



**IFLA Cataloguing Section's ISBD Review Group  
Status report of activities: 2004-2005**

***Second General Review Project:***

The object of the "Second General Review Project" is to bring the ISBDs into conformance with provisions of the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records that define the basic-level national bibliographic record. To date, three ISBDs have been revised and republished, two more are expected to be revised and republished this year, and work has begun on additional one, as indicated in the table below:

<b>Name of ISBD:</b>	<b>Status:</b>
ISBD (M)	2002 revision published on IFLANET.
ISBD(CR)	2002 revision published by Sauer and on IFLANET.
ISBD(G)	2004 revision published on IFLANET.
ISBD(A)	Study Group appointed; draft for worldwide review in preparation
ISBD(ER)	Worldwide review conducted; Cat Sect SC voting resulted in issues to be discussed and resolved during the Oslo 2005 Conference
ISBD(NBM)	Preparation of revision postponed while Consolidated ISBD is drafted.
ISBD(CM)	Worldwide review conducted. Ready for submission to RG Fall 2005, assuming resolution of issues related to ISBD(ER) (noted above).
ISBD(PM)	Preparation of revision postponed while Consolidated ISBD is drafted.

ISBD(Component Parts)	An electronic version of the 1988 edition was published on IFLANET in Sept. 2003.
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As noted, this year **ISBD(ER)** was forwarded to the Cataloguing Section's Standing Committee for balloting. Although the overwhelming majority approved the document, one vote dissented, raising issues that the Review Group decided should be discussed and resolved during its Oslo meetings. A draft of **ISBD(CM)** was also submitted for world-wide review, and comments have been processed; however, provisions related to those in dispute regarding ISBD(ER) need to be settled before proceeding further, and these will come before the Review Group in Oslo.

The outstanding issues are as follows :

Area 3 must be discussed again. It was discussed by the Study Group on Future Directions in Frankfurt (see below), but decided that this area must be considered by the Review Group as a whole. Area 3 for electronic cartographic material, serials, and music presentation statement would not be issues, but only terms such as "electronic program", "electronic data", and "electronic game", for example, that could be taken care of in the GMD and area 5. For those who want to use area 3, it could be left as an optional element, but many cataloguers already do not use area 3.

Area 5 must also be discussed again. Although there is apparent agreement that the default should be no area 5 for remote-access electronic resources, there are communities that feel strongly that an option should be allowed to use an SMD equivalent to that for print resources. Also, since area 5 is considered to include "extent", the number of files and/or size could be included here. For direct access electronic resources, the default would be to record the number of physical units of the carrier, but give the option for those communities that wish it, to give in addition to the physical carrier an appropriate term taken from area 5 for the type of material; e.g. "450 maps on 3 CD-ROMs". In these communities, it is considered important to users of the catalogue, and add to, or provide, the ability of the user to identify and/or select the resource.

Regarding **ISBD(A)**, the chair of the Study Group, Gunilla Jonsson, reports :

"The group has made a very thorough study of the ISBD(A) rules, also taking into consideration other rule revisions that are currently underway. The revision has been more comprehensive than anticipated, and it has obviously been difficult for all members to always meet the deadlines for commenting. The members of the group have now reached agreement on most proposals for changes, but two main hurdles remain to be removed. They concern to which extent alternative descriptive methods should be allowed in transcription and in area 4.

"We have gone out to a wide network of correspondents twice to get advice as to the general acceptance of our proposals. This exercise has shown exactly the same kind of

split that we have within the group. My conclusion is that we must try to accommodate these differences within the framework of the rules.

“I do foresee that we will eventually resolve them, but it will not happen before August, and when we have agreed on the prescriptions, an editorial revision is necessary to bring the phrasing in internal consistency as well as in consistency with other ISBDs.

