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ARROW

**State of the art and guidelines
for standards applicable
Edition 1**

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eContentplus

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a multiannual Community programme to make digital content in Europe more accessible, usable and exploitable.

Introduction

This document was commissioned by the ARROW project from EDItEUR (the London-based international organization for book trade standards). It is intended to provide a “state of the art” description of standards which might have specific application within the ARROW project.

The document considers a wide range of metadata, identification, messaging and search-related standards, selected on the basis of their potential application to ARROW. The initial list of standards to be covered was provided by ARROW to EDItEUR, and was supplemented by EDItEUR with additional standards which appeared to be relevant.

Which of these standards will actually be implemented within the “ARROW system”, or precisely where they may fit into the overall scheme, is not currently known, but will become clearer as architectural and other issues are resolved.

At least one further release of this document (incorporating comments from the wider membership of the ARROW time, as well as a mapping of standards to the final ARROW technical architecture) will be released at a later stage of the project.

*Mark Bide, Executive Director, EDItEUR
July 2009*

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| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Name | Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules |
| Acronym | AACR2 <i>Reference</i> |
| Governance | AACR Committee of Principals |
| URL | http://www.aacr2.org/ |
| Status | AACR, Second Edition (1978), <i>Implementation</i> Widespread use in cataloguing, updated 2005 especially in the US, UK and Canada. |
| Availability | The Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, Second Edition, available for purchase in print form. Integrated into the Library of Congress' online Cataloguers Desktop tool. |
| Description | <p>The Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (AACR) are jointly published by the professional library associations in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. The Second Edition (AACR2), published in 1978, has subsequently been slightly revised several times, most recently in 2005.</p> <p>AACR provides the basic rules that have been used in cataloguing library materials for over forty years. The rules are “designed for use in the construction of catalogues and other lists in general libraries of all sizes. ... The rules cover the description of, and the provision of access points for, all library materials commonly collected at the present time.”</p> <p>AACR Part I deals with the provision of information describing the item being catalogued, and Part II deals with the determination and establishment of headings (access points) under which the descriptive information is to be presented to catalogue users, and with the making of references to those headings. In both parts the rules proceed from the general to the specific.</p> <p>A sweeping revision is underway, under the auspices of the Joint Steering Committee for the Development of RDA. RDA: Resource Description and Access is scheduled for release towards the end of 2009.</p> <p>See also: RDA, MARC21</p> |
| Rights coverage | N/A |
| ARROW type | Metadata (cataloguing rules) <i>Application</i> |
| Strengths | Very widely used in the English-speaking world to define the content of catalogue records; provides uniformity of records designed to make it easier for library users to access precisely the information they seek. |
| Weaknesses | May be coming towards the end of its widespread application with the development of RDA (although it will take a very long time for existing practice to be replaced) |

| | | |
|------------------------|--|--|
| Name | Automated Content Access Protocol | |
| Acronym | ACAP | Reference |
| Governance | Project, managed and financed by WAN, EPC and IPA | |
| URL | www.the-acap.org | |
| Status | v1.0 published Nov 2007 | Implementation 800+websites (but see below) |
| Availability | Specification freely available from the website. No licence required for implementation. | |
| Description | <p>The ACAP project was originally launched in response to publishers' concerns about "the search engine problem" - search engines being seen as monetising copyright content without the permission of the owners (and without a commensurate flow of value to the copyright owner). The ultimate scope of the project is to provide the necessary support for any online business model where automated (machine-to-machine) communication of permissions is required (particularly in business-to-business relationships).</p> <p>ACAP's initial implementation (to meet search engine requirements) is expressed as an extension to the Robots Exclusion Protocol; however, this is seen as a temporary solution until a more satisfactory and generally acceptable longterm communication format is agreed. Perhaps inevitably, while a large number of publishers have now undertaken (very simple) implementations of ACAP on their websites, the search engines have proved to be resistant to any new approach to managing copyright on the network. As a result, ACAP's focus since the end of 2007 has been turned in the direction of public affairs (specifically making the case for copyright on the network and the need for technological tools to support it). This campaign continues to gather support in the light of growing challenges particularly for the news sector.</p> <p>ACAP commissioned EDItEUR to provide the semantics for ACAP v1.0, ensuring compatibility with the ONIX for Licensing Terms framework.</p> | |
| Rights coverage | ACAP's sole purpose is to associate machine-readable permissions with online resources. Currently elaborated specifically for communicating in the crawling/indexing environment, ACAP is extensible to any other application requiring the same type of capability. | |
| ARROW type | Rights/permissions metadata | Application |
| Strengths | A well understood brand position, both within publishing and increasingly among governments and regulators; has uniquely drawn together all sectors of publishing into a single project (with good contacts with other media). Flexible and extensible to any machine-to-machine permissions. Interoperable with equivalent ONIX semantics. | |
| Weaknesses | Currently developed only for limited crawl/index/display Use Cases, specific to search applications. Although proved to work in a technical pilot, not yet implemented in a live application. Still in project mode, with no long term governance structure yet in place. | |

| | | | |
|------------------------|--|-----------------------|--|
| Name | Archival Resource Key | | |
| Acronym | ARK | Reference | n/a |
| Governance | California Digital Library (University of California) | | |
| URL | http://www.cdlib.org/inside/diglib/ark/arkspec.html | | |
| Status | Open specification and IETF draft RFC (2007) | Implementation | Limited (27 organisations, not all active) |
| Availability | Scheme maintained at California Digital Library. No fee is involved. Any institution can become an assigner authority by contacting CDL and can then generate ARKs; CDL uses open-source software called 'noid' (nice opaque identifiers). Assigners are mostly American libraries (NLM, Library of Congress and several leading university and digital libraries). France Bibliothèque Nationale is also a participant; the only UK organisation represented is the DCC. | | |
| Description | <p>An ARK is a persistent identifier, currently expressed as a URL in a specific scheme. Referents may be digital, physical, or abstract. ARKs are intended to work with objects that last longer than the organizations that provide services for them. Neither the web server itself nor the current web protocols are expected to last longer than the identified objects. The key points are two fold:</p> <p>(a) : Associated metadata and persistence commitment. ARKs resolve (using a standard query specification) to three things: (1) A digital object (e.g. a content object which forms part of a digital archive); (2) Metadata about that digital object; (3) A commitment statement by the provider. Metadata is not required to be in any particular scheme or precise; the commitment statement is a free text statement.</p> <p>(b) ARK as a globally unique identifier can be represented in various ways: it is assigned by one body (Name Assigning Authority) but can be used by several (Name Mapping Authorities, which are "mutable and replaceable"): so the reference "http://bnf.fr/ark:/13030/tf5p30086k" might become the reference "http://portico.org/ark:/13030/tf5p30086k" (the identifier ark:/13030/tf5p30086k remains the same). Users ignorant of ARK's design might quote the reference as the identifier, which may be considered a weakness.</p> <p>Also defined in several versions (latest v14 (2007) of an IETF draft (http://tools.ietf.org/id/draft-kunze-ark-14.txt), but the CDL documentation is more complete and the RFC is not heavily quoted, so essentially ARK is an open but non-standardised tool.</p> | | |
| Rights coverage | None in the specification, though "Metadata" could include any item of data. | | |
| ARROW type | Identifier | Application | |
| Strengths | Application in major archival institutions; persistence | | |
| Weaknesses | Lack of effective standardization in application; application to archival objects | | |

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------|---------------|
| Name | MIME-based Secure Peer-to-Peer Business Data Interchange using HTTP, Applicability Statement 2 | | |
| Acronym | AS2 | Reference | IETF RFC 4130 |
| Governance | Internet Society / Internet Engineering Task Force | | |
| URL | http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc4130 | | |
| Status | Proposed Standard | Implementation | N/A |
| Availability | All IETF RFCs ("Requests for Comment") are freely available. | | |
| Description | <p>IETF RFC 2026 defines an "Applicability Statement" as a specification of how existing Internet Standards can be applied to meet a specific business need. Two Applicability Statements have been published so far. The first (IETF RFC 3335, more commonly referred to as AS1) describes MIME-based secure peer-to-peer business data interchange using SMTP, the widely-used email protocol. AS2 addresses the same business need but using the web (HTTP) instead of email. Both AS1 and AS2 specify how to perform EDI transactions over the Internet instead of over proprietary Value-Added Networks (VANs). They show how existing Internet Standards can be employed to achieve similar security of transmission as is achieved using conventional EDI. The payload format is not specified as such, but can be the same as for conventional EDI (typically EDIFACT or ANSI X12) or any alternative (e.g. XML-based).</p> <p>AS2 is proving popular with businesses that already employ conventional EDI and wish to switch from the use of high-cost VAN infrastructures to the use of low-cost Internet and web-based infrastructures. AS2 is seen as a less costly and less disruptive replacement for conventional EDI than more radical alternatives such as ebXML and web services. AS2 therefore tends to appeal to larger trading entities, such as major manufacturers and retailers, with large customer networks, whereas web services appeals more to smaller businesses that were not traditional EDI users. AS2 is particularly popular in North America, while ebXML (an XML-based alternative to EDIFACT) is more popular in Europe and Asia.</p> | | |
| Rights coverage | AS2 does not specify the content of transaction payloads, and so does not specifically cover the communication of rights information. | | |
| ARROW type | Messaging protocol | Application | |
| Strengths | | | |
| Weaknesses | | | |

| | | | |
|---------------------|---|-----------------------|----------------|
| Name | CIDOC Conceptual Reference Model (CRM) | | |
| Acronym | CIDOC | Reference | ISO 21127:2006 |
| Governance | ISO | | |
| URL | http://cidoc.ics.forth.gr/ | | |
| Status | ISO standard (2006) | Implementation | |
| Availability | As published ISO standard | | |

Description

The CIDOC Conceptual Reference Model (CRM) provides definitions and a formal structure for describing the implicit and explicit concepts and relationships used in cultural heritage documentation.

The CIDOC CRM is intended to promote a shared understanding of cultural heritage information by providing a common and extensible semantic framework that any cultural heritage information can be mapped to. It is intended to be a common language for domain experts and implementers to formulate requirements for information systems and to serve as a guide for good practice of conceptual modelling. In this way, it can provide the "semantic glue" needed to mediate between different sources of cultural heritage information, such as that published by museums, libraries and archives.

Sharing much of the same logical analysis as FRBR, since 2003 there has been an international committee working on expressing the IFLA FRBR model with the concepts, tools, mechanisms, and notation conventions provided by the CIDOC CRM, and aligning (possibly even merging) the two object-oriented models with the aim of contributing to the solution of the problem of semantic interoperability between the documentation structures used for library and museum information.

In practice this has led to the development of FRBRoo, a formal ontology for FRBR expressed as an extension of the CIDOC CRM. This ontology was in version 0.9 in January 2008, but work appears to have stalled at that point.

Rights coverage

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| ARROW type | Conceptual model | Application |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|

Strengths

Weaknesses

| | | |
|------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Name | Contextual Query Language | |
| Acronym | CQL | Reference |
| Governance | The Library of Congress | |
| URL | http://www.loc.gov/standards/sru/sru1-1archive/cql.html | |
| Status | v1.2 published Nov | Implementation |
| Availability | Specification freely available from the website. No licence required for implementation. Different implementations are available for free downloading for different programming languages such as java, perl, ruby. | |
| Description | <p>The Contextual Query Language is the underlying query syntax used by SRU/W protocol.. CQL is a formal language for representing queries to information retrieval systems such as web indexes, bibliographic catalogs, etc. The design objective is that queries be human readable and writable, and that language be intuitive while maintaining the expressiveness of more complex languages. So it proposes as a powerful and expressive language such as expert ones (e.g. SQL, XQuery, etc.) and simple and intuitive to express concepts such as not powerful ones (e.g. CCL and Google).</p> <p>CQL is so-named "Context Query Language" because it is founded on the concept of searching by semantics or context, rather than by syntax. The same search may be performed in a different way on very different underlying data structures on different servers; the important thing is that both servers understand the intent behind the query. In order for multiple communities to define their own semantics, CQL uses Context Sets to ensure cross-domain interoperability. Context sets permit users to create, for example, their own indexes without fear of choosing the same name as someone else and thereby having an ambiguous query.</p> <p>CQL is based on the definition of a set of abstract access points, such as title, author, subject and refinements of those such as personal author, uniform title, geographical subject. While large data bases generally have some form of indexing structure associated with them, and the abstract access points of the CQL are often called abstract "indexes", CQL does not actually mandate the existence of "physical" indexes at the target but the ability to retrieve as if there were. CQL does not make presumptions about the database design but it is biased toward searching metadata that is identified (i.e., records as data rather than as documents) to enable "smart" searching.</p> <p>A server can claim different level of conformance to CQL. A higher level corresponds to greater expressiveness.</p> | |
| Rights coverage | N/A | |
| ARROW type | Distributed search | Application |
| Strengths | Expressiveness and powerful. It provides the ability of contextualizing search indexes (e.g. namespace.copyright any cineca) | |
| Weaknesses | | |

