**IFLA Namespaces Technical Group**

**Update – 15 December 2012**

**Meeting at IFLA conference**

The Technical Group met on 13 August 2012 during the IFLA conference in Helsinki, Finland. The meeting was attended by 12 members and 20 observers. The draft minutes of the meeting [http://www.ifla.org/files/assets/classification-and-indexing/namespaces/namespaces-tg-meeting-2012.pdf] are available on the IFLA website.

The meeting agreed on two specific actions for 2013:

- develop draft generic guidelines on using and extending IFLA namespaces.
- investigate the issues of constrained and unconstrained namespaces.

Matters arising since the meeting include:

- 4.3.1: G. Dunsire submitted a report on issues and options for the MulDiCat (Multilingual Dictionary of Cataloguing) namespace to A. Cato and chairs of related IFLA standards groups in August 2012.
- 6.1: Permanent UNIMARC Committee, with the assistance of G. Dunsire and M. Willer, submitted a proposal to the IFLA Professional Committee for funding for a two-year project to develop a representation of the UNIMARC bibliographic and authority schema in a form suitable for publishing linked data based on the schema and interoperating it with linked data using other schema, to start in 2013. G. Dunsire met with project consultants P. Perožić and M. Willer in November 2013 to discuss the methodology.
- 8.1: The action was included in the proposal for funding enhanced support for IFLA namespace activities in 2013.
- 9.1: The action was included in the proposal for funding enhanced support for IFLA namespace activities in 2013.

**Presentations at IFLA conference**

G. Dunsire gave invited presentations on the work of the Technical Group to two sessions during the Helsinki conference:

- Applications of IFLA namespaces [http://www.gordondunsire.com/pubs/pres/SWSIG2012Namespaces.pptx], presented at the Semantic Web Special Interest Group open session. The full set of presentations [http://www.slideshare.net/Figoblog/semantic-web-special-interest-group-meeting-ifla-wlic-2012] is a useful introduction to the range of activities of IFLA and its members in linked open data and the Semantic Web.
- IFLA namespaces [http://www.gordondunsire.com/pubs/pres/IFLANamespaces2012.pptx], presented at the Committee on Standards open session.

**Funding for 2013 and beyond**

The Classification and Indexing Section, on behalf of the Namespaces Technical Group and in collaboration with the Cataloguing Section, submitted a proposal in October 2012 to the IFLA Professional Committee for funding for enhanced support for IFLA namespace activities as a one-year project for 2013. The proposal covered development of linked data vocabulary management facilities in the Open Metadata Registry, together with training materials, to support multilingual and interoperable Semantic Web vocabularies for IFLA standards. These facilities and training are required to coordinate and support specific namespace activities agreed separately by seven IFLA groups:

- Develop draft generic guidelines on using and extending IFLA namespaces during 2013 (Namespaces Technical Group).
- Investigate the issues of constrained and unconstrained namespaces during 2013 (Namespaces Technical Group).
- Develop a multilingual demonyms vocabulary for indexing by explicit indicators of nationality, ethnicity, language, chronology, category of creator, audience, or geography; e.g. "baby-boomers", "Glaswegians", "Latinos", etc. (Classification & Indexing Section)
- Develop multilingual management procedures for MulDiCat (Cataloguing Section)
- Support for multilingual maintenance of the MulDiCat, ISBD, and FR namespaces (Cataloguing Section)
- Development of mappings from MulDiCat to IFLA namespaces (Cataloguing Section)
- Transfer of the object-oriented representation of the FR models from CIDOC-CRM management infrastructure to the IFLA namespace in the OMR for ongoing maintenance (FRBR Review Group)
- Development and maintenance of mappings from FR family to consolidated model (FRBR Review Group)
- Development of guidelines for translating ISBD namespaces, based on Namespaces Technical Group guidelines (ISBD Review Group)
- Modelling of ISBD-FRBR semantic alignments to support discussion on relationships between ISBD and the FR family of models (ISBD Review Group)
- Implementation and publication as linked data of ISBD-RDA mapping approved by Cataloguing Section in 2012 (ISBD/XML Study Group)
- Implementation and publication as linked data of ISBD-RDA/ONIX Framework mapping approved by Cataloguing Section in 2012 (ISBD/XML Study Group)
- Development of unconstrained ISBD namespace and mappings (ISBD/XML Study Group)
- Development of UNIMARC namespaces and mappings with ISBD (Permanent UNIMARC Committee)

The Professional Committee subsequently asked G. Dunsire to prepare a longer term strategic plan for the Namespaces Technical Group, indicating anticipated funding requirements, prioritized goals and deadlines, and a schedule of anticipated meetings, along with a reporting structure to include the Professional Committee for coordination with the Standards Committee, and the IT Manager at IFLA HQ. The plan, covering the next three years, was submitted by the deadline of 19 November 2012. There was insufficient time to discuss the plan with Technical Group members.

The Professional Committee's decisions on these submissions are expected early in 2013.

**IFLA namespace metadata**

It is hoped that the IFLA namespaces will be included in a test of the Asset Description Metadata Schema (ADMS) [http://joinup.ec.europa.eu/asset/adms/description] using the Open Metadata Registry, to be carried out early in 2013. This will involve IFLA standards groups supplying more information or metadata about element sets and value vocabularies. G. Dunsire will liaise with the groups when necessary. ADMS is based on the IFLA FRBR and FRAD models, and its approach to multilingual considerations is close to that of IFLA.

**ISBD translations**

An ad hoc encounter at the Helsinki conference resulted in the use of the new Italian translation of the ISBD consolidated edition to add Italian translations of the ISBD area 0 terms, definitions, and scope notes to the ISBD value vocabularies [http://iflastandards.info/ns/isbd/]  in the Open Metadata Registry, with "published" status. The other published translations are in Croatian and Spanish.

Other translations of ISBD area 0, in Bulgarian, Chinese, Latvian, Russian, and Serbian, have also been added to the Registry, but will remain in "new-proposed" status until they have been checked by translation teams.

**DCMI Vocabulary Management Community**

Recent Vocabulary Management Community email [https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?A0=DC-VOCABULARY] discussion threads relevant to IFLA namespaces include "Life-cycle statuses for RDF vocabularies" and "Vocabulary extension".

**Library of Congress BIBFRAME project**

The Library of Congress report "Bibliographic Framework as a Web of Data: Linked Data Model and Supporting Services" [http://www.loc.gov/marc/transition/pdf/marcld-report-11-21-2012.pdf] uses IFLA's "Functional requirements for bibliographic records : final report" as an example of a MARC 21 record represented by the BIBFRAME model. FRBR itself is discussed as a related library initiative, but unfortunately the data model and serialization information is incomplete, and lacks any reference to the Functional Requirements namespaces. The ISBD element set is listed as being used by the British Library and Deutsche Nationalbibliothek, but is not mentioned elsewhere in the report.

Gordon Dunsire
8 December 2012