At this point of time, I aim for finishing the process and having a version ready for world-wide review before the end of this year. ”

### ***Study Group on Future Directions of the ISBDs***

The Study Group on Future Directions of the ISBDs met 28-30 April 2005, in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. The participants were Françoise Bourdon, John Byrum (chair of the ISBD Review Group), Elena Escolano-Rodríguez, Renate Gömpel, Lynne Howarth, Dorothy McGarry (chair of the SG), Eeva Murtomaa, and Mirna Willer.

Before this meeting, there had been agreement on the feasibility of a consolidated ISBD. The Deutsche Bibliothek had arranged to have matrices of each area prepared to collocate the same areas from each ISBD. Working from that basis, the SG members had refined the matrices to collocate elements within the areas from all of the ISBDs.

Some major changes were discussed in Frankfurt, with agreement on the general outline to be followed for each area. Some of the changes agreed on, for recommendation to the RG: the structure should be changed; present stipulations will be fit into the new structure; some changes will be made due to the need to generalize wording; the GMD should be moved from after the title proper to another location; published (validated) versions will be used as the basis on which to work at the first stage; changes to stipulations can be made at the next stage as thought to be needed.

The members of the SG indicated areas of the description on which each would work following the Frankfurt meeting in order to prepare for the next steps in the process of preparing a consolidated ISBD. Matrices of the provisions in each element and area in the seven ISBDs and in some cases the ISBD(G) are being prepared for the Oslo meeting, showing the current stipulations, with suggestions for alternate wording for merged, general stipulations and specific stipulations for various types of materials. As part of this work, a tentative text for a consolidated version is being prepared for each area, although not all areas are finished as yet. Comments on each area are to be contributed by each SG member to the person who is preparing the area. The SG will meet twice during the Oslo conference in order to consider priorities and procedures for the next stage (August 15, 13 :00-15 :30 and Aug. 18, 8 :30-11, both sessions to be held in Radisson SAS Plaza Hotel, Ekeberg Room).

Following the current stage, if the RG agrees with the direction we propose and approves our proceeding with a consolidated ISBD, the SG will prepare a further text including changes to stipulations, eliminating discrepancies, and updating provisions for those materials that have not been revised, in order to improve the text by bringing in

new ideas and consideration of the needs of cataloguers and users of the catalogue. This work can be done largely by electronic mail. The SG will meet again, for three or four days, some time in 2006 in order to come to agreement on wording and concepts and to prepare for the final editing that would lead to submission of a consolidated version to the Review Group, assuming provision of partial funding. It is anticipated that a version could be ready for world-wide review late in 2006, with a final version prepared for a vote in 2007.

A fuller report of this Group's activities accompanies this document.

### ***Material Designation Study Group***

This group, chaired by Lynne Howarth, will be dealing primarily with questions deriving from the ISBD Future Directions Study Group. It will meet once during the Oslo2005 conference: Monday, August 15, 2005, 11:15-13:15, Radisson SAS Plaza Hotel, Room Oslofjord II. Nomenclature and structure of terminology for General and Special Material Designations are among the topics to be discussed.

### ***ISDB Series Study Group***

This group is in the final stages of completing its work. The issue remaining is related to a re-wording of paragraph 6.1.1. A proposal was forwarded to the ISBD Review Group that elicited several comments and concerns, which are in process of being resolved. The Series Study Group does not plan to meet during the Oslo Conference.

### ***AACR3/RDA***

The Review Group continues to monitor postings to the Joint Steering Committee's internal Web site to follow the progress of development of AACR3, now to be renamed *Resource Description and Access*. The Review Group expects to receive a report regarding progress from the JSC chair in time to discuss it during Oslo.

### ***INVITATION***

The ISBD Review Group will meet twice during the Oslo Conference: on Sunday August 14, 13:00-15:30 and on Thursday August 18, 12:00-14:00. Both sessions will be held in the Radisson SAS Plaza Hotel, Room Oslofjord. Interested parties are welcome to attend and participate.

Submitted by John D. Byrum, Chair  
August 3, 2005