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Name | CrossRef | | |
| Acronym | CrossRef | Reference | n/a |
| Governance | Publishers International Linking Association, Inc. | | |
| URL | http://www.crossref.org | | |
| Status | De facto standard (launched 2000) | Implementation | 2,800 publishers, >20,000 journals |
| Availability | Assigned to a large number (~35M) of articles including back files , and carried in many A&I services. Registration of a DOI requires membership of CrossRef. Individual access to existing information is free (both from bibliographic data or from DOI); access to full text may require appropriate permissions. Larger scale commercial services using the database are available for libraries and others (e.g. indexing services). | | |
| Description | <p>CrossRef (a DOI implementation, and DOI registration agency) is a cross-publisher citation linking system, which assigns DOIs to scholarly articles (and increasingly, other related materials such as books, conference proceedings etc) and so processes citations (pre-or post-publication) to populate a reference list with persistent citation links.</p> <p>Publishers may use any format for their identifier (SICI, PII, ISSN-based, private etc) which then forms the suffix of a DOI. CrossRef prescribes a metadata scheme to facilitate look up services, and maintains a number of services for affiliate libraries.</p> <p>CrossRef also works closely with library link resolvers, both commercial (eg Ex-Libris) and non-commercial, to offer linkage to an appropriate (allowed) copy through e.g. OpenURL services. Additional services of interest to the CrossRef community continue to be developed (e.g. plagiarism detection, "CrossCheck"); or considered (e.g. author/institution identification).</p> | | |
| Rights coverage | Users click on a reference citation (a DOI) on one publisher’s platform and link directly to the cited content on another publisher’s platform, subject to the target publisher’s access control practices. Also works with OpenURL. CrossRef is run by publishers. | | |
| ARROW type | DOI Application | Application | |
| Strengths | Very widely implemented to identify current and backlist content in the scientific and technical publishing communities. | | |
| Weaknesses | At this point, limited application to books – primarily used for journal articles. | | |

| | | | |
|------------------------|--|-----------------------|---|
| Name | Dublin Core Metadata Element Set | | |
| Acronym | DCMES | Reference | ISO 15836:2009 |
| Governance | ISO/TC46/SC4; Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI) Executive, Oversight Committee and Usage Board | | |
| URL | http://dublincore.org/ | | |
| Status | International Standard | Implementation | Widespread loose adherence revised 2009 |
| Availability | Specifications freely downloadable from the DCMI web site; no licence required. Various tools freely available online, with a subset of the Elements reasonably widely deployed in describing online and offline resources. | | |
| Description | <p>The Dublin Core Metadata Element Set (DCMES) is the principal deliverable of the long-running Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI), which evolved from a series of workshops begun in 1995.</p> <p>Intended to provide straightforward and domain-neutral descriptions of both digital and physical resources, the fifteen elements of the DCMES are supplemented by substantial additional guidance, terminology and modelling work. An active and open international community continues to support various public email lists, working groups and an annual conference.</p> <p>Originally intended as a relatively simple ‘pidgin’ capable of supporting both the creation of new resource descriptions and providing some degree of interoperability between richer metadata standards within specific domains, DCMES has subsequently become more complex as diverse communities of interest have sought to extend it for their own ends. Recently revised work in the area of Application Profiles sees the Initiative grappling once more with the tension between domain richness and global interoperability, “by providing a framework for designing a Dublin Core Application Profile [that] defines metadata records which meet specific application needs while providing semantic interoperability with other applications on the basis of globally defined vocabularies and models.”</p> | | |
| Rights coverage | ‘Rights’ is one of the 15 elements of the Dublin Core, although somewhat loosely defined in most generic applications; “Typically, rights information includes a statement about various property rights associated with the resource, including intellectual property rights.” | | |
| ARROW type | Metadata framework | Application | |
| Strengths | Widely implemented and simple to use. | | |
| Weaknesses | Very “loose adherence” in application implies that the value of metadata in a DC record is inevitably limited. Most appropriate for human interpretation and where no other metadata record is available. | | |

| | | | |
|------------------------|--|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Name | Digital Object Identifier | | |
| Acronym | DOI | Reference | ISO DIS 26324 |
| Governance | International DOI Foundation, Inc (USA) | | |
| URL | http://www.doi.org | | |
| Status | Draft ISO (2009); active implementation earlier (since 2000) | Implementation | International; approx 40 m assigned |
| Availability | Through a federation of appointed DOI Registration Agencies (RAs), under policies and common infrastructure provided by the International DOI Foundation. Used in a range of publishing applications since 2000 (mainly bibliographic sector and professional level, eg CrossRef); by early 2009 c 40 million assigned. Requires assignment by RAs and a fee to support a service using the DOI System. Fees are set independently by each individual Registration Agency. | | |
| Description | Provides a specification and implementation of assignment, syntax, metadata and resolution to provide persistent, actionable, semantically interoperable identification of any entity (physical, digital or abstract) on digital networks. Includes a social component (RA federation) to ensure persistence and consistency. A DOI name identifies an object as a first-class entity, not simply the place where the object is located, and can be associated with defined services on a network. Initial implementations of redirection to a single URL are now being supplemented by functionalities of multiple linkage and structured metadata models. Uses two underlying technologies (Handle System and the indecs content model) and inherits the features and capabilities of each. Applicable to any entity; main applications to date are to bibliographic or data resources. In principle independent of any technology, but currently widely used with Web http. Specifications also exist for incorporation of other identifier schemes into the DOI system, e.g. ISBN-A. | | |
| Rights coverage | The system is independent of specific business model or legal framework, but is designed with applications to current content businesses in mind, and requires that assigners conform to relevant copyright legislation. IDF encourages rights applications. | | |
| ARROW type | Identifier framework | Application | |
| Strengths | Very broadly applicable identifier; considerable potential in multiple resolution capability provided by Handle technology. | | |
| Weaknesses | Not widely implemented outside CrossRef application, although new applications now developing. Lack of widespread native support for Handle in internet applications. | | |

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Name | Electronic Data Interchange For Administration, Commerce and Transport | | |
| Acronym | EDIFACT | Reference | ISO 9735:2002 Edition 2 |
| Governance | United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) on behalf of the United Nations Center for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) ISO/TC154 | | |
| URL | http://www.iso.org/iso/iso_catalogue/catalogue_tc/catalogue_detail.htm?csnumber=35032 | | |
| Status | International Standard | Implementation | Very widely implemented |
| Availability | All Parts of ISO 9735 are available for purchase from ISO, Geneva, and from many national standards bodies that have transposed them as national standards. | | |
| Description | <p>EDIFACT is a ten-part International Standard, published first in 1988, updated in 1998 and further revised for a Second Edition published in 2002. The standard defines: (a) syntax rules for the construction of EDI messages, which can be exchanged in either a batch or interactive mode; (b) a protocol (I-EDI) for interactive message exchange; (c) a set of standard message formats. Several organisations have developed profiles of subsets of the standard message set for different applications, including the EANCOM set published by GS1, which has in its turn been profiled for use in specific trading sectors. EDItEUR first developed its EDIFACT message set for use in the publishing sector from the EANCOM set in 1996.</p> <p>EDIFACT defines a compact syntax in which the body of a message is composed of data segments, each of which is composed of one or more component data elements. Strict syntax rules make it possible to compress a message so that it is typically roughly one-tenth the size of a comparable message in XML syntax. There are two syntax levels: level A uses entirely plain text characters, while level B uses three non-printing control characters as separators.</p> <p>EDIFACT has been widely adopted in Europe, but less widely in Asia, where electronic commerce became established more recently and the availability of XML alternatives to EDIFACT has had more impact. EDIFACT has had little impact in North America, where ANSI X12 has dominated the market for EDI standards.</p> | | |
| Rights coverage | The standard EDIFACT message set does not include specific support for communication of rights-related information. There is the capability to include "associated data" (Part 8), but there is no known use of this capability for embedding rights-related information in EDFACT messages. | | |
| ARROW type | Transactional messaging | Application | |
| Strengths | Very widespread use in commercial applications, including in libraries | | |
| Weaknesses | With the development of the Internet, the use of Value Added Networks (once the sole medium for EDI messages) has more-or-less disappeared, with EDI migrating to the Internet. At the same time, the requirement for compactness has become less of an issue, and the greater expressiveness of XML formats for unambiguous communication of transactional messages is likely to supplant traditional EDI formats. However, this will be a slow process, in view of the fact that conventional EDI is widely implemented and fulfils its requirements very effectively. | | |

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Name | EDItEUR XML Document Formats | | |
| Acronym | EDItX | Reference | N/A |
| Governance | EDItEUR | | |
| URL | http://www.editeur.org/ | | |
| Status | Published trade standard | Implementation | Limited (AU, DE, GB, SE) |
| Availability | The EDItX specifications and schemas are freely available from the EDItEUR website. | | |
| Description | <p>EDItX is a family of XML transaction message formats designed by EDItEUR with two primary objectives: (a) to provide an alternative to traditional EDI for sections of the trade and library book supply chains that have not implemented traditional EDI and might prefer to implement XML-based messaging; (b) to satisfy business requirements in those supply chains that have not been met and are unlikely ever to be met by established EDI solutions.</p> <p>The first EDItX formats were published in 2004, but only included a small subset of the message formats needed for transactions in regular use. A more complete set for trade book supply was published in 2007, with additional formats for library book supply being published in 2008.</p> <p>EDItX formats follow design rules derived in part from the traditional EDI formats in use in the book trade, and in part from XML/EDI formats developed for use in other business sectors. Unlike traditional EDI, EDItX formats are designed specifically to meet the needs of the book trade, as is evident in the naming conventions applied both to tag names and to code values. Naming conventions in EDItX are generally verbose, to aid human readability.</p> <p>The main implementations of EDItX are in the German and Swedish book trade. In the UK several of the EDItX formats have been used as a basis for the development of web service standards for the book trade, published by Book Industry Communication.</p> <p>EDItX formats are not related to XML-based formats used in other business sectors. This has not been an issue for a trade that historically has been largely self-contained, but may become an issue as more book products are supplied into the general retail sector.</p> | | |
| Rights coverage | None of the existing EDItX formats support the inclusion of rich bibliographic or market supply data, which is generally where rights-related information is to be found. Such information is typically communicated using the ONIX Book Product Information message format, another EDItEUR format but not part of the EDItX family. | | |
| ARROW type | Transactional messaging | Application | |
| Strengths | A growing suite of transactional messages designed to support specific book trade requirements; new messages continue to be developed and existing messages modified to support specific requirements as these are identified (particularly in support of digital publishing). | | |
| Weaknesses | Still only patchy implementation, as conventional EDI messages (see EDIFACT) remain largely “fit for purpose”. EDItX is specific to the book trade and not related to other XML EDI standards. | | |

| | | |
|---------------------|---|--|
| Name | EPUB | |
| Acronym | epub | Reference |
| Governance | International Digital Publishing Forum (IDPF) | |
| URL | http://www.idpf.org/specs.htm | |
| Status | Published November 2007 | Implementation Gaining ground rapidly |
| Availability | Specifications freely available from the IDPF website; no licence required for implementation | |

Description ".epub" is the file extension of an XML format for reflowable digital books and publications. ".epub" is composed of three open standards, the Open Publication Structure (OPS), Open Packaging Format (OPF) and Open Container Format (OCF), produced by the IDPF. ".epub" allows publishers to produce and send a single digital publication file through distribution and offers consumers interoperability between software/hardware for unencrypted reflowable digital books and other publications. The Open eBook Publication Structure or "OEB", originally produced in 1999, is the precursor to OPS.

A growing number of ebook platforms support the EPUB format; however, in practice, many platforms continue to use proprietary formats, meaning that publishers continue to have to support many and different XML schemes for different platforms.

Rights coverage The EPUB package has a metadata structure which has the capacity to carry rights information

ARROW type Content format **Application**

Strengths A standard format has been long sought for the publication of ebooks, and EPUB provides the essential kernel on which a more comprehensive standard can emerge over time.

Weaknesses Apart from the fact that not all platforms support EPUB, the standard as published supports only relatively straightforward publications (layout etc). As a result the standard is being developed very rapidly and without a great deal of formality, as the ebook market itself develops. This is probably inevitable, and is clearly in the interests of the major users of the standard; however, from the point of view of an outsider, it might appear a point of weakness..

| | | |
|------------------------|--|--|
| Name | Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records | |
| Acronym | FRBR | Reference |
| Governance | IFLA's FRBR Review Group | |
| URL | http://www.ifla.org/en/frbr-rg | |
| Status | 1998 report of an IFLA Study Group. No formal status, although much cited. | Implementation This report has informed discussion and debate for the past decade, most notably influencing the RDA standardisation effort. |
| Availability | Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records is freely available for download from the IFLA web site; http://www.ifla.org/en/publications/functional-requirements-for-bibliographic-records | |
| Description | <p>Developed by a working group of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) in the late Nineties, the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR) defines a conceptual model to describe interactions with bibliographic systems and data from the perspective of a user. FRBR is independent of formal cataloguing standards such as the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (AACR), and has influenced recent efforts such as RDA that attempt to re-imagine these rules. At the heart of FRBR lie a number of key 'entities,' and the relationships between these are key to FRBR's view of the world.</p> <p>Creations, for example, are classed as being Works, Expressions, Manifestations or Items; a set of classifications spanning everything from the creator's original concept to a specific example of the final work such as one particular copy of a print run of an edition of a book.</p> <p>"FRBR may serve as a reference point for testing the validity and robustness of extant [bibliographic] data models and data structures. It can therefore be used to improve extant formats as well as to provide guidance for the process of developing new formats. It also can be extremely valuable in helping design OPACs."</p> <p>See also: RDA</p> | |
| Rights coverage | n/a | |
| ARROW type | Conceptual model | Application |
| Strengths | A very influential conceptual model, which is informing a great deal of library thinking about the future of cataloguing. Work has been done to make compatible with CIDOC; also has many features in common with the <indec> model, with which it is contemporaneous. | |
| Weaknesses | A conceptual model – requires interpretation and reification. | |

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------|------------------|
| Name | File Transfer Protocol | | |
| Acronym | FTP | Reference | IETF RFC 959 |
| Governance | Internet Society / Internet Engineering Task Force | | |
| URL | http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc959 | | |
| Status | Standard | Implementation | Very widely used |
| Availability | All IETF RFCs ("Requests for Comment") are freely available. | | |
| Description | <p>The origins of FTP are in RFC 114, published in 1971. The first stable version of FTP was published in 1980 (RFC 765), and this was replaced by the current standard in 1985.</p> <p>FTP is a protocol for the exchange of files between a user and a server connected via the Internet. Unusually, the protocol involves two types of connection being made at the same time: a control connection and a data connection. The control connection is for the exchange of request and response text messages between user and server, while the data connection is for the exchange of file data. No data can be transferred without a control connection being established and maintained throughout the session.</p> <p>An FTP server may require user authentication or may allow connection by "anonymous" users. Once connected, and depending upon what the server will allow the user to do, a user may request the server to perform a range of simple directory and file management tasks in addition to file transfer. FTP servers vary in their capabilities, but as a minimum will enable files to be transferred between user and server.</p> <p>FTP does not use any form of encryption for either the control or data channels, which makes the protocol inherently insecure. Several attempts have been made to develop secure forms of the protocol (e.g. FTP over SSH, SFTP, Secure Copy), but none has become well established. The two-channel nature of FTP makes "tunnelling" through secure transport layers particularly problematic. As a result, other protocols, such as HTTPS, tend to be used for secure file transfer, while other, lower-layer techniques (e.g. VPN) are employed for more general remote directory and file management over secure connections.</p> | | |
| Rights coverage | The only rights with which FTP is concerned are user access rights on the FTP server. Users are authenticated by username and password. The rights are determined by data stored on the server for each known user's account. | | |
| ARROW type | Messaging protocol | Application | |
| Strengths | Very widely implemented | | |
| Weaknesses | Lack of security | | |

| | | |
|------------------------|--|---|
| Name | Government Information Locator Service | |
| Acronym | GILS | Reference |
| Governance | US Government Printing Office (GPO) ? | |
| URL | http://www.gils.net/ | |
| Status | Implementation | Widespread use by US Federal and State Agencies |
| Availability | Documentation and specifications notionally freely available via http://www.gils.net/ although the site appears to have been offline for sometime. | |
| Description | <p>GILS was intended as a gateway to State and Federal Government information (predominantly in the USA), made possible by widespread deployment of a specific GILS profile to the Z39.50 protocol for Search and Retrieval of information.</p> <p>Making use of the federated nature of a Z39.50 Search, GILS made it possible for information to be curated and disseminated at the level of individual administrative units, yet cost-effectively surfaced in searches across different Government systems.</p> <p>Although GILS systems such as http://www.gpoaccess.gov/gils/index.html remain operational, the effort has assumed a far lower profile in the face of very different programmes for providing access to Government information such as http://www.usa.gov/.</p> <p>A number of State and Federal bodies continue to automatically expose GILS metadata and support Z39.50 queries of their systems via the GILS profile, but elsewhere the data are becoming increasingly stale.</p> <p>To all intents and purposes, GILS would appear to be moribund.</p> <p>See also: Z39.50</p> | |
| Rights coverage | | |
| ARROW type | Distributed search | Application |
| Strengths | Some continuing use in the US | |
| Weaknesses | Limited application to Government information. Apparently moribund | |

