

**Introductory preface to  
ISO CD ISO 2146 Information and documentation – Directories  
of libraries and related organizations. 2002-05-21**

ISO TC46/SC4/WG7 is currently revising ISO 2146 : 1988 (E) Documentation -- Directories of libraries, archives, information and documentation centre, and their databases. In its current state ISO 2146 is not suitable as a data element directory for libraries and related organisations. Data elements are tied to a specific syntax. There is no underlying data model. The emphasis is on print delivery. Issues such as the difference between collection, database and service and how these entities relate to each other remain unresolved. In addition, substantial revisions are needed to the data elements themselves to take into account new usage scenarios, to reflect advances in technology since 1988 and to acknowledge related standards.

At its meeting in May 2000, WG7 agreed to change the name of the standard to Information and documentation -- Directories of libraries and related information, and endorsed a statement defining a new scope and field of application for the standard. A document was tabled at that meeting (ISO TC46/SC4/WG7/N168) which made a first attempt to map the data elements defined in ISO 2146 to an entity-relationship model.

Since then work has been directed mainly towards the requirement for directory services to support interlibrary loan usage scenarios. Such a schema has now been developed by the Interlibrary Loan Protocol Implementors Group (IPIG), using an information modelling approach. Now that this work is finished, it is proposed to complete the work for other usage scenarios using the same information modelling approach.

A skeleton version of the standard will be submitted shortly to members of SC4 as a Committee Draft for three-month ballot. This version references ISO TC46/SC4/WG7/N168 as well as the current draft of the IPIG Schema (<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/iso/ill/ipd.htm>). Editorial notes are provided that indicate the areas where the standard requires further development.

The outcomes we hope from this ballot are a decision to go ahead with the project, an endorsement of the outlined approach and lots of good feedback and volunteers for help from SC4 members!

WG7 plans to work over the next nine months on a second, fuller version of the Committee Draft which could then be circulated for a second ballot in February and reviewed at the next TC46/SC4/WG7 meeting, tentatively scheduled for May next year in Rome.

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