IFLA Review Group
International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD)

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS
WORLD LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CONGRESS

87th IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE AND ASSEMBLY
Dublin, Ireland
26-29 JULY 2022

ISBD Review Group

Closed Decision Making Meeting for ISBDM

MEETING BRIEFING

WLIC 20222 Closed Meeting: Wednesday, July 27, 08:30 - 10:30 Dublin time (Ecocem)

About the ISBDM

The ISBD for Manifestation Task Force was established by the IFLA ISBD Review Group in Fall 2019 and entrusted with aligning the ISBD to the LRM at the Manifestation level (ISBDM), as a first step to achieve a full implementation of LRM. This aligning Revision was sought in the double objective to keep up with the bibliographic and technological developments and to achieve complementarity between IFLA standards to the benefit of the users.

Purpose and format of the meeting

This is a closed meeting for the members of the ISBD Review Group for decision making about the final stages of development of the ISBDM, through recommended base line decisions proposed by the Manifestation Task Force to the ISBD Review Group for approval before the continuation of works that will shape the ISBDM, and permit the deployment of new areas of development.

The meeting was held in a hybrid format, allowing members of the ISBD RG and the Manifestation Task Force to be present onsite or participate online.

1. Present members

Members of the Manifestation Task Force

Renate Behrens (Chair)
Gordon Dunsire   (online)
Mirna Willer   (online)
Saeedeh Akbari-Daryan   (online)
Szabina Ilácsa   (online)
Mikael Wetterstrom

Members of the ISBD Review Group

Dorothy McGarry   (online)

Elena Escolano Rodríguez   (online)
Flavia Bruni
Hyejin Kim
Judit Fejes
Massimo Gentili-Tedeschi   (online)
Ricardo Santos Muñoz

Rehab Ouf, Chair of the ISBD Review Group

2. Documents presented

The below documents were communicated to the ISBD Review Group members two weeks before the meeting for their study. They were presented and consulted in the closed meeting.

- Preliminary draft for the ISBDM in PDF format

- Cover note about the ISBDM

- Proposal for a Task & Finish Group on Granularity and Prescriptiveness

- Proposal for a Task & Finish Group on Examples

- Base line decisions for ISBDM (Annex 1)

3. Agenda of the meeting

1. Introduction and purpose of the meeting (Rehab Ouf)

2. ISBD for Manifestation Task Force: Summary of Work (Renate Behrens)

3. Demonstration of the online ISBDM (Gordon Dunsire)

4. Feedback and discussions

5. Proposal for the creation of a Task & Finish group on "Examples" (Mirna Willer)

6. Proposal for creation of Task & Finish group on "Prescriptiveness and Granularity" (Gordon Dunsire)

4. Summary of the meeting

The Manifestation Task Force members presented the outcome of their three years of work along with the baseline decisions, outlining the specifications and requirements to develop the ISBD into a flexible and modular standard.

The ISBD Review Group members approved the preliminary draft of the ISBDM, the publication format proposed to deliver it online, and the proposed decision to create 2 Task & Finish groups for the deployment of ISBDM works in two areas: the Examples, and the Prescriptiveness and Granularity, with the terms of referecnce proposed.

The meeting was adjourned.

ANNEX 1:   Base line decisions for the ISBD for Manifestation (ISBDM)

                  (presented by the ISBD for Manifestation Task Force to the ISBD Review Group)

The mandate of the ISBD for Manifestation Task Force is to adapt the existing ISBD according to the IFLA LRM Conceptual Model, on the Manifestation level in a first step, and to further develop the ISBD into a flexible and modular standard that meets international requirements and fulfils the modern requirements of presentation and applicability.

On this basis, the following baseline decisions are proposed:

1. **Purpose**: The purpose of the ISBD that supports the creation of high quality, shareable data.
2. **Pre-cataloguing decision**: Choosing what the bibliographic unit will be is an important pre-cataloging decision a cataloguer has to make. This decision will affect what elements and stipulations will the cataloger use to describe the "subject of the bibliographic description".
3. **Prescriptiveness**: ISBD should remain prescriptive and its target audience are the national bibliographic agencies. Concerning the degree of prescriptiveness, the group advises finding the golden mean between over- and under-regulation. A rigorous approach would benefit us with more consistent data, but it would also make the cataloging process cumbersome and complicated. A flexible approach while would result a more manageable extent of rules would leave more to the agencies interpretations which would undermine data exchange in the long term by the too diverse data institution would produce.
4. **Transcribed and recorded**: The base of description is how the resource describes itself. There should be two types of elements: transcribed and recorded.
   - The transcribed elements contain how the manifestation describes itself, and serve only the user task of identification.
   - The recorded elements contain how the cataloguer describes the manifestation, including normalized data and data that corrects or adds to the transcribed data, and serve all of the user tasks in information retrieval. Recorded elements support two tasks: structured description and structured access.
   - Transcribed and recorded elements do not need to have the same granularity. Transcribed data is uncontrolled within data processing and information retrieval systems and is suitable for keyword indexing, and recorded data is professionally controlled for effectiveness of processing and information applications and are more granular by nature.
5. **Data provenance and Source of information**: Source of information and data provenance are similar concepts but they are not the same, therefore both should be used. Source of information is prescriptive in nature, that is from where the data should be taken. Data provenance is informative in nature, that is from where data in fact was taken.
   - **Data provenance**: Data provenance will be a key concept in the following work. Data provenance is data about the data. Not restricted to where the information was found, includes person responsible for recording the data, or the rules that were used. Both transcribed and recorded elements have data provenance. Data provenance should be supplied for each element in a description.
   - **Sources of information**: ISBD had the underlying principle for sources of information: the source that is closer to the content is more reliable than the source closer to the carrier. The placement of data in a publication can be vary from publisher to publisher. Giving more freedom to the cataloguer with the source of information is advised. Currently the

electronic resources have the loosest rules for sources of information because that the category covers a large variety of resources. The stipulations for sources of information must be balanced in terms of prescriptiveness.

6. **Machine-readability**: It is a primary goal for the project to optimize the machine-readability of ISBDM data.

7. **Attributes**: Templates should be developed for the presentation of every element. The group agrees that the following attributes should be recorded for every element: label, definition, domain, range, source of information, stipulation, data provenance. The list of attributes is not final, might change along the way.

8. **Authority system**: The ISBDM will not prescribe an authority system to use.

9. **Parallel element:** We should retain that the parallel element includes transliterated versions of the data. Parallel elements are transliteration or translations of the uncontrolled data found only in manifestation statements.

10. **Punctuation and areas:** The question of whether punctuation and order by area for transcribed data should be retained has not yet been conclusively addressed. The punctuation and order of display of a full manifestation dataset is considered to be a local decision and will not be prescribed by ISBDM.

11. **Form of publication:** The ISBD Manifestation Task Force suggests that the ISBDM should be published in an online digital format with a possibility to print-on-demand. This question should be addressed in detail by the ISBD Review Group as a whole and by the CoS.