| | | |
|------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Name | Interoperability of Data in Electronic Commerce Systems | |
| Acronym | <indecs> | Reference |
| Governance | <indecs> was a project and has no continuing governance | |
| URL | http://www.doi.org/factsheets/indecs_factsheet.html | |
| Status | Project complete in 2000 | Implementation Not applicable |
| Availability | The primary <indecs> deliverable --"Principles, model and data dictionary" -- can be freely downloaded from the International DOI Foundation website (see above). | |
| Description | <p><indecs> was a project part funded by the EC Info 2000 initiative and by several organisations representing the music, rights, text publishing, authors, library and other sectors in 1998-2000, it has since informed a number of metadata activities. <indecs> provided an analysis of the requirements for metadata for e-commerce of "content" (intellectual property) in the network environment, focussing on semantic interoperability. The analysis was based on a simple generic model of commerce (the "model of making"): a model of the life cycle of any kind of content or intellectual property from conception to the final physical or digital copies. Central to the analysis is the assumption that it is possible to produce a generic mechanism to handle complex metadata for all different types of content. <indecs> proposed four basic principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The principle of Unique Identification: every entity should be uniquely identified within an identified namespace. • The principle of Functional Granularity: it should be possible to identify an entity whenever it needs to be distinguished • The principle of Designated Authority: the author of an item of metadata should be securely identified. • The principle of Appropriate Access: everyone requires access to the metadata on which they depend, and privacy and confidentiality for their own metadata from those who are not dependent on it | |
| Rights coverage | <indecs> recognised that, once you are trading content on the network "every transaction is a rights transaction". Its "event based" analysis of rights and permissions has been the basis of substantive standards developments, including the ONIX family (and particularly the ONIX for Licensing Terms) and the DDEX standards used in the music industry. | |
| ARROW type | Conceptual model | Application |
| Strengths | An extremely influential analysis, on which a great deal of subsequent metadata development has depended. Still relevant 10 years on. Broadly contemporaneous with and consistent with FRBR. | |
| Weaknesses | Simply a conceptual model -- a considerable aid to understanding many of the issues involved in metadata creation and framework, but not in itself an "out of the box" solution to anything. As with FRBR – requires interpretation and reification. Some very minor differences with FRBR have sometime been interpreted as suggesting incompatibility between the two approaches. | |

| | | |
|------------------------|---|---|
| Name | Interested Party Identification System | |
| Acronym | IPI | Reference |
| Governance | SUISA on behalf of CISAC | |
| URL | None | |
| Status | Internal standard | Implementation Widespread among rights societies |
| Availability | Only available to members of CISAC | |
| Description | <p>The purpose of the IPI system is the global unique identification of a natural person or a legal entity acting across multiple creation classes, roles and rights. The essential feature of the IPI system is that it distinguishes between an IP Base Number and an IP Name Number. An IP Base Number identifies an underlying entity. An IP Name Number identifies a name by which the entity is or has been known, or in which the entity participates together with others. The IPI system has been developed in the scope of the music industry to identify writers and publishers and their society of affiliation for different rights. The system supports the exchange of information between CISAC societies and aims to help improving the accuracy of information exchanged worldwide with user organisations such as radio and TV stations, and recording manufacturers. The IPI system holds a unique identifier assigned to each interested party and supporting metadata including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interested Party name (patronym of interested parties, modification references of interested parties, pseudonyms for natural persons and other references for legal entities) • Nationality (the linking of natural persons to countries) • Date (parameters for birth date, death date, etc) • Creation class (a class of products of human imagination and/or endeavour) • IPI right (combinations of creation classes and rights) • Membership agreement (agreements between IP's and their IPI administration societies) • Role (represents the roles of interested parties, or the functions played by interested parties) • Territory (territory of a membership agreement) | |
| Rights coverage | Not directly applicable, but the IPI's sole purpose is to facilitate collective rights management | |
| ARROW type | Identifier scheme | Application |
| Strengths | | |
| Weaknesses | Whatever the strengths of the IPI scheme, from an ARROW point of view its fundamental weakness – that it is not publicly available – appears to disqualify the IPI from consideration. | |

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------|---|
| Name | International Standard Book Number | | |
| Acronym | ISBN | Reference | ISO 2108 |
| Governance | ISO TC46/SC9 | | |
| URL | http://www.isbn-international.org/ | | |
| Status | 4 th edition (2005) | Implementation | Nearly universal since 1970 in major international markets. |
| Availability | The standard is published by ISO. ISBNs are available through a network of 170 local agencies | | |
| Description | <p>The ISBN (International Standard Book Number) system was devised in the late 1960s. It is a unique machine-readable identification number, which marks any book unmistakably. The number has been in use now for 35 years and has revolutionised the international book-trade. 170 countries and territories are officially ISBN members. Since 1 January 2007 the number has consisted of thirteen digits. It is commonly represented in print using an EAN-13 Barcode.</p> <p>A different ISBN is supposed to be assigned to each edition of a book, although this is causing controversy in its application to ebooks.</p> <p>An ISBN can also be applied to fragments of books (eg individual chapters) for use in the supply chain.</p> | | |
| Rights coverage | n/a | | |
| ARROW type | Identifier scheme | Application | |
| Strengths | Almost universal on books published since 1970. Well understood and completely embedded within the book trade. Arguably the most successful global supply chain identifier ever devised. | | |
| Weaknesses | From an ARROW point of view, the fact that ISBNs are not associated with books published before 1970 is a weakness. It cannot be used to identify books published before that date (later in some countries). Although intended as a supply chain identifier, it has also been used extensively in other ways in publishers' and other systems, which has sometimes distorted its application and led to assignment errors. There are inevitably some concerns about its application to ebooks and digitisations of printed books. | | |

| | | |
|------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Name | Actionable ISBN | |
| Acronym | ISBN-A | <i>Reference</i> |
| Governance | ISBN International and International DOI Foundation (joint agreement) | |
| URL | http://www.doi.org/factsheets/ISBN-A.html | |
| Status | Proposed (2008) | <i>Implementation</i> Limited pilot |
| Availability | Assigned by or on behalf of an ISBN agency. ISBN-As do not automatically exist for every ISBN; they exist only once an appropriate DOI agency has registered them in the DOI System. Several ISBN agencies are already also DOI Registration Agencies. Initial implementation by mEDRA, the Multilingual European DOI Registration Agency (www.medra.org); further applications are expected to follow. | |
| Description | <p>A DOI implementation; a method for including an ISBN in a DOI syntax in a standard way. ISBN-A allows the ISBN to be expressed as a DOI and so take advantage of functionality such as multiple resolution. By definition, an ISBN-A identifies the same thing as the ISBN, and is assigned on behalf of the ISBN agency.</p> <p>Constructed by incorporating a complete 13 digit ISBN into the allowed DOI syntax: Example: 10.97812345/99990:</p> <p>Handle System DOI name prefix = "10." ISBN (GS1) Bookland prefix = "978." or "979." ISBN Publisher prefix = variable length numeric string of 2 to 8 digits Prefix/suffix divider = "/"</p> <p>ISBN Title enumerator and checkdigit = variable length numeric string of 8 to 2 digits (total length of "Bookland prefix", "ISBN publisher prefix" plus "ISBN Title enumerator and checkdigit" will always equal 13 digits. The check digit from the ISBN remains unchanged; the DOI system does not use check digits).</p> | |
| Rights coverage | Same as ISBN, but capable of augmentation through additional services | |
| ARROW type | DOI Application | <i>Application</i> |
| Strengths | Combines what is probably the most effective product identifier ever deployed with the multiple resolution capabilities of the DOI. | |
| Weaknesses | Early in the implementation cycle so impact currently unknown. | |

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Name | International Standard Name Identifier | | |
| Acronym | ISNI | Reference | ISO 27729 (draft) |
| Governance | ISO TC46/SC9; a management consortium is being formed | | |
| URL | http://www.isni.org/ | | |
| Status | Draft International Standard | Implementation | N/A |
| Availability | Assignment methodology and business model remain uncertain at this point in development. However, it appears likely that there will be multiple Registration Agencies contributing identities to the system (including rights managements organisations and libraries). | | |
| Description | <p>The scope of the International Standard Name Identifier (or ISNI, pronounced to rhyme with "Disney") is "the identification of Public Identities of parties: that is, the identities used publicly by parties involved throughout the media content industries in the creation, production, management, and content distribution chains." In other words, the ISNI identifies names rather than underlying parties (both individual and corporate). This approach means that only limited metadata must be made publicly available through the ISNI system (metadata which is already in the public realm) -- and confidentiality and privacy can be properly protected. Different names used by the same party (for example, pseudonyms) can be linked but only where the relationship is in the public realm (the most frequently quoted example is Ruth Rendell and Barbara Vine). According to the website "the ISNI has been designed as a "bridge" identifier, allowing various industry partners to exchange information relating to a Party without the need to disclose confidential information. To that extent the ISNI only maintains the minimum metadata set needed to differentiate (disambiguate) two Public Identities. All other relevant information remains in proprietary databases secured by conditional access."</p> <p>The ISNI is a 16 digit numeric string (the final digit is a check digit) ISNI 1422 4586 3573 0476.</p> <p>There have already been encouraging test results from sharing library (VIAF) and rights management information (ALCS) data.</p> <p>There can be no certainty about ISNI passing the remaining stages of the ISO process, nor about how long this will take, but it will not be a formal standard before Q4 2010.</p> | | |
| Rights coverage | The management of identity is critical to rights management, but there is no direct relationship between rights ownership and the ISNI. Rights management organisations are likely to be among the primary users. | | |
| ARROW type | Identifier scheme | Application | |
| Strengths | A standard that is recognized as much needed in the media for the exchange of information. Strong support from a disparate community of interests (including libraries and publishers). | | |
| Weaknesses | Still in development; publication of the final standard and its widespread deployment remain uncertain. | | |

| | | | |
|------------------------|--|-----------------------|---------------|
| Name | Information Technology – Metadata registries | | |
| Acronym | ISO/IEC 11179 | Reference | ISO/IEC 11179 |
| Governance | ISO SC32 WG2 | | |
| URL | http://metadata-stds.org/11179/ | | |
| Status | ISO standard in six parts with different update cycles | Implementation | |
| Availability | The six separate sections of ISO 11179 are freely available for download from ISO; http://metadata-stds.org/11179/ | | |
| Description | <p>The ISO 11179 set of standards provide guidance on defining and representing metadata in a consistent fashion, and underpin the formalisation process behind metadata specifications such as the Dublin Core. This consistency in definition is intended to aid the process of evaluating overlap between apparently similar metadata elements in different metadata schemas, and leads to less ambiguous definition than might otherwise be the case.</p> <p>ISO 11179 also describes ‘the roles and requirements for the registration process in a metadata registry,’ and there has been some enthusiasm for registering metadata specifications and ‘application profiles’ in conforming registries in order to reduce redundancy and encourage greater interoperability.</p> <p>Part 1 of ISO 11179 provides a ‘Framework’ explaining the scope and purpose of the standard, and placing the remaining five sections in context.</p> | | |
| Rights coverage | n/a | | |
| ARROW type | Metadata representation | Application | |
| Strengths | | | |
| Weaknesses | | | |

| | | | |
|------------------------|--|-----------------------|----------------|
| Name | International Standard Text Code | | |
| Acronym | ISTC | Reference | ISO 21047:2009 |
| Governance | ISO/TC46/SC9; The International ISTC Agency is not for profit company limited by guarantee and registered in England & Wales; it was formed by a consortium comprising Bowker, CISAC, IFRRO & Nielsen | | |
| URL | http://www.istc-international.org/ | | |
| Status | Published 2009 | Implementation | Pilot only |
| Availability | The standard itself is available from ISO (priced). Currently, as part of the pilot, ISTC Registration Agencies (Nielsen & Bowker) are issuing ISTCs without charge; long term commercial models and terms are not known. The recent licensing of a third Registration Agency – MvB – should help the implementation. | | |
| Description | <p>The International Standard Text Code (ISTC) system is a global identification system for textual works. It is intended for use by publishers, bibliographic services, retailers, libraries and rights management agencies. Each ISTC is a unique identifier assigned by a centralised registration system to a textual work, when a metadata record for that work is entered into the system. If another, identical (or near identical) metadata record has already been registered (perhaps, in the case of an out of copyright work, by another publisher), the system will assume the new ISTC request refers to the same work and will output the ISTC of the identical (or near identical) metadata record already held on the system.</p> <p>An ISTC does not “belong” to a single author/publisher; rather, it “belongs” to the work it identifies. This means that the same ISTC number should be used to identify the same content even when it is being published by a different publisher and/or in a different publication format. The ISTC is intended to allow both collocation and disambiguation of manifestations of textual works. This is the case even though some manifestations with different content might have very similar or even identical names, and even though some products containing the desired content have entirely different names.</p> <p>The ISTC is not intended for identifying manifestations of a textual work, including any physical products (e.g. a printed article) or electronic formats (e.g. an electronic book). Manifestations of textual works are the subject of separate identification systems.</p> | | |
| Rights coverage | "The allocation of an ISTC to a work shall have no meaning or value as legal evidence regarding the copyright status of, or any intellectual property rights in, the work." | | |
| ARROW type | Identifier scheme | Application | |
| Strengths | When it comes to specialist textual work identifiers, ISTC is "the only show in town" (although other more generalised identifiers such as DOI or URI could be used in theory). Fulfils a critical requirement for different stakeholder groups. | | |
| Weaknesses | As yet, little implemented. Requires a substantial incentive to see it widely implemented; it is possible that rights registries may create that incentive. However, there are some real challenges over granularity requirements in different stakeholder communities that could have an impact on how quickly the ISTC makes an impact. | | |

