global Register of Publishers is a look-up tool based on the data exports sent by ISBN Registration Agencies to the ISBN Registration Authority. It is noteworthy that each record mentions the ISBN prefix or prefixes used by the publisher. ISBN prefixes could be reused in the ISNI database to match publishing entities, provided ISNI registration agencies share the ISBNs of the documentary evidence supporting their requests for ISNI assignment. The ISBN Global Register may become available as an API and/or as a download in the near future. EAN for titles are already used in the ISNI matching process and the ISBN prefix could be used as an identifier for the publisher.

Ringgold, recently acquired by the Copyright Clearance Centre, has been an ISNI Registration Agency for organizations since May 2012. It manages the Identify Database of organizations that have an interest in research and scholarly communications. Ringgold works with publishers, intermediaries, universities and governments to assist them in the management of their institutional data. The Identify Database comprises 600,000 institutional records, across all industry types and countries in the research and scholarly publishing sector, 27% of organizations in the database are academic, 24% are corporate, 16% are government. Identify records include rich metadata: official and alternate names, location, demographic classifications, size and the unique Ringgold Identifier (Ringgold ID). Detailed organizational hierarchies are also included. Nearly all records in the Identify Database have an ISNI. This database can also be a source of inspiration to improve the ISNI data schema for publishers.

Other databases can also be useful to check registered official addresses and VAT-numbers to confirm the identity of organizations. In Belgium, the [Crossroads bank for enterprises \(CBE\)](#) is free to use. Same with the [VIES VAT](#)

number validation. Another option is to link the ISNI database to the IBAN VAT checker. The NACE-code for activities could also be used to identify publishers in Europe.

In 2016, the OCLC-convened working group drafted the report entitled *Addressing the Challenges with Organizational Identifiers and ISNI*. The experts specified scenarios for organizations, e.g. Name changes and date qualifiers, Preferred name for an organization with language qualifiers, Hierarchy within organizations, Expressing restructuring with relationship types, name attributes and date attributes, Acquisitions and mergers with new ISNI assigned to a resultant organization, Identification of Research groups and Institutional groups like consortia. The curation process as such was also delineated. The experts also assessed the ISNI system specifically from the viewpoint of the representation of organizations and concluded that extending the existing data schema and defining additional data values would improve the representation of organizations within the database.

The Working Group on publishers data schema was set up by the ISNI Library Sector Steering Group in May 2022. The working group consists of representatives of Koninklijke Bibliotheek van België (Belgium), Library of Congress (USA), National Library of Finland, OCLC (USA) and ISSN International Centre (France). Their objective was to start reflecting on a basic ISNI identification schema enabling reuse by a variety of communities including publishers.

The working group reflected upon a schema for:

1. A publisher having changed its name;
2. A publisher having changed its name and acquired a diachronic work from another publisher;
3. A publisher having acquired two publishers.

Based on these three models, the following issues were identified:

- Inactive and active publishers may not have ISNIs;
- The relation between a publisher and a diachronic work, i.e. a journal, does not exist in ISNI current data schema;
- The date of a journal title transfer between two publishers cannot currently be specified in the ISNI schema;
- The timespan of a relation between two publishers cannot be expressed in the ISNI schema;
- The various names of an organization are not currently registered in separate fields in ISNI data schema.

The definition of an enhanced ISNI data schema for publishers is still a work in progress. As explained above, the main issue is the representation of time, either to qualify the relation between a diachronic work and a publisher or between two publishers. The ISNI Library Sector Steering Group will appreciate any contribution from colleagues involved in similar projects at the national or international levels.

ISNI

---

### ***ISBD: One Standard, Two Revisions***

Rehab Ouf

Committee on Standards member and Chair of ISBD Review Group



IFLA standards have a 5-year revision cycle. A section or a review group may initiate a review process of its guidelines or standard after 3 years from the endorsement of their last edition, after which period the standard or guidelines should be:

- Revised, (i.e., at minimum updated);
- Maintained, meaning minor corrections and additions may be made to its text;
- Or, withdrawn because it is no more relevant (likely in case of guidelines more than bibliographic standards). [1]

As with any standards' organization, this review process ensures that IFLA standards are up to date, taking into account the changing environment, be it

technological or else, and continuously responding to evolving user requirements.

