INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

WORLD LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CONGRESS

77th IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE, SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO – 13-18 AUGUST 2011

IFLA Namespaces Task Group

Notes of meeting

Meeting: Monday, 15 August 2011

Present: Emmanuelle Bermes, Leda Bultrini, Anders Cato, Charlene Chou, Gordon Dunsire (Chair), Elena Escolano, Massimo Gentili-Tedeschi, Francoise Leresche, Pat Riva, Barbara Tillett.

Apologies: Mirna Willer.

Observers: 17.

The meeting noted changes of IFLA Section representation by members; see **Appendix A**. All members confirmed their contining membership of the Task Group.

Progress on the Bibliographic Standards core activity

The meeting noted the new information from Patrice Landry, outgoing Chair of the IFLA Professional Committee, that it had been decided to set up an IFLA Standards Committee, to which the Namespaces Technical Group would report. This process would take time, so the Namespaces Task Group would continue to act in a caretaker role.

Although no immediate need for funding for the Task Group was identified, the meeting recognized that it might be necessary to seek funds to respond to the needs of a rapidly changing technical environment.

Action: The Chair of the Task Group to prepare a short text outlining the situation and asking the Sections represented on the Task Group, and the Professional Committee itself, to be prepared to respond to unexpected requests for funds to assist the Task Group in its work.

Action: Members of the Task Group to discuss the matter with appropriate Sections and standards groups.

Issues with current namespaces

The Chair informed the Task Group of the current status IFLA namespaces.

MulDiCat is published in the IFLA namespace, and can be de-referenced because it uses hash URIs. Its intended use as a master vocabulary for IFLA bibliographic standards was noted.

Action: The Task Group to review the use of the MulDiCat vocabulary in other IFLA namespaces, and if necessary to develop a project to improve synchronisation between MulDiCat and other IFLA bibliographic namespaces.

The basic FRBRer namespace is maintained and published in the Open Metadata Registry (OMR). An RDF/OWL version of the FRBRer ontology is available from the IFLA namespace, but de-referencing services for slash URIs are still in development by the IFLA Web master.

Action: To invite the IFLA Webmaster to become a memb er of the Task Group.

A recent FRBR - CIDOC CRM Harmonization meeting has asked for the FRBRoo namespace to be published by IFLA. This work is ongoing.

The ISBD namespace is also maintained and published in the OMR. Publication in the IFLA namespace is awaiting the development of de-referencing services.

The FRAD and FRSAD namespaces remain in development in the OMR.

Parts of the ISBD and FR family namespaces have been translated into Spanish and Croatian. This work has identified a number of issues that should be addressed during future translations of IFLA namespaces. The Chair of the Task Group and the "outgoing" Chair of the ISBD Review Group have been liaising with a Spanish research team investigating multilingual issues in the Semantic Web, and are co-authors of a paper to be presented at the DC-2011 conference in September.

Action: The Task Group to produce guidelines for the translation of IFLA bibliographic namespaces, based on discussion at the DC-2011 conference and elsewhere.

Linking between IFLA namespaces

The meeting noted ongoing work to link appropriate elements of FRBR and ISBD, and work on consolidating the FR family of models which would be reflected in the FRBRer, FRAD, and FRSAD namespaces.

Linking IFLA classes and properties to other namespaces

The meeting discussed the benefits of linking elements of IFLA bibliographic namespaces to related namespaces published by other communities.

Links between ISBD and RDA will be discussed at a meeting of the Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA with the ISBD Review Group in November 2011.

Links between relevant namespaces and Dublin Core Terms will be discussed at a Vocabulary Management and Alignment special session during the DC-2011 conference in September. Chairs of relevant IFLA Sections and standards groups have been invited to attend this meeting.

[Subsequent to the Namespaces Task Group meeting, the Classification and Indexing Section agreed to support the attendance of the Task Group Chair at the DC-2011 special session.]

Liaison with IFLA Semantic Web Special Interest Group

The Chair of the Task Group and the Convenor of the new Semantic Web SIG had agreed to avoid overlap in the agendas of meetings during IFLA 2011. The Chair of the Task Group has contributed slides outlining the current status of IFLA namespaces to a presentation to be given to the first meeting of the SIG.

The meeting agreed to continuing liaison with the SIG.

Action: The Chair of the Task Group and Convenor of the SIG to monitor the development of the SIG and ensure cross-representation between the groups.

Report of the W3C Library Linked Data Incubator Group

The meeting noted the draft final report, and encouraged members to review and make comments to the Incubator Group before the deadline of the end of August 2011.

Discussion of the work of the Incubator Group is on the agenda of the Semantic Web SIG meeting.

National bibliographies and linked data

The Chair outlined the need to avoid unnecessary duplication of URIs for instances of bibliographic resources, and to reduce costs of minting and maintaing such URIs by smaller libraries. He suggested that national bibliographic agencies had a significant role to play, by minting and publishing URIs for resources described in national bibliographies. Triples linking resource URIs to standard identifiers would allow libraries to identify resource URIs from the resource in hand.

Action: The Bibliography Section to be asked to review and update, if necessary, the IFLA statement on universal bibliographic control.

Action: The Chair of the Task Group to prepare and circulate a text on the potential role of national bibliographic agencies in the creation and maintenance of resource URIs to improve the efficiency of production of library linked data.

Action: The Bibliography Section to be asked to consider further action on the role of national bibliographic agencies in the Semantic Web, specifically in the creation and maintenance of resource URIs.

Gordon Dunsire
Chair, IFLA Namespaces Task Group
September 2011

Appendix A: Members of the Task Group

Name	Institution	Representing
Emmanuelle Bermes	Centre Pompidou	Information Technology Section
Leda Bultrini	ARPA Lazio	
Anders Cato	Gothenburg University Library	Cataloguing Section
Charlene Chou	Columbia University	Bibliography Section
Gordon Dunsire	Independent	Classification & Indexing Section
Elena Escolano	Biblioteca Nacional (Espana)	
Massimo Gentili-Tedeschi	Biblioteca Nazionale Braidense	ISBD Review Group
Lynn Howarth	University of Toronto	Classification & Indexing Section
Francoise Leresche	Bibliothèque nationale de France	ISBD/XML Study Group
Sally McCallum	Library of Congress	Knowledge Management Section
Pat Riva	Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec	FRBR Review Group
Barbara Tillett	Library of Congress	Bibliography Section
Mirna Willer	University of Zadar	ISBD Review Group