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Name | Library of Congress number | | |
| Acronym | LCCN | Reference | n/a |
| Governance | Library of Congress (USA) | | |
| URL | http://www.loc.gov/marc/lccn_structure.html | | |
| Status | De facto standard (since 1898) | Implementation | LoC and hence libraries worldwide |
| Availability | The Library of Congress assigns a number while a book is being cataloged but as there is a backlog in this process a number can be assigned before the book is published: a Preassigned Control Number (PCN) is a Library of Congress Control Number which has been assigned prior to the work's publication; this accompanies Cataloging-in-Publication (CIP) Data. | | |
| Description | <p>Library of Congress number (aka LCCN = Library of Congress Card Number = Library of Congress Control Number) is a unique identification number that the Library of Congress assigns to the catalog record created for each book in its cataloged collections, or expected to become so (see PCN above). Strictly speaking the LCCN is the control number for the bibliographic record, not the book. Librarians use it to locate a specific Library of Congress catalog record in the national databases and to order catalog cards from the Library of Congress or from commercial suppliers.</p> <p>The basic control number has fixed length 12 characters; this may be extended to identify revised versions etc. Numbers assigned 1898 to 2001 had only 2 characters for year ("structure A"); post 2001 the location of element parts was altered to accommodate a 4 digit year ("structure B"). Under each structure, the prefix, year, and serial number are the basic elements required to make an LCCN unique. The prefixes have limited semantic content.</p> | | |
| Rights coverage | No specific rights information carried. | | |
| ARROW type | Identifier scheme | Application | |
| Strengths | A very long standing scheme for the identification of catalogue records, which may be useful for the identification of books before the application of the ISBN in 1970. | | |
| Weaknesses | Only covers books catalogued by the LoC; does not identify the book but the catalogue record (a nice but an important distinction); although in many library records, not widely used elsewhere. | | |

| | | |
|---------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Name | Metadata Authority Description Schema | |
| Acronym | MADS | <i>Reference</i> |
| Governance | Network Development and MARC Standards Office, Library of Congress | |
| URL | http://www.loc.gov/standards/mads/ | |
| Status | Schema v1.0 (2005) | <i>Implementation</i> |
| Availability | Schema freely available to download from the Library of Congress | |

Description Developed by the Library of Congress, the MADS XML Schema was created to serve as a companion to the Metadata Object Description Schema (MODS).
MADS defines an XML Schema describing a set of 34 authority elements (plus two structural 'root' elements) that is used to provide 'Authority' metadata about agents (people, organisations), events and terms (topics, geographies, genres, etc) referred to in creating descriptions of bibliographic resources.
MADS is typically used to encode authority data already recorded in a MARC 21 Authority record.
See also: MARC, MODS, UNIMARC/A

Rights coverage n/a

ARROW type Metadata schema *Application*

Strengths

Weaknesses

| | | | |
|------------------------|--|-----------------------|---|
| Name | Machine Readable Cataloguing | | |
| Acronym | MARC | Reference | ISO 2709:2008 |
| Governance | ISO TC 46 | | |
| URL | http://www.iso.org/iso/iso_catalogue/catalogue_tc/catalogue_detail.htm?csnumber=41319 | | |
| Status | International Standard, revised 2008 | Implementation | Various flavours of MARC remain in widespread use, internationally. |
| Availability | ISO 2709 record syntax available for purchase from ISO. Regional variants of MARC available from responsible agencies; often the appropriate National Library. | | |
| Description | <p>MARC records are used around the world, predominantly by libraries, to enable the consistent description and communication of bibliographic data between computers. The record structure used in MARC is an implementation of ISO 2709, dating back to a time when the data was physically encoded on library cards. The content of the records is defined by a separate set of rules such as those enshrined in the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (AACR2).</p> <p>Specific implementations of MARC vary nationally, although the harmonisation of US and Canadian formats to create MARC21 has led to growing adoption of that form in countries such as the United Kingdom, replacing local formats.</p> <p>There is growing concern that MARC, with its complex and outdated encoding rules, is increasingly unfit for purpose. As libraries come to rely upon the Web, and as they become ever-more involved in partnerships with organisations very different from themselves, the pressure is growing for change.</p> <p>Despite this, the inertia created by the billions of MARC records already in circulation will prove difficult to break.</p> <p>See also: AACR2, MARC21, UNIMARC</p> | | |
| Rights coverage | Various pieces of information relevant to determining Rights may be encoded within a MARC record. For example, MARC21's fields 506 (Restrictions on Access), 540 (Terms Governing Use and Reproduction) and 521 (Information Relating to Copyright Status) | | |
| ARROW type | Cataloguing framework | Application | |
| Strengths | Extremely widespread implementation – billions of MARC records held by libraries worldwide with millions of new MARC records being created every year. While many reasons may exist for its replacement, in practice the embedded nature of MARC in library practice will mean that MARC records persist in use for a very long time. | | |
| Weaknesses | Arcane and complex coding rules which reflect MARC's original specification as a communication standard for physical catalogue cards. It is extremely hard for the non-specialist cataloguer to create valid MARC; MARC cataloguing is expensive and at the same time many librarians believe it fails to meet the needs of 21 st Century library users. | | |

| | | |
|------------------------|---|---|
| Name | MARC21 | |
| Acronym | MARC21 | Reference |
| Governance | Network Development and MARC Standards Office, Library of Congress | |
| URL | http://www.loc.gov/marc/ | |
| Status | MARC21 Update 9 (2008) | Implementation Widespread support amongst providers of library systems. Mandated in USA, UK, Canada and elsewhere. |
| Availability | Specifications freely downloadable from the MARC Standards Office web site; no licence required. | |
| Description | <p>MARC records are used around the world, predominantly by libraries, to enable the consistent description and communication of bibliographic data between computers. The record structure used in MARC is an implementation of ISO 2709, dating back to a time when the data was physically encoded on library cards. The content of the records is defined by a separate set of rules such as those enshrined in the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (AACR2).</p> <p>Specific implementations of MARC vary nationally, although the harmonisation of US and Canadian formats to create MARC21 has led to growing adoption of that form in countries such as the United Kingdom, replacing local formats.</p> <p>Clearly demonstrating MARC's roots on computer systems where space was at a premium, each bibliographic record is divided logically into a series of MARC fields, each identified by a three-digit tag. '245,' for example, is the MARC21 tag for the title of the work being catalogued. Some fields are further refined by means of a series of indicators in the two characters immediately following a tag, and most fields comprise numerous subfields devoted to refinements. Field '300' (Physical Description), for example, includes subfields for extent (number of pages), physical dimensions, etc.</p> <p>See also: AACR2, MARC, UNIMARC</p> | |
| Rights coverage | Various pieces of information relevant to determining Rights may be encoded within a MARC record. For example, MARC21's fields 506 (Restrictions on Access), 540 (Terms Governing Use and Reproduction) and 521 (Information Relating to Copyright Status) | |
| ARROW type | Cataloguing framework | Application |
| Strengths | See comments under MARC | |
| Weaknesses | See comments under MARC | |

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------|----------------|
| Name | marcXchange | | |
| Acronym | marcXchange | Reference | ISO 25577:2008 |
| Governance | ISO TC46/ SC 4 | | |
| URL | http://www.loc.gov/standards/iso25577/ | | |
| Status | ISO Standard (2008) | Implementation | |
| Availability | A late draft of the marcXchange standard is freely downloadable from the Library of Congress; http://www.loc.gov/standards/iso25577/ISO_DIS_25577_E_.pdf | | |
| Description | <p>marcXchange defines a generalised schema suitable for representing any ISO 2709-based representation of a MARC record in XML. marcXchange is heavily influenced by MARCXML, Library of Congress' XML Schema tied to the MARC21 format.</p> <p>"The international exchange of records uses very few internationally recognized formats. MarcXchange is mainly intended for regional usage or as a framework for making regional schemas. Experience has shown that there is a need for regional deviations — even if MARC 21 or UNIMARC is chosen as the regional format. This Schema provides a specification for the development of local simple schemas, ensuring compatibility."</p> <p>MarcXchange has a number of uses, including; representation of individual MARC records and groups of MARC records in XML; as an extension to METS; for transfer of MARC records in web services like SRW; to represent metadata for harvesting, for example via OAI-PMH.</p> <p>See also: MARC, UNIMARC, MARC XML, METS</p> | | |
| Rights coverage | This XML Schema is capable of encoding Rights information that already exists within a MARC record. | | |
| ARROW type | Metadata communication | Application | |
| Strengths | See comments on MARC | | |

Weaknesses

| | | |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Name | MARC XML | |
| Acronym | MARC XML | <i>Reference</i> |
| Governance | Network Development and MARC Standards Office, Library of Congress | |
| URL | http://www.loc.gov/standards/marcxml/ | |
| Status | v1.1 (2003) | <i>Implementation</i> |
| Availability | The XML Schema is freely available for download from the Library of Congress. | |
| Description | <p>“This schema supports XML markup of MARC21 records as specified in the MARC documentation (see www.loc.gov). It allows tags with alphabetic and subfield codes that are symbols, neither of which are as yet used in the MARC 21 communications formats, but are allowed by MARC 21 for local data. The schema accommodates all types of MARC 21 records: bibliographic, holdings, bibliographic with embedded holdings, authority, classification, and community information.”</p> <p>Developed by the Library of Congress in collaboration with OCLC and RLG, MARC XML supports the encoding and exchange of MARC 21 records in the XML format widely used across the Web.</p> <p>Library of Congress maintains this Schema, as well as providing software to ensure lossless conversion to and from MARC 21 records encoded in the traditional ISO 2709 structure.</p> <p>In the mid 1990's, Library of Congress developed two SGML DTDs that supported the conversion of cataloging data from the MARC data structure to SGML (and back) without loss of data. These DTDs are deprecated in favour of MARCXML.</p> <p>See also: MARC21, MARC, marcXchange</p> | |
| Rights coverage | This XML Schema is capable of encoding Rights information that already exists within MARC 21 records. | |
| ARROW type | Metadata communication | <i>Application</i> |
| Strengths | See comments on MARC | |
| Weaknesses | See comments on MARC | |

| | | |
|------------------------|--|---|
| Name | Metadata Encoding & Transmission Standard | |
| Acronym | METS | Reference |
| Governance | Network Development and MARC Standards Office, Library of Congress | |
| URL | http://www.loc.gov/standards/mets/ | |
| Status | Schema version 1.8 (April 2009) | Implementation http://www.loc.gov/standards/mets/mets-registry.html |
| Availability | The METS XML schema is freely available for download from the Library of Congress web site. | |
| Description | <p>METS is a specification for encoding descriptive, administrative and structural metadata about objects within a digital library, expressed by means of an XML Schema. METS seeks to capture the metadata necessary for management of digital objects within a repository and for exchange of those objects between repositories. A METS document consists of seven major sections, including a Header, Descriptive Metadata, Administrative Metadata, File Section, Structural Map, Structural Links, and Behaviour. Depending upon its purpose, a METS document may be used in the role of Submission Information Package (SIP), Archival Information Package (AIP), or Dissemination Information Package (DIP) within the Open Archival Information System (OAIS) Reference Model.</p> <p>Approved external Schemas such as the Dublin Core, MODS, MARC XML and VRA Core are available to increase consistency within METS metadata descriptions.</p> <p>A set of extensible Profiles are used to cover the specific needs of particular materials such as musical scores, printed monographs, etc.</p> | |
| Rights coverage | The 'Administrative Metadata' section of a METS record provides scope for recording intellectual property data, specifically within the <rightsMD> and <sourceMD> sub-elements. | |
| ARROW type | Metadata communication | Application |
| Strengths | Very broad scope of metadata coverage for description of digital objects within a library context. | |
| Weaknesses | | |

| | | | |
|---------------------|---|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Name | Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions | | |
| Acronym | MIME | Reference | IETF RFC 2045 |
| Governance | Internet Society / Internet Engineering Task Force | | |
| URL | http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc2045 | | |
| Status | DRAFT STANDARD | Implementation | Very widely implemented |
| Availability | All IETF RFCs ("Requests for Comment") are freely available. | | |

Description Published as a draft standard in November 1996, MIME defines how to package data of all kinds for Internet message exchange. MIME has been adopted and adapted in several key Internet protocols, mostly notably in HTTP. Strictly speaking, RFC 2045 is only applicable to Internet mail (email), but the term MIME is still used informally in other applications, such as in HTTP, which differs from strict MIME in several important respects. What follows deals with the strict form of MIME as defined by RFC 2045.

MIME defines three things: (1) how to include in a message text that uses a character set other than US-ASCII; (2) how to include non-text data in a message; (3) how to mix different types of content in a single message. MIME crucially introduces the concepts of "content type" (sometimes informally referred to as "MIME type") and "content transfer encoding", and with respect to the latter defines the "Base64" method for encoding data of all kinds.

MIME defines five header fields: MIME-Version; Content-Type; Content-Transfer-Encoding; Content-ID; and Content-Description. Of the latter two, Content-ID is most frequently used to label different content parts in a multipart message, for example to distinguish between alternative representations of the same email content (e.g. plain text, rich text, HTML). Content-Description is not widely used.

RFC 2045, which defines the MIME format, is Part 1 of a multi-part series of RFCs, which includes RFC 2046 (media types), RFC 2047 (extensions allowing non-US-ASCII characters in header fields) and RFC 2048 (IANA registration procedures)

Rights coverage MIME is not concerned with the semantics of a message. Its header fields are designed to facilitate message handling and not to convey business data.

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| ARROW type | Communication protocol | Application |
|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------|

Strengths

Weaknesses

| | | |
|---------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Name | Metadata Object Description Schema | |
| Acronym | MODS | <i>Reference</i> |
| Governance | Network Development and MARC Standards Office, Library of Congress | |
| URL | http://www.loc.gov/standards/mods/ | |
| Status | Schema v3.3 (2008) | <i>Implementation</i> |
| Availability | The MODS Schema is freely available for download from the Library of Congress. | |

Description Developed by Library of Congress, the MODS XML Schema was intended to offer a compromise between the complexity of the MARC format and the perceived simplicity of the Dublin Core.

The Schema defines a core set of 20 bibliographic elements (plus two structural ‘root’ elements), particularly relevant to digital library applications.

“The MODS record has been designed to carry key data elements from the MARC record but does not define all of the MARC fields and does not use the field and subfield tagging from the MARC standard. There are data elements in MODS that are not compatible with the MARC record so there is some loss translating from MARC to MODS and from MODS to MARC. There is no commitment on the part of the Library of Congress to maintain compatibility between the two metadata formats beyond what is convenient to the community of MODS users.”

The MODS Implementation Registry at Library of Congress lists just 29 implementors, heavily skewed toward national and research libraries in the USA and United Kingdom.

See also: Dublin Core, MARC21

Rights coverage The accessCondition element is capable of expressing information on restrictions relating to access, use, and reproduction of resources.

