Identifiers Interoperability Group
of ISO TC 46/SC 9 Registration Authorities

Report to the TC46.SC9 Plenary, 10 May 2007

The ISO TC 46/SC 9 Identifiers Interoperability Group was established as a joint initiative of ISO TC 46/SC 9 Registration Authorities and endorsed by resolution at the February 2006 meeting of TC 46/SC 9.

The main objective of the group is to work on issues relating to interoperability of the identifier systems managed by the Registration Authorities for TC 46/SC 9 standards. The group's terms of reference were published as ISO TC46/SC9-IIG N1.

The Identifiers Interoperability Group is composed of representatives of the Registration Authorities for ISO TC 46/SC 9 identifier standards; initially consisting of the International Standard Audiovisual Number (ISAN), International Standard Recording Code (ISRC), International Standard Musical Work Code (ISWC), International Standard Book Number (ISBN), International Standard Serial Number (ISSN), International Standard Music Number (ISMN), and the International Standard Textual Work Code (ISTC). In accordance with the terms of reference of the group, a representative of the RA for the Digital Object Identifier (DOI) was invited to join the group.

Progress

(Task: The group will meet no less frequently than every six months)

The group has met four times since the last plenary in June, September and December 2006. A meeting planned for March 2007 was postponed due to the unavailability of key members.

(Task: The group will seek to identify requirements for interoperability, obstacles and propose solutions)

Following the original workshop meeting of the group, a report including eleven use cases was produced early in 2006 identifying potential uses and requirements

(Task: The group will seek to define a framework to facilitate interoperability between identifier systems. The group will recommend best practices, where appropriate, for Registration Authorities to improve interoperability and address common areas of concern)

A matrix was created by FX Nuttall of CISAC comparing the core metadata elements associated with each of the identifiers represented in the group. Although it had been agreed in principle that the ultimate aim might be the mapping of core metadata elements using a standard data dictionary such as the ISO/IEC 21000-6 [MPEG21 Rights Data Dictionary (RDD)], the group felt that the quickest win would be to agree that a related identifiers should be referenced in the core metadata of each identifier. The group agreed

to draft best practice guidelines on how to achieve this and on the relationships between the various identifiers.

(Task: The group will monitor relevant standardisation activities by other bodies)

The group has been monitoring developments in the development of the International Standard Party Identifier (ISPI) and the progress towards implementation of the International Standard Text Code (ISTC).

(Task: The group will identify areas where further standardisation work is needed and make recommendations to ISO TC 46/SC 9, as appropriate)

The group has identified identifiers for still images as a major gap in TC 46/SC9's repertory of identification standards. The attention of the group has been drawn to the work of the Picture Licensing Universal System (PLUS) group which is developing licensing systems for photos and illustrations and initial contact has been made with them to discover whether they are working on standard identifiers.

(Task: The group will review matters of common concern to the Registration Authorities for identifier standards developed within ISO TC 46/SC 9)

The group is concerned by the resignation of Canada, the current TC46/SC9 secretariat and, in particular, Jane Thacker who has supported TC46/SC9 work so ably and enthusiastically for many years. The group is happy to discuss ways in which it can collaborate with National Bodies interested in taking on the secretariat of TC 46/SC9.

(Task: The group will submit written reports on the nature and progress of their work one month in advance of each plenary meeting of ISO TC 46/SC 9 or upon request of the ISO TC 46/SC 9 Secretariat.

This is one task in which the group has clearly failed. As chairman of the group, the undersigned takes full responsibility for the late arrival of this report and apologises to all concerned.

Brian Green

Chair, ISO TC 46/SC 9 Identifiers Interoperability Group