The ISBD Review Group presentation in the WLIC 2022 Advisory Committee on Standards open session, titled “ISBD: One Standard, Two Revisions,” examined what happened when this cycle was disrupted, as it was in the case of International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD).

We are referring to a well-established standard on which many cataloguing traditions are built, either through direct adoption, or to develop national cataloguing codes. We are also referring to a standard that from 1971 to 2011 has been dynamic and constantly evolving in content and shape, with a total of 24 editions and revisions over this period. It is also one that continues to provide standard elements display in today’s catalogues, and is one that is interfacing with bibliographic standards from other traditions, like RDA. [2]

Since 2011 there were users’ requests to extend the content of ISBD, and some of these were received at the same time as the final review process was happening as the proposals from libraries and IFLA sections to include description of manuscripts in the standard. Also, as a response to the publication of the 2011 Consolidated edition, there were proposals from scientific societies requesting to extend and fine tune the description of some of the special formats, like the cartographic resources. Along with these, there was also the application of the ISBDs to the description of component parts that was developed in a separate publication as guidelines, due to the complexity of their composition and non-conformity to the structure of ISBD, which needed to be incorporated in the framework of ISBD. [3]

When it was time to work on the next revision to incorporate these proposals, the various requests and the standalone guidelines, the consolidation of the IFLA family of conceptual models into the IFLA Library Reference Model (LRM), presented a new paradigm that had the greatest impact on the view of the bibliographic universe. This unleashed a bibliographic transition in standards and national catalogues alike and made it also a strategic mandate for IFLA to align its bibliographic standards to that model, bringing this bibliographic wave home where it emerged.

The then new consolidated model LRM was a ground-shifting in the way cataloguing and bibliographic control were thought and perceived. Structure-wise, on the principle: it presented a new agreement on the structure of bibliographic information. On the details: it introduced new entities and deprecated some old ones in fulfilment of consistency and high-level conceptuality and introduced new elements, “Representative Expression” and

“Manifestation Statements,” representing new key concepts informed by users’ experience of the conceptual models.

Modelling-wise it was a shift toward an entity-relationship model that changed the bibliographic control view from records to data and based bibliographic control on entities, attributes, and relationships between entities and between elements. At its full potential, this shifts bibliographic data from the record constraints to linked data based catalogues, and to the wide-open web of data, sharing interconnected and contextualized bibliographic data.

This structural and modelling shifts directly impacted the content standards, the primary implementers and extenders of the model presenting the cataloguing rules, like ISBD. At the organizational level, the coming of LRM delayed a planned revision of the ISBD, disrupting the 5 year revision cycle of an IFLA standard. At the technical level the impact of the entity-relationship model was of wider extents.

Before 2018 there were attempts to align the standard to the model at the element sets only, as a first exploratory step, but foundational differences were noticed. What started out as an attempt at alignment, ended up as a “semantic mapping between the ISBD element set and the IFLA LRM elements, that could not be considered a formal alignment, or viewed as an alignment.” [4] Also, the ISBD ‘Resource’ entity does not map to LRM ‘Res,’ but to all WEMI entities at different levels, and the relationships between entities could not be explicitly mapped. It was deemed that all these differences will be dealt with in the revision process. And so in 2018, the task of ISBD revision began, and this task proved to be extremely complex. The overdue updating and extension of the content added other conflicting aspects to the package of aims an ISBD revision should cover and could achieve. [5]

A post WLIC 2019 daylong meeting in Athens between the ISBD Review Group members and the consulting liaisons representing the community of users of the standard, was a turning point in the ISBD revision strategy. It was concluded that the pressing cataloguing needs of ISBD users since the last edition of 2011 could not be overlooked and no longer delayed until the standard completed its alignment with the LRM mandate, which was a task with an unmeasured extent and magnitude by that time. Therefore, two task forces were established by the ISBD Review Group in fall of 2019. The first task force was to focus on the content update of the ISBD text and resource coverage, and the second task force was assigned to align ISBD with LRM Manifestation.

The Content Update Task Force achieved its mission and produced the [2021 Update to the 2011 Consolidated Edition of the ISBD](#) that was officially released in 2022 after completing the IFLA review and endorsement process. The 2021 Update takes into account 10 years of proposals and requests and extends the scope of ISBD, vertically to larger array of materials as unpublished resources with focus on the manuscripts, and vertically to more granular descriptions as the cataloguing of analytics, and harmonizes and fine-tunes the description of cartographic resources including celestial cartography.