ARROW type Metadata communication *Application*

Strengths

Weaknesses

| | | | |
|------------------------|--|-----------------------|--|
| Name | MPEG-21 Digital Item Declaration | | |
| Acronym | MPEG-21 DID | Reference | ISO/IEC 21000-2:2005 (2 nd edition) |
| Governance | ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 29/WG 11 (MPEG - Moving Pictures Expert Group) | | |
| URL | http://www.chiariglione.org/mpeg/ | | |
| Status | IS; 1 st Amd to 2 nd Ed: WD | Implementation | Limited |
| Availability | Available from < http://standards.iso.org/ittf/PubliclyAvailableStandards/index.html >. Essential patents are claimed by Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd and Mitsubishi Electric Corp. However WG11 experts suggest that they are not applicable. | | |
| Description | <p>A Digital Item is a structured digital object with a standard representation, identification and metadata within the MPEG-21 framework. This entity is the fundamental unit of distribution and transaction within this framework. Declaring a Digital Item involves specifying the resources, metadata, and their interrelationships for a Digital Item. ISO/IEC 21000-2 defines a set of abstract terms and concepts to form a useful model for declaring Digital Items. The goal of this model is to be as flexible and general as possible, while providing for the “hooks” that enable higher level functionality. This, in turn, allows the model to serve as a key foundation in the building of higher level models in other MPEG-21 elements (including Digital Item Identification or the inclusion of rights expressions or descriptive metadata).</p> <p>A Digital Item is the digital representation of “a work” (the use of the term "work" here is not to be confused with the index concept of an abstraction), and as such, it is the thing that is acted upon (managed, described, exchanged, collected, etc.) within the model. The goal of this model is to be as flexible and general as possible, while providing for the “hooks” that enable higher level functionality. The DID model also provides a common set of abstract concepts and terms that can be used to define schemas for their representation, or to perform mappings between existing schemes.</p> <p>ISO/IEC 21000-2 is a powerful standard, which has experienced comparatively little uptake. This is believed to have one main reason: its own — and ISO/IEC 21000 generally — flexibility which makes the DID model applicable to a wide range of application. Each application will only require a small subset of the features offered by DID; thus making the standard appear to be bloated.</p> | | |
| Rights coverage | DIDs allow the inclusion of Identifiers — via ISO/IEC 21000-3 Digital Item Identification — or any rights metadata such as Rights expressions | | |
| ARROW type | Content format | Application | |

Strengths

Weaknesses

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------|---|
| Name | MPEG-21: Rights Expression Language | | |
| Acronym | MPEG-21 REL | Reference | ISO/IEC 21000-5 |
| Governance | ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 29/WG 11 (Motion Picture Experts Group or MPEG) | | |
| URL | http://www.chiariglione.org/mpeg/technologies/mp21-rel/index.htm | | |
| Status | Published | Implementation | Most known implementations are of XrML, the proprietary ContentGuard format which was the baseline technology used for the development of the MPEG REL. |
| Availability | ISO Publication | | |
| Description | <p>“A Rights Expression Language (REL) is a machine-readable language that declares rights and permissions. The MPEG REL, as defined by ISO/IEC 21000-5, provides flexible, interoperable mechanisms to support transparent and augmented use of digital resources throughout the value chain in a way that protects the digital resource and honours the rights, conditions, and fees specified for it. For instance, it provides mechanisms in support of publishing, distributing, and consuming digital content such as electronic books, digital movies, digital music, broadcast content, interactive games, computer software, and other creations in digital form. It also supports specification of access and usage controls for digital content in cases where financial exchange is not a term of use, and supports exchange of sensitive or private digital content and personal information.</p> <p>The standard REL can support guaranteed end-to-end interoperability, consistency, and reliability among different systems and services. To do so, it offers richness and extensibility in declaring rights, conditions, and obligations; ease and persistence in identifying and associating these with digital content; and flexibility in supporting multiple usage/business models.”</p> | | |
| Rights coverage | Essentially provides for the expression of permissions of use, typically for a single instance of a resource, and typically bound to enforcement of those permissions through the application of DRM technology. | | |
| ARROW type | Rights expression language (REL) | Application | |
| Strengths | A comprehensive REL which has been standardised by ISO/IEC. | | |
| Weaknesses | Implementation? | | |

| | | |
|---------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Name | Metasearch XML Gateway | |
| Acronym | MXG | <i>Reference</i> |
| Governance | Metasearch Initiative proposed by NISO | |
| URL | http://www.niso.org/workrooms/mi | |
| Status | v1.0 published Aug 2006 | <i>Implementation</i> |
| Availability | Specification freely available from the website. No licence required for implementation. | |

Description

The NISO Metasearch XML Gateway is a low-barrier-to-entry method to expose content to metasearch services and more effectively interoperate with them. Its protocol defines a simple message and response model for allowing a metasearch service to query a content database and receive a standardized XML response. So MXG provides a mechanism for a content provider to expose its content and services to a Metasearch Service. Metasearch Services are a class of services that allow an end user to find content in multiple services with a single search. MXG is based on the NISO-registered Search and Retrieve URL (SRU) protocol. The Metasearch Provider sends individual queries for each resource that uses MXG URLs via HTTP. Each Content Provider returns an MXG compliant XML formatted response to those queries. The Metasearch is responsible for parsing, aggregating and displaying of the records retrieved from multiple sources to the end user.

Three levels of implementation are defined for MXG. Each level requires increasing compliance with specifications of the SRU protocol; only the third level is fully compliant SRU. Level 1 defines a standard URL which will accommodate ANY query language; Level 2 extends Level 1 by adding the requirement that servers provide an SRU EXPLAIN record to define the capabilities of the server; Level 3 extends Level 2 by adding the requirement that servers support a standard query grammar: CQL.

Concerning the XML schemas to utilize for records, MXG required a minimum of one schema although multiple ones may be supported for different Metasearch Provider. Any schema is allowable, even custom created one. From standard schema, some choices could be DC (Dublin Core), MODS (Metadata Object Description Standard), LOM (Learning Object Metadata), and so on.

Rights coverage This protocol doesn't provide a way for defining rights content but a way for exposing and querying them.

ARROW type Distributed search *Application*

Strengths

Weaknesses

| | | | |
|------------------------|--|-----------------------|----------------|
| Name | National Bibliography Number | | |
| Acronym | NBN | Reference | IETF RFC 3188* |
| Governance | None formal; Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL) has oversight of any common development. | | |
| URL | ftp://ftp.rfc-editor.org/in-notes/pdfrfc/rfc3188.txt.pdf * | | |
| Status | IETF RFC (2001)* | Implementation | Limited |
| Availability | National local policies may limit the NBN usage. NBNs are not in broad use and the application to commercial content is small. Currently, only a small number of National Libraries (e.g., Finland, Sweden, Germany, Hungary) provide services to resolve links using NBNs. Decisions on assignment made across countries are not co-ordinated and the resolution approach may vary from one country to another. Scope may be limited in certain cases. A National Libraries Resolver Discovery Service has been proposed but has not yet been developed or deployed: the German National Library is starting a project to establish this service, but its timeline and costs are currently unknown. | | |
| Description | <p>Generic name referring to a group of identifier systems used by national libraries for identification of deposited publications lacking an identifier, to associate descriptive metadata (cataloging) that describes the resources. NBNs can be seen as a fall-back mechanism: if no other, better established identifier such as ISBN can be given, an NBN is assigned. There is no common syntax specification or global authority; hence NBNs are unique only on national level.</p> <p>*An attempt has been made to make the system internet-usable through a specification (http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc3188.txt) to represent NBN as URN, which adds a controlled prefix (ISO country code but additional sub-domains can be included), to ensure global uniqueness. Its registration authority is the Library of Congress; only national libraries may register NBNs. This has patchy support: In general the URN (Universal Resource Name) infrastructure, which the proposed NBN expansion is based on, has not really taken off, but some individual national libraries have invested effort in providing a service.</p> | | |
| Rights coverage | Holdings and access information may be associated with a particular NBN. | | |
| ARROW type | Identification scheme | Application | |
| Strengths | A fall back identifier when no other identifier is available | | |
| Weaknesses | Limited to National Library implementation; implementation patchy and inconsistent. | | |

| | | |
|------------------------|--|---|
| Name | Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting | |
| Acronym | OAI-PMH | <i>Reference</i> |
| Governance | Open Archives Initiative Steering Committee | |
| URL | http://www.openarchives.org/ | |
| Status | v2.0 (2002) | <i>Implementation</i> Widespread use by academic institutional repositories |
| Availability | Specification freely downloadable from the OAI web site; no licence required. Various tools freely available from http://www.openarchives.org/pmh/tools/ | |
| Description | <p>OAI-PMH provides an application-independent framework to support harvesting (or collection) of metadata from repositories conforming to the Protocol. Typically these repositories are archives of academic papers, often hosted by universities and similar organisations.</p> <p>By default, metadata is made available to harvesters in the form of a simple Dublin Core record, marked up in XML. Other record formats may be offered in addition to this.</p> <p>The protocol defines six simple requests, enabling harvesters to discover basic information about a repository, the metadata formats it supports, the items it contains, and additions or deletions made over time.</p> <p>Conforming repositories are not required to register their existence, although several large registries have been created for this purpose including http://roar.eprints.org and http://www.openarchives.org/Register/BrowseSites.</p> <p>OAI-PMH is often closely associated with the Open Access movement, although the Protocol itself is equally relevant to dissemination of data concerning closed access journals and other forms of content.</p> <p>See also: Dublin Core</p> | |
| Rights coverage | <p>“The OAI does not define or prescribe any rights management scheme. Issues of access restriction and management of intellectual property in exposed metadata are the responsibility of the data providers that adopt the protocol.”</p> <p>The protocol supports the Dublin Core Metadata Element Set (DCMES) by default, which includes the capability to optionally carry a statement on Rights.</p> | |
| ARROW type | Metadata harvesting | <i>Application</i> |
| Strengths | Widely implemented particularly in the academic repository sector. | |
| Weaknesses | Little used outside the academic repository sector. | |

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Name | Online Computer Library Centre Catalog Number | | |
| Acronym | OCLC Number | Reference | n/a |
| Governance | OCLC (WorldCat) | | |
| URL | http://www.oclc.org/WorldCat/default.htm | | |
| Status | De facto standard (created 1971) | Implementation | 71,000 libraries in 112 countries |
| Availability | <p>OCLC numbers are usually carried in WorldCat participating union catalogues or may be found through WorldCat searches or services using the database (eg FirstSearch). OCLC numbers can be formed into persistent internet URLs by appending 1- to 8-digit OCLC Number for the item to a Worldcat PURL service (this format is only specified when ISBN or ISSN is unavailable for the item, which if available is the preferred option for citing). The link format is http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/[item OCLC Number]</p> <p>OCLC numbers as WorldCat links resolve to information on participating libraries holding a given book, through "Open WorldCat" (abbreviated records from WorldCat; launched 2003). The entire database is available for search-engine harvesting.</p> | | |
| Description | <p>A unique number (OCLC number: sometimes called WorldCat number) assigned to items in WorldCat, a de facto international merged catalogue (over 136 million bibliographic records that represent more than 1 billion individual holding items:) maintained by OCLC.</p> <p>A collocation function provides links to all the editions of an item: http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/[NUMBER]/editions. This therefore performs some of function envisaged for the ISTC service. Similarly in 2007 (still in beta –stage) "Worldcat identities" was launched to provide OCLC numbers for authors and characters and so overlaps with functions of the proposed ISNI.</p> | | |
| Rights coverage | Holdings and access information is associated with the Worldcat record. Some users reach WorldCat.org from links in partner search engines or bookseller Web sites. | | |
| ARROW type | Identification scheme | Application | |
| Strengths | Comprehensive with respect to Worldcat holdings. Provides identities for objects outside other identification schemes (for example, books published before ISBN came into use). OCLC are actively working on projects to collocate editions of the same work and by the same author. | | |
| Weaknesses | Not widely promulgated as an identifier, so not tested outside the OCLC partner environment. Duplication among the one billion "individual holdings" is suspected but not known (de-duplication is a non-trivial task). The collocation criteria may not match ARROW requirements. | | |

| | | | |
|------------------------|--|-----------------------|--|
| Name | Open Digital Rights Language | | |
| Acronym | ODRL | Reference | |
| Governance | ODRL International Advisory Board | | |
| URL | http://odrl.net/ | | |
| Status | v1.1 published 2002 | Implementation | Implemented primarily through the Open Mobile Alliance REL, which is a development of ODRL |
| Availability | Specifications freely available from the ODRL website | | |
| Description | “The Open Digital Rights Language (ODRL) Initiative is an international effort aimed at developing and promoting an open standard for rights expressions. ODRL is intended to provide flexible and interoperable mechanisms to support transparent and innovative use of digital content in publishing, distributing and consuming of digital media across all sectors and communities.” | | |
| Rights coverage | Essentially provides for the expression of permissions of use, typically for a single instance of a resource, and typically bound to enforcement of those permissions through the application of DRM technology. | | |
| ARROW type | Rights expression language (REL) | Application | |
| Strengths | Open source, and freely available. | | |
| Weaknesses | Not widely implemented outside the mobile space; although it is itself open source, may not fall outside the scope of extensive patents, particularly if linked to enforcement technology. | | |

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Name | ONIX Standards Framework | |
| Acronym | ONIX | Reference |
| Governance | EDITEUR | |
| URL | www.editeur.org | |
| Status | N/A | Implementation In the ONIX standards |
| Availability | N/A | |

Description The ONIX name is used by EDITEUR for a family of standards, some of which are in turn families of related standards; the primary members of this family are:

- ONIX for Books
- ONIX for Serials
 - ONIX-SPS: Serials Products and Subscriptions
 - ONIX-SOH: Serials Online Holdings
 - ONIX-SRN: Serials Release Notification
- ONIX for Licensing Terms
 - ONIX-PL: ONIX for Publications Licenses
 - ONIX-DS: ONIX for Distributions
 - ONIX-RP: ONIX for Repertoire

Other ONIX specification include formats for identifier registration (ONIX for DOI Registration; ONIX for ISTC Registration) and some formats (such as ONIX for Subrights) which have been partially developed but not piloted.

ONIX messages share syntactic structures and (to the extent possible) code value definitions. For all ONIX messages there is a clear separation between structure and code lists; this enables code lists to be updated as frequently as may be necessary without disturbing structure, providing essential flexibility while maintaining backward compatibility.

