

**LEWG Face-to-Face Meeting
December 18-19
Boston, MA**

Submitted by: Alicia Wise, Publishers Licensing Society

I'm writing to share some highlights of the meetings that took place this week in Boston at the Ex Libris office, and will follow up with a complete set of notes in the New Year. Others who attended the meetings may, of course, wish to highlight other aspects of discussions and I certainly hope they will do so. All who attended agreed that the face to face meetings – besides being very congenial and enjoyable – were extremely productive, and we made more progress in two days than it has been possible to achieve via email over the last six months. Hurrah for good old fashioned communications!

On Monday a small group met to progress a mapping of the ERMI and ONIX schemas. As a result of discussions there will be changes to both ERMI and ONIX in the handling of information about authorized users, uses, pricing, term and termination, and perpetual access & archiving. In addition to tweaking definitions in these areas, we also investigated ways to make the encoding of information more precise. For example, how to distinguish when a yes means “yes, there is text in the licence about this subject” from “yes, this right is explicitly granted in the licence” from “yes, this right is implicitly granted in the licence”. We also discussed ways to transform messages from the ONIX structured format to ERMI's more generic usage-plus-note-field structure, and back again. More work will now take place on these issues.

On Tuesday a slightly larger group met to investigate what ERM systems and vendors want from licence expression. Their requirements are clearly informed by what it is their library customers want, and unsurprisingly – given the diversity and range of the library community – different customers have different requirements. All library customers want some relief from the onerous task of entering licence information into their systems, want to create reports to clarify what it is they can do with their collections, and want to improve communication with end users about what it is they can do with collections. Some library customers are interested in two-way electronic communication with publishers and having a final XML version of the agreement committed to their ERM systems. Consortia customers also want to be able to transmit this information to their library members in a way that facilitates its onward transmission to end-users. We investigated some shared tools that might be helpful to those implementing licence expression formats, and began a discussion about licence identifiers.

We also revisited and reaffirmed some basic guiding principles to the collaborative development of licence expressions. For example, messages are intended for two-way communication (e.g. publisher to library AND library to publisher) in the rights supply chain, and also that the licence expressions are not intended to inform technological protection measures (i.e. the controversial subset of digital rights policy management).

Last, but certainly not least, we discussed the importance of improved communication and transparency of this important development work. As a result there will be more regular progress updates to you, and we'll also begin work on a non-technical document and presentation intended to be used by all members of the Licence Expression Working Group who wish to communicate about these developments with colleagues. All comments, suggestions, words of encouragement, or more active engagement is very welcome!

With best wishes for a festive and relaxing holiday season,

Alicia