

ONIX-PL status report

ONIX Licensing Terms development

During the past three months there have been important developments in ONIX Licensing Terms applications, particularly in relation to the international network of Reproduction Rights Organizations, which proposes to use OLT as the basis for communications formats for rights delegation between national agencies. This work has led to some generic extensions to OLT structures from which ONIX-PL will benefit.

ONIX-PL editing tools

In July the ONIX team delivered a report to JISC (the Joint Information Systems Committee of the UK Higher Education Funding Councils) on the requirements for ONIX-PL editing tools, based on consultations with both publishers and representatives of the UK library community. We are circulating copies of the Functional Requirements document which was the main deliverable, together with reports of the outcome of consultations. Funding has just been confirmed to enable BIC, together with a third-party developer, to create a set of ONIX-PL editing and maintenance tools, as open-source software suitable for use on a wide range of platforms.

ONIX-PL development

Partly because of the demand for other OLT applications, and partly because some aspects of the next stage of ONIX-PL development must go hand-in-hand with the detailed design of the editing tools, recent work on the format has been limited to a partial, and still unpublished, implementation of the additional requirements that emerged from consultations with publishers and others. These do not affect the underlying structures of the published Draft 0.9.18, but they involve the introduction at the top level of much clearer distinctions between a license and its XML expression, and a “license template” (an expression of a model license, either generic or particular to an individual organization), a “license expression” (an authorized expression of an individual license) and a “license interpretation”.

With the go-ahead for the development of ONIX-PL editing tools, the next step will be to complete and publish a new draft of the specification and schema, which is scheduled for very early November, and will be made available to LEWG.

ERMI/ONIX mapping

Work began in mid-August on a detailed investigation of the issues involved in mapping between ERMI and ONIX-PL. A first draft of a partial mapping was prepared in September. After some initial discussions by correspondence, it was felt that a detailed face-to-face session would be a more effective way of taking the work forward. A two-day session involving ERMI representatives, members of the ONIX team and a number

of library system suppliers, is planned for December, in preparation for which a more complete draft mapping is in course of preparation.

Nomenclature

It is proposed that ONIX-PL be renamed from “ONIX Publisher License” to “ONIX Publications License”, to recognize more clearly that the format is intended to meet the needs of all parties involved in the licensing and use of published resources.