Rights coverage Various of the ONIX messages are designed to carry rights and/or permissions data appropriate to their particular function.

| | | |
|-------------------|---|--------------------|
| ARROW type | Metadata framework | Application |
| Strengths | ONIX provides a widely recognised brand identity for standards, particularly in the book retail chain. ONIX for Books is very widely implemented internationally. The family of standards is designed to be internally consistent and has been designed to be flexible in its approach to meeting new requirements, including a well-structured approach to rights and permissions metadata.. | |
| Weaknesses | Not all the standards have been widely deployed. Interoperability with some library standards is imperfect, because differences in requirement have led to significant differences in form. | |

| | | |
|------------------------|--|--|
| Name | ONIX for Books | |
| Acronym | ONIX-4B | <i>Reference</i> |
| Governance | EDiTEUR, through the ONIX for Books International Steering Committee | |
| URL | www.editeur.org | |
| Status | Release 2.1 rev 03 (2004) Release 3.0 (2009) | <i>Implementation</i> Widely used, since 2000. |
| Availability | Freely available from the EDiTEUR website. | |
| Description | <p>ONIX for Books is a standard XML format for the communication of product information from publishers to wholesalers and retailers, either direct or through the services offered by “data aggregators”. While focused on books, it also covers other types of non-periodical publication which may be distributed through the book supply chain. In content terms, ONIX for Books carries bibliographic detail (such as product identifiers, titles, contributors, binding and format, dimensions, page extent, publisher and imprint); trade detail for different markets (distributor, availability, RRP, discount group); and promotional detail (descriptions, links to supporting material – text, audio, video – on a publisher’s website or elsewhere).</p> <p>EDiTEUR has just published Release 3.0, which is expected to come into general use during 2010. This is the first release in which digital products such as ebooks have been treated as a “core” element in ONIX coverage. ONIX for Books has been or is being adopted as the national standard for book trade product information in at least fourteen countries, including the UK, US, Canada (both English- and French-speaking), Australia, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, and in Scandinavia. The format is also being used to communicate metadata from publishers to enrich library catalogues and as part of national library CIP programmes.</p> <p>As a communications format, ONIX for Books makes it possible to deliver rich product information into the book supply chain in a standard form. By providing a template for the content and structure of a product record, ONIX has helped to stimulate the introduction of better internal information systems for publishers, capable of bringing together all the metadata needed for the description and promotion of new and backlist titles.</p> | |
| Rights coverage | Can specify territorial sales rights attaching to a product, and any non-territorial sales restrictions applying either globally or (Release 3.0 only) within a designated territorial market; also distribution rights applying to a designated distributor. For digital products, provision for description of common forms of usage constraint, applied either by the characteristics of the hardware and software used. or by DRM. | |
| ARROW type | Metadata schema | <i>Application</i> |
| Strengths | Widely adopted by the international publishing community and the book trade; capable of communicating complex and rich product information about books and digital products | |
| Weaknesses | Entirely focused on commerce; no cataloguing rules. Mapping to MARC does not necessarily create valid MARC records. | |

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------|---------|
| Name | ONIX for Distribution | | |
| Acronym | ONIX-DS | Reference | |
| Governance | EDiTEUR, managed jointly with IFRRO | | |
| URL | www.editeur.org | | |
| Status | v1.0 published 2008 | Implementation | Limited |
| Availability | Documentation freely available from the EDiTEUR web site; no licence required. | | |
| Description | <p>One of two message formats commissioned from EDiTEUR by IFRRO for the management of communication between RROs (the other being ONIX-DS). A member of the ONIX for Licensing Terms family.</p> <p>ONIX-DS is designed to allow the sharing of "distribution" information between RROs. Distribution is the process by which revenues are allocated by an RRO. A distribution message therefore typically accompanies a payment, and informs the recipient of the elements that make up the payment. Essentially, ONIX-DS is a specialised "sales reporting message", for reporting on transactions in delegated rights.</p> <p>So far as we are aware, there is only one live implementation of ONIX-DS, for communication between CLA and PLS in the UK. Distribution messages can be very large indeed, and interchange between CLA and PLS is managed using FTP. It is anticipated that ONIX-DS will be widely implemented within the RRO community more quickly than ONIX-RP, and IFRRO has set a target of 50% of its members to implement. In order to facilitate this process, IFRRO has developed an "ONIX-DS compliant" Excel format to supplement the XML format.</p> <p>Because of the considerable diversity in systems and semantics in the RRO community worldwide, it was agreed that the core semantics included in the IFRRO namespace should initially be limited, and supplemented by local namespaces agreed between trading partners. In the UK, a substantial local "UKRRO" namespace has been developed. It is hope that the IFRRO namespace will be developed over time through terms from local namespaces being "promoted" to the IFRRO namespace.</p> | | |
| Rights coverage | Although the rights and permissions semantics which have so far been developed are mapped to existing RRO licensing activities, expanding the semantics to new applications is relatively straightforward, because of the inherent flexibility of a standard developed within the ONIX-LT framework. | | |
| ARROW type | Metadata schema | Application | |
| Strengths | A comprehensive and flexible messaging standard for sharing distribution information; no known competitors (although it can be characterised as a specialised sales reporting message).It is possible for trading partners to adopt a simplified profile to meet specific requirements | | |
| Weaknesses | Distribution information is inherently complex, because of the complexity of the underpinning rights and licensing information on which it depends. Implementing ONIX-DS is complex, but this would be true for any message with the same scope. | | |

| | | |
|---------------------|---|------------------|
| Name | ONIX for ISTC Registration | |
| Acronym | ONIX-ISTC | <i>Reference</i> |
| Governance | ISTC International Agency in association with EDItEUR | |
| URL | | |
| Status | <i>Implementation</i> | |
| Availability | | |

Description

ONIX for ISTC Registration is a concise XML format for handling message exchanges between ISTC registrants and ISTC registration agencies. The same format is used for both a request and a response, with coding to indicate the message status within an interchange.

The metadata content is limited to that which has been determined by the ISTC International Registration Agency as required for the international ISTC registration database. The "style" of the message is similar to that of ONIX standards, and wherever possible existing ONIX elements have been used; but a substantial proportion of the format uses elements which are specialised for the ISTC registration application.

The format is not intended for general use for the delivery of ONIX metadata describing a "work": the content is too limited, and the elements relating to the purpose and status of the message are too specialised.

Rights coverage None.

| | | |
|-------------------|--|--------------------|
| ARROW type | Metadata schema | <i>Application</i> |
| Strengths | Fitness for purpose; shared data constructs with ONIX. | |
| Weaknesses | See limitations above; not yet implemented as awaiting widespread deployment of ISTC | |

| | | | |
|---------------------|--|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Name | ONIX for Licensing Terms | | |
| Acronym | ONIX-LT | Reference | |
| Governance | EDITEUR | | |
| URL | www.editeur.org | | |
| Status | Unpublished framework | Implementation | Through specific ONIX formats |
| Availability | N/A | | |

Description ONIX-LT is the conceptual framework within which ONIX messaging standards for communicating rights, licensing and permissions metadata are developed. It is not separately published.

ONIX-LT can be seen not only in ONIX-PL, but also in ONIX-RP and ONIX-DS. It can also be seen in the ACAP semantics.

Rights coverage A framework designed specifically to support the communication of rights and permissions information.

ARROW type Metadata framework **Application**

Strengths A framework approach which should allow any form of rights and permissions information to be communicated between trading partners.

Weaknesses The communication of rights and permissions information is inherently complex.

| | | | |
|------------------------|--|-----------------------|------|
| Name | ONIX for Subrights | | |
| Acronym | ONIX-SR | Reference | |
| Governance | EDITEUR | | |
| URL | | | |
| Status | Proposed format, incomplete | Implementation | None |
| Availability | It would take significant further work to upgrade the incomplete draft to current ONIX standards, and to relate it to ONIX for Licensing Terms concepts. | | |
| Description | <p>ONIX for Subrights was started as a development project in 2001/2002 as a result of requests for a standard format in which publishers (or authors, literary agents or others) could communicate information about rights which they were interested in selling. The intended recipients were, in the first instance, organisations (like the Frankfurt Book Fair, and - at the time - one or two companies in the US) who were planning or operating online marketplaces for rights.</p> <p>The format identifies a rightsholder and a work, and lists rights (eg translation rights, audiobook publication rights) which are offered by the rightsholder. It may also identify a product (a manifestation of the work) and list distribution rights which are offered.</p> <p>The sole purpose is to support discovery by prospective purchasers, and to enable them to contact the rightsholder for further details.</p> <p>The work was left unfinished at the point where it was almost ready for review and piloting by intended users, since there no longer appeared to be sufficient demand.</p> | | |
| Rights coverage | All types of publishing and subsidiary rights; distribution rights. | | |
| ARROW type | Metadata schema (rights & permissions) | Application | |
| Strengths | | | |
| Weaknesses | Incomplete and untested – requirement unproved. | | |

| | | |
|------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Name | ONIX for Publication Licences | |
| Acronym | ONIX-PL | <i>Reference</i> |
| Governance | EDiTEUR | |
| URL | www.editeur.org | |
| Status | v1.0 (December 2008) | <i>Implementation</i> Very limited |
| Availability | Specification freely downloadable from the EDiTEUR web site; no licence required. An open source tool (OPLE) is also available which facilitates the expression of licences in ONIX-PL. | |
| Description | <p>ONIX-PL is part of the "ONIX for Licensing Terms" family of messages. It was developed specifically to support the expression of licences in the publisher to academic library supply chain, in response to the difficulty being experienced by libraries in managing very diverse licence terms for their growing collections of digital resources. Licences are encoded in accordance with a standard XML schema, with the intention that they can then be communicated within the supply chain. While it is possible to encode a complete licence in ONIX-PL, there is a clear difference between the encoding of the majority of licence clauses, and those clauses which grant (or withhold) specific usage permissions. While other clauses are simply encoded as text within a standard heading structure, usages are encoded using tightly constrained semantics and syntactic structures, which makes usage clauses machine interpretable (allowing, for example, highly simplified permissions information to be displayed to users at the point of use). The validity of the proposed approach has been demonstrated in a project, funded by JISC in the UK, RELI (http://www.lboro.ac.uk/departments/ls/disresearch/RELI/about.html).</p> <p>The primary challenge facing ONIX-PL, like most standards early in their lifecycle, is implementation. While there is strong support for the theory, in practice there are problems on the library side (with a lack of systems able to ingest ONIX-PL licences) and on the publisher side (with uncertainty about who should be creating the XML expressions, and wherer the necessary skills can be located). Widespread implementation in the supply chain is likely to take some time.</p> | |
| Rights coverage | The permission semantics of ONIX-PL are specifically geared to communication in the library supply chain; however, ONIX-PL should be extensible to any similar licence application. | |
| ARROW type | Metadata schema (rights & permissions) | <i>Application</i> |
| Strengths | Capable of communicating any kind of publication licence, subject to extension of allowed values. Extremely flexible and infinitely extensible. | |
| Weaknesses | Still in exploratory phase of implementation. Difficult to get traction because of the complexity of the task and the need for both library and publisher systems to be able to support. Publishers having difficulty identifying internal responsibility for a new task. | |

| | | |
|------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Name | ONIX for Repertoire | |
| Acronym | ONIX-RP | Reference |
| Governance | EDITEUR, managed jointly with IFRRO | |
| URL | www.editeur.org | |
| Status | v1.0 published 2008 | Implementation Limited |
| Availability | Documentation freely available from the EDITEUR web site; no licence required. | |
| Description | <p>One of two message formats commissioned from EDITEUR by IFRRO for the management of communication between RROs (the other being ONIX-DS). A member of the ONIX for Licensing Terms family.</p> <p>ONIX-RP is designed to allow the sharing of "repertoire" information between RROs, a repertoire being the definition of a set of resources to which a specific set of rights or permissions relate. In other words, ONIX-RP allows RROs to share with each other the mandates that they hold from rightsholders. A repertoire may be defined very broadly - " all resources published in the UK by Publisher Y can be included in any photocopying licence worldwide" or very narrowly "this specified resource is to be excluded from this specified licence".</p> <p>So far as we are aware, there is only one live implementation of ONIX-RP, for communication between PLS and CLA in the UK. This is a very active implementation, and messages are shared in real time using web services.</p> <p>Because of the considerable diversity in systems and semantics in the RRO community worldwide, it was agreed that the core semantics included in the IFRRO namespace should initially be limited, and supplemented by local namespaces agreed between trading partners. In the UK, a substantial local "UKRRO" namespace has been developed. It is hope that the IFRRO namespace will be developed over time through terms from local namespaces being "promoted" to the IFRRO namespace.</p> | |
| Rights coverage | Although the rights and permissions semantics which have so far been developed are mapped to existing RRO licensing activities, expanding the semantics to new applications is relatively straightforward, because of the inherent flexibility of a standard developed within the ONIX-LT framework. | |
| ARROW type | Metadata schema (rights & permissions) | Application |
| Strengths | A comprehensive and flexible messaging standard for sharing repertoire information; no known competitors. | |
| Weaknesses | Repertoire information is inherently complex, and the ONIX-RP specification reflects this reality. Implementing ONIX-RP is a non-trivial challenge, which requires a mix of skills (understanding rights and permissions as well as XML). However, this would be the case for any message standard meeting the same set of requirements. | |

| | | |
|---------------------|---|---|
| Name | OpenSearch | |
| Acronym | OpenSearch | <i>Reference</i> |
| Governance | the 'OpenSearch community' | |
| URL | http://www.opensearch.org/ | |
| Status | 1.0 (March 2005), 1.1 Draft (December 2005) | Wikipedia, IE7, Firefox 2+, <i>Implementation</i> Windows 7... |
| Availability | Specifications freely downloadable from the OpenSearch web site. | |

Description Originally created by Amazon's A9.com subsidiary, OpenSearch provides a relatively straightforward means for search engines to syndicate their results for aggregation and re-use by third parties.

Search clients such as your web browser can find and use OpenSearch description documents to learn about the public interface of a search engine. These description documents contain templates that indicate how the search client should make requests. Search engines can use the OpenSearch response elements to add search metadata to results in a variety of content formats.

OpenSearch is a search protocol that primarily supports keyword searching, and is most valuable for searching across unstructured documents.