The goal for the ISBD for Manifestation Task Force is to align ISBD with LRM at the Manifestation level (ISBDM), as a first step towards a full implementation of LRM. Such revision should include the features and components of the new paradigm, from the user's tasks to the entities, elements, relationships and encoding schemes, in addition to providing a new delivery format for the standard. The ISBD Review Group had a closed meeting in Dublin in which it reviewed and approved a preliminary draft of ISBDM and baseline decisions about bibliographic and technological options of this new in structure and model ISBD.

All of this, along with further developments, was publicly shared in a webinar in January 2023 presenting an overview of an ISBD reshaped to LRM bibliographic paradigm: a modular content standard, entity-based, optimized to linked-data, and the delivery of ISBDM as an online tool, in addition to foreseen developments concerning the granularity and prescriptiveness of elements and stipulations. [6]

As an IFLA standards body, the ISBD Review Group relationship with its communities of users is a crucial one. It is this interaction along with the responsiveness to emerging developments that helps us maintain a focus as we work developing the ISBD. This is all made optimal thanks to the IFLA ISBD Review Group, whose continuous maintenance, openness to its user requirements, and forward thinking kept the standard and its element sets up to date, maintained the right vision, and guided the directions of the ISBD from diversification to consolidation, to expansion in the published update, and eventually to the accomplishment of an ISBD reshaped to LRM.

[1] IFLA Standards Procedures Manual

<https://www.ifla.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/assets/hq/topics/standards/documents/ifla-standards-procedures-manual.pdf>

[2] From the first text, to the specialized ISBDs and their revised editions, to a consolidated text in 2007, to an aligned with FRBR and ONIX categorization of resources edition in 2011. List of superseded ISBDs <https://www.ifla.org/g/isbd-rg/superseded-isbds/>

[3] Guidelines for the application of the ISBDs to the description of Component Parts  
[https://archive.ifla.org/VII/s13/pubs/Component\\_Parts\\_final.pdf](https://archive.ifla.org/VII/s13/pubs/Component_Parts_final.pdf)

[4] Mapping from ISBD to IFLA LRM  
[https://cdn.ifla.org/wp-content/uploads/files/assets/cataloguing/isbd/OtherDocumentation/mapping\\_isbd-irm\\_amd\\_2018\\_v.1.0.pdf](https://cdn.ifla.org/wp-content/uploads/files/assets/cataloguing/isbd/OtherDocumentation/mapping_isbd-irm_amd_2018_v.1.0.pdf)

[5] The conflicting objectives of the revision were proceeded to 'subsequently' by a sub-group formed in August 2018, the ISBD Editorial Group (IEG), and re-formed in May 2019 with a new chairmanship and some changes in membership.

[6] From ISBD to ISBDM – a bibliographic standard in transformation”, webinar materials available at:  
<https://www.ifla.org/news/webinar-materials-available-from-isbd-to-isbdm-a-bibliographic-standard-in-transformation/>

ISBD

---

## New Standards & Guidelines

### New Standards Endorsed by the Committee in 2022

Ana Stevanović

IFLA Advisory Committee on Standards Member



Along with [ISBD International Standard Bibliographic Description: 2021 Update to the 2011 Consolidated Edition](#) published in February and the third edition of

[Guidelines for Parliamentary Libraries](#) published in July and, both already mentioned in this issue of *IFLA Standards Newsletter*, the IFLA Advisory Committee on Standards revised and approved two more documents on standards in 2022.

The first standard was **Common Practices for National Bibliographies in the Digital Age**, created by [IFLA Bibliography Section](#), were published in June, and presented in Dublin during the IFLA WLIC. Bibliographers, experts, and practitioners were invited to come together to examine, explore and to discuss the issues surrounding the creation and maintenance of National Bibliographies.

The document is the continuation of *Best Practice for National Bibliographic Agencies in a Digital Age* (2014-2017) and the original printed *National Bibliographies in the Digital Age: Guidance and New Directions* (2009). The intention was to provide guidance and information about national bibliographies worldwide considering the difference between each institution or bibliographic agency in charge of its creation and development. The document consists of six chapters, glossary, and bibliography, covering many issues related to the publishing process of national bibliographies. As stated by authors and contributors in the *Introduction*, this document is not prescriptive, or has any intention to be. The aim was to help with main issues related to the process of establishing, creating, publishing, promoting, etc. national bibliography. Circumstances and conditions are unique for every country or nation which is why *Common Practices* contains examples worldwide.