Rights coverage OpenSearch does not deal directly with Rights.

| | | |
|-------------------|--------|--------------------|
| ARROW type | Search | <i>Application</i> |
|-------------------|--------|--------------------|

Strengths

Weaknesses

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Name | Open URL Framework | | |
| Acronym | Open URL | Reference | ANSI/NISO Z39.88 |
| Governance | National Information Standards Organisation (USA) | | |
| URL | http://www.niso.org/kst/reports/standards/ | | |
| Status | NISO Standard (2004) | Implementation | Appropriate copy resolution. |
| Availability | Free specification. Widely used packaged with link resolver systems (both commercial and non-commercial), notably working with CrossRef, to provide a range of library-configured links and services. A main application is the “appropriate copy” problem: an identifier may designate an authoritative version of content at publisher-designated resources, yet a user working in an institution may be subject to a preference context (a local subscription, or an agreed local deal for access to a preferred database). | | |
| Description | <p>The OpenURL Framework for Context-Sensitive Services (usually called "OpenURL") is a mechanism for packaging and transporting metadata and identifiers over a network. It is used to reference a publication for the purpose of context-sensitive linking through a local resolver. An OpenURL link points to the copy of the resource most appropriate to the context of the request; if a different context is expressed in the query, a different copy ends up resolved to, but the change in context is predictable, and does not require the creator of the hyperlink to handcraft different URLs for different contexts</p> <p>An OpenURL consists of two parts: a base URL (which addresses the user's institutional link-server) plus a query string (which contains contextual data, usually bibliographic data). An OpenURL is not an identifier in the normal sense, since the same semantic content will have many such OpenURL labels, but the packages are constructs called ContextObjects: since anything may have identity, one can say that the ContextObject is identified by the OpenURL string, but this is not necessarily persistent.</p> <p>Open URLs may become persistent in certain applications: notably the DOI directory is OpenURL-enabled so can recognize a user with access to an OpenURL link resolver. Hence on resolving a DOI, metadata can be pulled from CrossRef to create an OpenURL targeting the current local link resolver. Such an OpenURL link that contains a DOI name is persistent; publishers who use the CrossRef system to identify their content make their products OpenURL-aware.</p> | | |
| Rights coverage | Contextual information carried in an OpenURL package normally may relate to rights information such as access rights to a local subscription copy, mediated by a commercial link resolver system (eg Ex Libris). | | |
| ARROW type | Identifier resolution scheme | Application | |
| Strengths | | | |
| Weaknesses | | | |

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Name | Portable Document Format | | |
| Acronym | PDF | Reference | ISO 32000-1:2008 |
| Governance | ISO TC 171/SC 2 (Document management/application issues) | | |
| URL | http://www.adobe.com/devnet/pdf/ | | |
| Status | Published 2008 | Implementation | Extremely widely -- on most PCs |
| Availability | The standard itself is available from ISO (priced). Originally a proprietary format owned by ADOBE, which still owns various implicated patents. Now freely available to any organisation that wishes to implement applications that create or otherwise make use of PDF. | | |
| Description | <p>A file format developed in the early 1990s to facilitate the sharing of formatted documents between platforms, PDF now has a central role in many document workflows, not least in printing (both desktop and professional). Publishers use PDF as the format for sending files to their printers; as a result, it naturally became the format of choice in the early days of digital publishing (since it required minimal changes to workflow -- although the optimisation of a PDF for printing is not identical to that for online use, so typically publisher still creates subtly different files for these different applications.</p> <p>PDF retains the appearance of the printed page, allowing the creator to stay in control of the visual impact of the page, which may be critical for some types of publication (complex text books, for example). However, this does not always make PDF as easy to read on screen as it might be. If the underlying file is appropriately tagged, there are applications which allow PDF to "reflow" to fit the available screen.</p> <p>Many scanning projects create PDF files. Often these take the form of a "layered" file, where what is presented to the user is a page image (in an image format) with text file behind it created using OCR. This has the advantage of making the text searchable (the OCR file is directly associated with the scanned image) while hiding the results of the OCR process itself (which without human intervention can create files with a fairly high error rate).</p> | | |
| Rights coverage | Metadata (including rights data) can be embedded in or associated with PDF files, but this is dependent on external metadata standards, not PDF itself. | | |
| ARROW type | Content format | Application | |
| Strengths | Extremely widely implemented, cross platform format for sharing documents. Allows visual appearance of document to be retained on different viewing and printing platforms. | | |
| Weaknesses | If PDF can be described as having a weakness, it is the obverse of one of its strengths - dependence on the "printed page" paradigm. While "tagged PDF" can be reflowed, PDF is best suited to applications where page format needs to be retained. | | |

| | | |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Name | Preservation Metadata: Implementation Strategies | |
| Acronym | PREMIS | <i>Reference</i> |
| Governance | Network Development and MARC Standards Office, Library of Congress | |
| URL | http://www.loc.gov/standards/premis/ | |
| Status | Data Dictionary & Schema v2.0 (2008) | <i>Implementation</i> |
| Availability | The PREMIS Data Dictionary and Schema are freely available for download from the Library of Congress. | |
| Description | <p>Arising from an OCLC/RLG working group that operated from 2003-2005, PREMIS is concerned with the metadata associated with preserving digital library resources. PREMIS consists of a Data Dictionary and an associated XML Schema for its expression.</p> <p>“The PREMIS Data Dictionary defines a core set of semantic units that repositories should know in order to perform their preservation functions. Preservation functions can vary from one repository to another, but will generally include actions to ensure that digital objects remain viable (i.e., can be read from media) and renderable (i.e., can be displayed, played or otherwise interpreted by application software), as well as to ensure that digital objects in the repository are not inadvertently altered, and that legitimate changes to objects are documented. The Data Dictionary is not intended to define all possible preservation metadata elements, only those that most repositories will need to know most of the time. Several categories of metadata are excluded as out of scope, including: format-specific metadata, implementation-specific metadata and descriptive metadata.”</p> <p>The PREMIS Implementation Registry at Library of Congress lists just 10 implementing projects.</p> | |
| Rights coverage | The Rights entity aggregates information about rights and permissions that are directly relevant to preserving objects in the repository. Each PREMIS rights statement asserts two things: acts that the repository has a right to perform, and the basis for claiming that right. | |
| ARROW type | Metadata schema | <i>Application</i> |
| Strengths | Focus on preservation | |
| Weaknesses | From the ARROW point of view, the focus on preservation | |

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------|---|
| Name | Publishing Requirements for Industry Standard Metadata | | |
| Acronym | PRISM | Reference | |
| Governance | IDEAlliance (International Digital Enterprise Alliance) | | |
| URL | http://www.idealliance.org/industry_resources/intelligent_content_informed_workflow/prism | | |
| Status | v.2.1 (2009) | Implementation | Primarily in the US magazine publishing industry, where it is believed to be quite widely used. |
| Availability | Appears to be available without licence, but the website is not explicit on this point. | | |
| Description | <p>The Publishing Requirements for Industry Standard Metadata (PRISM) specification defines an XML metadata vocabulary for managing, aggregating, post-processing, multi-purposing and aggregating magazine, news, catalog, book, and mainstream journal content. PRISM recommends the use of certain existing standards, such as XML, RDF, the Dublin Core, and various ISO specifications for locations, languages, and date/time formats. In addition PRISM provides a framework for the interchange and preservation of content and metadata, a collection of elements to describe that content, and a set of controlled vocabularies listing the values for those elements.</p> <p>Metadata is an exceedingly broad category of information covering everything from an article's country of origin to the fonts used in its layout. PRISM's scope is driven by the needs of publishers to receive, track, and deliver multi-part content. The focus is on additional uses for the content, so metadata concerning the content's appearance is outside PRISM's scope. PRISM focused on metadata for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General-purpose description of resources as a whole • Specification of a resource's relationships to other resources • Definition of intellectual property rights and permissions • Expressing inline metadata (that is, markup within the resource itself). | | |
| Rights coverage | Explicitly covers Usage Rights | | |
| ARROW type | Metadata schema | Application | |
| Strengths | | | |
| Weaknesses | From an ARROW point of view, the major weakness is that (so far as we know) it is not used anywhere for book metadata. | | |

| | | |
|------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Name | Resource Description and Access | |
| Acronym | RDA | <i>Reference</i> |
| Governance | AACR Committee of Principals | |
| URL | http://www.rdaonline.org/ | |
| Status | Draft (November 2008) Release 1.0 expected November 2009. | <i>Implementation</i> n/a |
| Availability | A full draft was made available in November 2008. The first formal release 'is to be made available online,' and is currently due for publication towards the end of November 2009. | |
| Description | <p>"RDA is the new cataloguing standard that will replace AACR2 in 2009. RDA goes beyond earlier cataloguing codes in that it provides guidelines on cataloguing digital resources and a stronger emphasis on helping users find, identify, select and obtain the information they want."</p> <p>"The Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA is responsible for developing RDA. The JSC consists of representatives from six major Anglo-American cataloguing communities. These include the American Library Association (ALA), the Australian Committee on Cataloguing (ACOC), the British Library (BL), the Canadian Committee on Cataloguing (CCC), the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP), and the Library of Congress (LC)."</p> <p>RDA is built on two conceptual models developed by IFLA; Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR) and Functional Requirements for Authority Data (FRAD). The development process recognises that libraries operate in a digital, web based environment and that they wish to exploit strengthening relationships with data creators and users outside the library sector.</p> <p>See also: AACR2, FRBR</p> | |
| Rights coverage | | |
| ARROW type | Cataloguing rules | <i>Application</i> |
| Strengths | Built on sound conceptual model foundations | |
| Weaknesses | Still in development. Regarded with some scepticism within the library community perhaps partly because of the time in development and partly because it represents such a seismic shift from the past. | |

| | | | |
|---------------------|---|-----------------------|-----|
| Name | Resource Description Framework | | |
| Acronym | RDF | Reference | N/A |
| Governance | World Wide Web Consortium | | |
| URL | http://www.w3.org/RDF/ | | |
| Status | W3C Recommendations | Implementation | N/A |
| Availability | All W3C standards are freely available. | | |

Description

Published in its current form in 2004, RDF was developed as a language for representing information about resources on the web. RDF is defined in a series of six W3C Recommendations: Primer; Concepts and Abstract Syntax; Semantics; Vocabulary Description Language (RDF Schema); RDF/XML Syntax Specification; and Test Cases.

RDF defines both an abstract language, with defined semantics, and the means to express that language in XML. Other, non-XML forms of expression have been proposed (e.g. Notation3, Turtle) but these have not been standardised. The XML syntax has been criticised for being too verbose. RDF is in fact founded upon an extremely simple idea: that information about a resource can be represented by one or more statements, each containing just three components: a "subject", representing the resource in question; a "predicate", representing a property of the resource; and an "object", representing the value of the property. Since both subjects and objects are resources, complex statements can be built up of sequences of these "triples".

One of the simplest applications of RDF is in RDFa, a W3C standard for embedding metadata in XHTML pages. RDFa is used by Creative Commons to embed rights-related information in web pages. Adobe Systems Inc based their Extensible Metadata Platform (XMP) on a subset of RDF; XMP is used for embedding metadata in PDF and other non-text files, and the PLUS Coalition's License Data Format employs XMP to embed license information in photographs. RDF underlies ontological languages such as OWL and SKOS, as well as much of the W3C Semantic Web Activity, and is the basis of the RSS 1.0 web syndication feed language.

Rights coverage

RDF in itself is independent of any application, such as rights expression, but as indicated above, RDF is designed to enable representation of information about web resources, and has been adopted in various forms for the representation of rights-related information.

ARROW type

Knowledge representation **Application**

Strengths

Weaknesses

| | | |
|------------------------|---|--|
| Name | Search and Retrieval via URL/ Search and Retrieve Web service | |
| Acronym | SRU/SRW | Reference |
| Governance | SRU Editorial Board, hosted by Library of Congress | |
| URL | http://www.loc.gov/standards/sru/ | |
| Status | v1.2 (2007). v2.0 draft available from OASIS | Implementation Some experimental implementation |
| Availability | Specifications freely downloadable from the Library of Congress; no licence required. Some conforming tools available at http://www.loc.gov/standards/sru/resources/tools.html . | |
| Description | <p>SRU/SRW were originally conceived in 2000 as a pair of query protocols under the aegis of a project from the Z39.50 Maintenance Agency; 'Z39.50 Next Generation.' The intention was to preserve some of Z39.50's abstract query capabilities whilst substituting HTTP, SOAP and other Web protocols for Z39.50's own communications protocol. SRW is no longer presented as a separate protocol, and is now considered simply a variant of SRU.</p> <p>The Search Web Services Technical Committee of OASIS is currently working on a major revision of SRU 1.2 (and its Contextual Query Language, CQL); http://www.loc.gov/standards/sru/oasis.html.</p> <p>See also: Z39.50</p> | |
| Rights coverage | SRU does not directly address Rights. | |
| ARROW type | Distributed search | Application |
| Strengths | | |
| Weaknesses | | |

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------|---|
| Name | Topic Maps | | |
| Acronym | N/A | Reference | ISO/IEC 13250 |
| Governance | ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 34 – Document Description and Processing Languages | | |
| URL | http://www.iso.org/ http://www.isotopicmaps.org/ | | |
| Status | International Standard | Implementation | See http://www.topicmap.com/ |
| Availability | International Standards may be purchased from ISO, Geneva, or through many national standards bodies. | | |
| Description | <p>Topic Maps is a knowledge representation technology. First published as an International Standard in 2000, a second edition was published in 2002. The standard was originally based on SGML. Following publication of the second edition in 2002 it was agreed that the Topic Maps standard should be completely reorganised and re-written as a multi-part standard, and the original SGML-based syntax (HyTM) replaced with an XML-based syntax (XTM). Work on seven parts of the new standard is in progress, with three parts published so far. Work is also in progress on two related standards: a Topic Maps Query Language (TMQL) and a Topic Maps Constraint Language (TMCL). A Technical Report is also being prepared, to show how Dublin Core metadata can be expressed using Topics Maps.</p> <p>A topic map represents knowledge as a collection of statements about topics, which are labels representing abstract subjects. Statements may contain associations between topics and may identify occurrences of these topics in actual resources. Statements about topics may be scoped in order to define the limits of their validity. Topics, associations and occurrences may all be typed. A subject may have an identifier, which should be a URI that enables the subject to be unambiguously identified.</p> <p>There are a number of commercial and open source implementations of Topic Maps and systems using the technology are in live use within businesses in several countries. While the technology has not matured and spread as fast as other knowledge representation technologies, such as RDF, Topic Maps continues to have its devotees among implementers and users, especially in Norway and Germany.</p> | | |
| Rights coverage | Metadata, including rights-related metadata, can be expressed using Topic Maps, but the standard does not specify any particular way in which this should be done. The Technical Report on expression of Dublin Core metadata using Topic Maps is likely to shed some light on this. | | |
| ARROW type | Knowledge representation | Application | |
| Strengths | | | |
| Weaknesses | | | |

| | | |
|------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Name | UNIMARC | |
| Acronym | UNIMARC | <i>Reference</i> |
| Governance | IFLA Permanent UNIMARC Committee (PUC) | |
| URL | http://www.unimarc.net/ | |
| Status | Update 5 (2005) | <i>Implementation</i> |
| Availability | Update 3 (2000) freely available online; Update 5 (2005) available in print for purchase from Saur Verlag. | |
| Description | <p>The Universal MARC format, UNIMARC, was created by IFLA in 1977 ‘with the primary purpose of facilitating the international exchange of bibliographic data in machine-readable form.’ Although intended for international exchange, the format has actually been adopted as the national format in a number of countries including France, Italy and Russia.</p> <p>Like MARC21 and other variants of MARC, the UNIMARC record structure is an implementation of ISO 2709, still expressed using an opaque set of short codes.</p> <p>The core Bibliographic capabilities of UNIMARC are supplemented by three further UNIMARC formats to handle Authorities information (UNIMARC/A), Classification and Holdings. Although drafts of the Classifications and Holdings formats were disseminated in 2000 and 1999 respectively, they have yet to be formalised.</p> <p>See also: MARC, MARC21, UNIMARC/A, marcXchange</p> | |
| Rights coverage | Various pieces of information relevant to determining Rights may be encoded within a MARC record. For example, UNIMARC’s 7-- ‘Intellectual Responsibility Block.’ | |
| ARROW type | Metadata schema | <i>Application</i> |
| Strengths | | |
| Weaknesses | | |

| | | |
|---------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Name | UNIMARC/Authorities | |
| Acronym | UNIMARC/A | <i>Reference</i> |
| Governance | IFLA Permanent UNIMARC Committee (PUC) | |
| URL | http://www.unimarc.net/ | |
| Status | Second Edition (2001) | <i>Implementation</i> |
| Availability | UNIMARC/Authorities, Second Edition (2001) available for download from http://archive.ifla.org/VI/8/projects/UNIMARC-AuthoritiesFormat.pdf | |

Part of IFLA’s ‘Universal MARC Format,’ “the UNIMARC Authorities Format was designed to allow the creation of authority records where the authorized forms of an entity name (person, corporate body, title, subject ...) and references (see and see also) to other forms of the name, could be accommodated so as to control access points in a database.”

Although principally intended for international data exchange, UNIMARC has actually been adopted as the national format in a number of countries including France, Italy and Russia.

See also: MADS, UNIMARC

Rights coverage n/a

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| ARROW type | Metadata schema | <i>Application</i> |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|

Strengths

Weaknesses

| | | | |
|------------------------|--|-----------------------|--|
| Name | Uniform Resource Identifier | | |
| Acronym | URI | Reference | IETF RFC 3986 |
| Governance | IETF, IANA | | |
| URL | ftp://ftp.rfc-editor.org/in-notes/pdf/rfc/rfc3986.txt.pdf | | |
| Status | IETF RFC (2005) | Implementation | 66 schemes registered at IANA; many irrelevant to the content industries |
| Availability | By registration of a scheme at the official register of URI scheme names maintained by IANA, at http://www.iana.org/assignments/uri-schemes , using the IETF specification. | | |
| Description | <p>NOTE: as noted by W3C and IETF (in RFC 3305), there is fundamental confusion as to the relationship of URL, URN, and URI. This cannot be easily rectified as there are two incompatible views, irretrievably confused in documentation (which in addition is poorly version controlled); the W3C web site is lamentably out of date on the topic. The following gives the common consensus as far as it exists; but if there is a misunderstanding due to incompatible views, one must determine which view is used. The main problems are (1) confusions re identifier, representation, and access mechanism; (2) lack of appreciation of identifier usage outside the WWW; (3) identifier use for non-digital referents; (4) not perceiving the web as only part of the internet, and the internet as only part of information. In one view, URIs have two subclasses: URN (identifying names) and URL (identifying single locations, and therefore used incorrectly in the absence of anything else as a shorthand for the identifier of the resource). In the other view, web-identifier schemes are all URI schemes, as a given URI scheme may define subspaces; some of these may be access mechanisms (e.g. "http:") whilst others may be namespaces (e.g. "urn:")</p> <p>A URI provides an extensible means for identifying a resource within the World Wide Web. Each URI begins with a scheme name that refers to a specification for assigning identifiers within that scheme; each scheme's specification may further restrict the syntax and semantics of identifiers using that scheme.</p> <p>URI is a specification, which defines (1) an implementation to access a location on a file server, commonly accessed using the http protocol though other protocols are allowed; (2) a syntax for referencing, through which e.g. ISBNs can be specified as URIs. The network path of the URI is implicitly DNS based; original URI specifications that assume the URI to be opaque have been overtaken by practical usage which assumes that the initial URI parser will look for meaningful characters (such as dot and slash).</p> <p>RFC 3305 (2002; which attempts to clarify URI,URN,URL concepts) lists as an unanswered problem: "The use of URIs as identifiers that don't actually identify network resources" (for example, they identify an abstract object, or a physical object). This is important in any semantic application. To address this, the info URI scheme (RFC 4452: http://info-uri.info) was developed by library and publishing communities for "URIs of information assets that have identifiers in public namespaces but have no representation within the URI allocation". It has a registry but is not widely used (though OpenURL adopts it and was the motivation for it). InfoURI registrations can be made by anyone, not necessarily the authority for a particular namespace (e.g. DOI is registered in the infoURI scheme).</p> | | |
| Rights coverage | Since URI is a specification for defining subspaces ("schemes"), the extent of any rights coverage is defined by a particular scheme rather than the URI specification per se. Such schemes may themselves be very wide (e.g. one such scheme is http:). | | |
| ARROW type | Identification scheme | Application | |
| Strengths | | | |
| Weaknesses | | | |

| | | | |
|------------------------|--|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Name | Uniform Resource Locator | | |
| Acronym | URL | Reference | IETF RFC 1738 |
| Governance | IETF, ICANN | | |
| URL | ftp://ftp.rfc-editor.org/in-notes/pdf/rfc/rfc1738.txt.pdf | | |
| Status | IETF RFC (1994) | Implementation | Ubiquitous on WWW |
| Availability | By registration of a DNS domain name with an ICANN approved registrar (many are available), from which URLs may be generated ad infinitum. And often are. | | |
| Description | <p>See "NOTE" under URI.</p> <p>A location address on a file server in the WWW; more recently (less clearly) redefined as “a type of URI that identifies a resource via a representation of its primary access mechanism (e.g., its network "location"), rather than by some other attributes it may have.. URL is a useful but informal concept. ...” (RFC 3305). In practice, identifies a single location, and therefore widely used incorrectly as a (mutable) identifier of the resource at that location (so two instances of the same resource at two URLs would have two URL “identifiers”). This bad practice arose from the failure to distinguish name and location in early WWW development. URLs carry semantics of the Domain Name they are based on and are therefore unsuitable as opaque identifiers; they may also be contextually qualified; and they have no associated metadata. Pervasive as the foremost mechanism for location throughout the WWW, but less useful outside it.</p> <p>Attempts to circumvent the problem of using URLs as citable identifiers by developing persistent identifier alternatives are well documented (PURL, DOI, ARK etc).</p> | | |
| Rights coverage | URLs have no requirement for associated metadata and so are unusable as serious rights identifiers ("In the complete absence of any testimony (metadata) regarding an association, a would-be identifier string is a meaningless sequence of characters. To keep an externally visible but otherwise internal string from being perceived as an identifier by outsiders, for example, it suffices for an organization not to disclose the nature of its association": John Kunze). | | |
| ARROW type | Identification scheme | Application | |
| Strengths | The identification scheme for resolving locations World Wide Web. Billions of instances in use. | | |
| Weaknesses | Identifies a location, not the resource at that location. Non persistent. | | |

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------|---|
| Name | Uniform Resource Name | | |
| Acronym | URN | Reference | IETF RFC 2141 |
| Governance | IANA, IETF | | |
| URL | ftp://ftp.rfc-editor.org/in-notes/pdf/rfc/rfc2141.txt.pdf | | |
| Status | IETF RFC (1997) | Implementation | 40 registered schemes, variable and limited implementation. |
| Availability | By registration of a scheme with IANA at http://www.iana.org/assignments/urn-namespaces , using the IETF RFC specification | | |
| Description | <p>See "NOTE" under URI.</p> <p>A specification for defining names (identifiers) of resources for use on the internet. Locations are assumed to be independent of names. RFC 2141 defines (1) a formal registration process as a urn namespace, and (2) accompanying specifications to implement a series of functional requirements for such namespaces.</p> <p>Any existing identifier may be specified as a URN: e.g urn:isbn:123456789; such identifiers may be implemented using a specially written URN plug-in and resolved to URLs: functionally this gives nothing beyond that achieved by coherent management of the corresponding URLs.</p> <p>URN architecture assumes a DNS-based Resolution Discovery Service (RDS) to find the service appropriate to the given URN scheme. However no such widely deployed RDS schemes currently exist: browsers cannot action URN strings without some additional programming in the form of a "plug-in". These carry no guarantee of ready interoperability with other deployments, which may require a different plug in for each implementation and may use conflicting data approaches.</p> <p>The set of URNs, of the form "urn: nid: nnnnnn", is a URN namespace. ("nid" is here a URN namespace identifier, not a "URN scheme", nor a "URI scheme.")</p> <p>The official IANA list of registered NIDs at http://www.iana.org/assignments/urn-namespaces. It lists 40 registered NIDs; many of these are not widely used as URNs (e.g. ISSN, ISBN).</p> | | |
| Rights coverage | None as design - but could be applied to an existing identifier with "rights" scope. Since URN is a specification for defining namespaces, the extent of any rights coverage is defined by a particular namespace rather than the URN specification per se. | | |
| ARROW type | Identification scheme | Application | |
| Strengths | Provides a framework for other identification schemes to be used on the WWW. | | |
| Weaknesses | In practice has not been widely implemented. | | |

| | | |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Name | The Virtual International Authority File | |
| Acronym | VIAF | Reference |
| Governance | OCLC in a collaborative project with LoC, DNB and BNF | |
| URL | http://www.oclc.org/research/projects/viaf/ and http://viaf.org/ | |
| Status | Research project in progress | Implementation N/A |
| Availability | Access to search the VIAF in beta is available at http://viaf.org/ | |

Description From the OCLC website:

"The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek, the Library of Congress, the Bibliothèque nationale de France, and OCLC are jointly conducting a project to match and link the authority records for personal names in the retrospective personal name authority files of the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek (dnb), the Library of Congress (LC), and the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF).

- OCLC has proven software for matching and linking authority records for personal names.
- That software will be used to match the authority records from The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek and the Bibliothèque nationale de France to the corresponding authority records from the Library of Congress.
- Once the existing authority records are linked, shared OAI servers will be established to maintain the authority files and to provide user access to the files."

While VIAF is not in itself a standard, nor a project designed to create a standard, it provides the potential underpinning for a standard name identifier (such as ISNI). Some experiments have already been undertaken to match rights management records (from ALCS) with VIAF, and these have proved to be promising in delivering a high proportion of matches.

Rights coverage Authority files have only limited direct bearing on rights issues, although to the extent that they authoritatively identify the death date of an author, this can provide guidance on whether a specific work is beyond its copyright term.

| | | |
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| ARROW type | Authority | Application |
|-------------------|-----------|--------------------|

Strengths

Weaknesses

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|------------------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Name | Web Services | | |
| Acronym | WS, SOAP, REST | Reference | See Description |
| Governance | W3C, OASIS, IETF | | |
| URL | http://www.w3.org/2002/ws/ – http://www.oasis-open.org/specs/ | | |
| Status | Various | Implementation | N/A |
| Availability | All W3C Recommendations, OASIS Standards and IETF RFCs are freely available. | | |
| Description | <p>"Web Services" is a portmanteau term for a collection of standards and less formal specifications that define the use the web communication protocol HTTP to enable automated access to processes running on remote servers anywhere on the Internet. Web services are an example of "client-server" computing in which an automated client sends a request message to a remote server and receives a response message in return.</p> <p>There are two competing approaches to the delivery of web services. The first, represented by most of the formal standards in this area, involves the use of XML messages in accordance with the W3C Recommendation for the Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP). Building on the basic message formats for service requests and response defined by SOAP, W3C and OASIS have between them defined a large number of supporting standards for diverse range of add-on services, including: service definition (WSDL); service discovery (UDDI); service security (WS-Security); service distributed management (WSDM); reliable messaging. All these standards build upon W3C SOAP and the W3C XML technology stack.</p> <p>The second approach is much less formal, and is frequently referred to as REST (acronym for REpresentational State Transfer). Advocates of this approach claim that there is no need for a complex messaging format for requests and responses, and that the same results can be achieved using pre-existing Internet messaging and security standards such as HTTP, HTTPS and SSL. An important principle of REST is that the client making the request should not need to know anything about the internal details of the service in order to make a request.</p> <p>Both approaches are widely implemented in e-commerce and other distributed applications.</p> | | |
| Rights coverage | Web service standards do not specifically cover rights communication, but a web service can deliver data of all kinds, including rights metadata. | | |

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|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| ARROW type | Messaging protocol | Application |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|

Strengths

Weaknesses

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|------------------------|--|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Name | Extensible Markup Language | | |
| Acronym | XML | Reference | XML 1.0 (Fifth Edition) |
| Governance | World Wide Web Consortium | | |
| URL | http://www.w3.org/TR/xml/ | | |
| Status | W3C Recommendation | Implementation | N/A |
| Availability | All W3C standards are freely available. | | |
| Description | <p>XML is a highly successful standard for representing structured data in a serial, plain text-based format. It was developed during the mid-90s as a simplified dialect of ISO 8879:1986 Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML), specifically for use in web applications, although it is now used much more widely. XML is the basis of many other domain-specific standards for representing structured data of all kinds, from e-commerce transaction formats (e.g. UBL, EDItX) and product metadata (e.g. ONIX) to web syndication feeds (e.g. Atom), complex scientific and technical text and drawings (e.g. MathML, SVG), communication protocols (e.g. SOAP), office file formats (e.g. ODF and OOXML) and programming languages (e.g. XSLT).</p> <p>The XML standard effectively defines two things: basic rules of syntax for the construction and use of markup tags, that all XML applications must follow; and a Document Type Definition (DTD) language for specifying schemas for sets of XML tags for specific applications. The DTD language is slowly being superseded by other schema languages, but is still widely used, especially in publishing applications.</p> <p>The current (fifth) edition of XML 1.0 is intended to replace both the fourth edition of XML 1.0 and XML 1.1. XML 1.1 aimed to provide better support for Unicode in XML, especially for Chinese, Japanese and Korean applications, but was widely criticised for being technically flawed. There is still controversy about publication of the fifth edition, because it contains new material which many implementers consider to be "breaking changes", i.e. existing software implementations won't be able to process correctly all Fifth Edition documents.</p> | | |
| Rights coverage | XML is a generic data representation language and does not specify or recommend any particular approach to the expression of rights information. | | |
| ARROW type | Data representation | Application | |

Strengths

Weaknesses

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|------------------------|---|-----------------------|---|
| Name | Information Retrieval : Application Service Definition & Protocol Specification | | |
| Acronym | Z39.50 | Reference | ANSI/NISO Z39.50:2003 |
| Governance | Z39.50 Maintenance Agency, % The Library of Congress | | |
| URL | http://www.loc.gov/z3950/agency/ | | |
| Status | Z39.50:2003 defines v2 and 3 | Implementation | Widespread use in commercial library systems. Limited adoption elsewhere. |
| Availability | Specifications freely downloadable from NISO and the Maintenance Agency. Functionally equivalent ISO 23950 available to purchase from ISO. | | |
| Description | <p>Z39.50 defines a pre-Web client-server protocol for search and retrieval of information held in remote databases. Most widely used in querying library systems, there has also been some limited adoption in Government and the Environmental community.</p> <p>Z39.50 permits complex queries across diverse underlying databases via an abstracted query syntax that removes the requirement for searchers to understand the structure of the target databases.</p> <p>Significant variations in vendor implementation of Z39.50, combined with ambiguity in the mappings between database indices and Z39.50's abstract terms make searching multiple sources less straightforward than the Protocol's authors intended. Efforts such as the Bath Profile (maintained by Library & Archives Canada) seek to remove some ambiguity by explicitly defining a limited set of common bibliographic queries and the manner in which conformant systems should handle them.</p> <p>SRU/SRW replace Z39.50's own communications protocol with HTTP, and seek to provide some of Z39.50's power in a manner more suited to the Web environment. See also: SRU/SRW, GILS</p> | | |
| Rights coverage | Z39.50 does not deal directly with Rights. | | |

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|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| ARROW type | Distributed search | Application |
| Strengths | | |
| Weaknesses | | |