Main topics are key issues and strategies necessary for establishing national agency for creation and publication of national bibliography, purpose and value of national bibliography, its scope and selection principles, as well as resource descriptions and standards and service delivery. It is intended to professionals creating, managing, and publishing national bibliographies who are facing numerous challenges related to new technologies and media. Because of the changing environment it is planned to update new versions of the document on IFLA Bibliography Section's webpage. In the digital environment it is of great importance that national bibliography is offering information not searchable or retrievable through common internet browsing.

Bibliography is linked with library catalogues and provides accurate information about authors and their publications. It also includes access to electronic resources and location information for physical publications. In the digital age selection criteria are changing but still maintaining the optimal and accurate image of national publishing, both printed and digital. Every national agency is responsible for its own criteria. Authors and contributors are stressing the

importance of standardization and bibliographic control with the list of most used formats and standards. National bibliography could be printed or online or hybrid depends on the expectations and user's needs.

Finalized with Glossary and Bibliography, ***Common Practices for National Bibliographies in the Digital Age*** provides all the necessary information about every step of the process regarding national bibliographies. Many different aspects are covered, and issues explained which makes this document useful and necessary.

And the second standard was **IFLA Guidelines for Professional LIS Education Programmes** are available since July 2022. Developed by [IFLA Building Strong LIS Education \(BSLISE\)](#) working group *Guidelines* are replacing the 2012 *IFLA Guidelines for Professional Library/Information Educational Programs*. The aim is to emphasize the importance of LIS education on every level - undergraduate, graduate, or continuing education and to prepare professionals for dynamic field that is constantly changing and developing. First four chapters are defining the concept of LIS education and IFLA's role in the process of promoting the quality of LIS education. Guidelines are presented in the fifth chapter. They are informed by the eight Foundational Knowledge Areas (FKAs), which were created and defined by the LIS Education Framework Development Group of the IFLA BSLISE working group: Information in Society, Foundations of the LIS Profession, Information and Communication Technologies, Research and Innovation, Information Resources Management, Management for Information Professionals, Information Needs and User Services, Literacies and Learning.

The concept was considered suitable for international context. As authors stated: "FKAs allow LIS professionals to build on them to enhance their professional knowledge and skills to develop specialization and remain current, while meeting requirements of local/national/regional contexts anywhere in the world". [1]

Guidelines should be used as a model, scheme or framework depending on the local context and standards related to LIS education. They are intended for academic staff, students, professionals, professional bodies, LIS education administration.

[1] [IFLA Guidelines for Professional LIS Education Programmes](#) (2022), 3, accessed March 13th, 2023

---

## Invitation to contribute to IFLA Standards Newsletter

*Your contributions are welcome and solicited on the following:*

- Updates on IFLA standards and guidelines, i.e. new standards, guidelines, endorsements, revisions, versions;
- IFLA standards success stories (IFLA standards and guidelines around the world: stories about use, adoption, translation, implementation projects);
- Regular updates from the Advisory Committee on Standards, Review Groups, LIDTEC, other sections about guidelines, news and activities;
- Reports on relevant activities including, implementation by libraries, institutions, trainings and workshops, alignments, announcements of work to be done, partnerships;
- Reports on meetings, conferences, seminars, webinars;
- Technical articles about various aspects of standards and standardization work;
- Contributions form and about other relevant standards from peers and/or standards organizations;
- IFLA Standards encompass the whole range of technical documents produced by all IFLA professional units, including the conceptual models, the bibliographic standards, the guidelines, the best practices, the kits and the toolkits.

Please contact our one of us on the editorial team or any member of the Advisory Committee on Standards!

Thanks! Merci! شكرًا! Хвала!  
Ana, Joseph & Rehab



## IFLA Advisory Committee on Standards

*Copyright (C) 2023. All rights reserved.*

Our webpage is:

<https://www.ifla.org/units/cos/>

Newsletters:

<https://tinyurl.com/bdz6zh2x>

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)