



# IPTC Mirror

**IPTC - INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FOR NEWS**

## Immediate Commitments - Future Plans

**While the main focus of the Nice Spring Meeting was on continued extension and refinement of the established standards to meet identified needs, first steps were also taken towards the planning and development of a fully integrated family of IPTC Standards**

At the start of the Meeting, Standards Committee Chairman Stéphane Guérillot (AFP) informed members that this was the first one to benefit from the new procedure introduced at the Autumn 2002 Meeting. A conference call of the Working Party Chairman had been held before the meeting, with one of the aims being to establish a work programme that would lead to some convergence of the current - and planned - IPTC standards.

Previously standards work had been progressing on parallel tracks, now the aim was to harmonise the standards and introduce a degree of commonality to give a consistent IPTC brand. Overall the aim of the steering session had been to provide guidance on the next years work, as well as establishing the approach to be taken for the Spring Meeting itself. Unfortunately

some of the Working Party Chairmen had been unable to attend the Meeting, but there were suitably briefed volunteers to ensure progress was maintained.

At this stage the main intention was to try to establish the principles to be followed, these would probably include the introduction of more formal project management. It had become clear that Schemas were becoming more important and one agreed aim was for Schemas to be adopted as the reference form for IPTC standards, with DTDs being made available as a secondary form.

A second Standards Committee session at the end of the Meeting reviewed progress made by the various Working Parties and formally approved the release of SportsML V1.0 (subject to completion of the documentation) and additions to the Subject Reference Session.

### Standards Roadmap

To maintain the momentum behind development of an integrated family of IPTC Standards, a meeting of Working Party Chairman was held in Washington at the end of April. Standards Committee Chairman Stéphane Guérillot (AFP) explained that the overall aim was to make the adoption of IPTC standards easier and widen support in the Media industry as a whole.

He said that the meeting had been very productive and that the group have identified a lot of work to be done, this includes the standards themselves but extends to the guidelines and rules for communication, as well as establishing a suitable time frame. Following approval by the Working Party Chairmen the intention is that results of the meeting will be presented to the membership as the first item in the agenda for Aarhus.

In order to finalise the roadmap the Standards Committee are looking for feedback from members in such areas as current implementation of the standards, the benefits and drawbacks. Information is also wanted on any constraints members can see in implementing new evolutions - for example, difficulties with including NewsML in their business case, or in managing NewsML in their editorial or information management systems.

To help this process a survey questionnaire will be produced for circulation and supplemented with interviews and discussions. It is seen as particularly important that IPTC members take some time to complete the survey and express themselves on how they see their own use of the standards in the future and what constraints there may be on their implementations and/or support.

### Contents

#### Technical Sessions

<b>Standards Committee</b>	<b>P1</b>
<i>Standards convergence, SportsML V1.0 approved.</i>	
<b>Standards Roadmap</b>	<b>P1</b>
<b>Special Content</b>	<b>P2</b>
<i>Weather Data</i>	<i>P2</i>
<i>RadioTVNewsML</i>	<i>P2</i>
<i>SportsML</i>	<i>P2</i>
<b>PR Committee</b>	<b>P2</b>
<b>EventsML</b>	<b>P3</b>
<i>Work programme started</i>	
<b>News Management</b>	<b>P3</b>
<i>Guidelines reviewed, development of News Profiles.</i>	
<b>NewsML Support</b>	<b>P4</b>
<i>New guideline documentation proposed, namespaces, validation.</i>	
<b>News Metadata</b>	<b>P5</b>
<i>Substantial SRS additions, procedure modifications, SRS development, translations.</i>	
<i>World Regions</i>	<i>P6</i>
<b>News Industry Text Format</b>	<b>P6</b>
<i>Handling ANPA legacy fields</i>	

#### Presentations

<b>Microsoft Word and XML</b>	<b>P3</b>
<b>Metadata structures</b>	<b>P4</b>
<b>nm-fusion Content Management</b>	<b>P4</b>
<b>GammaWare News Edition</b>	<b>P5</b>
<b>NetMedia 2003 Conference</b>	<b>P6</b>

*This PDF version of the IPTC Mirror has active links to both the content and to external web sites. Clicking on the red links - Standards - will take you to the appropriate page, while the blue links - [www.iptc.org](http://www.iptc.org) - will attempt to open your browser and connect to the appropriate site.*

Discussions during the Meeting had also made further progress in defining the aims for future work. The initial target is to produce a NewsML V2.0, which will act as the core for a family of IPTC standards. This would involve development of the Beta Version for October 2004, allowing the Spring 2005 meeting to deal with final validation and ensure that the documentation and examples are completed ready for launch.

Working Party Chairmen will act as project members with their involvement in current activities helping to ensure proper co-ordination of the various efforts and to maintain the focus on specific IPTC objectives

First steps include definition of the precise goals, the time frame; and the resources needed to do the work. Once a roadmap has been drawn up the membership will be asked to comment, and vote, on the proposals.

It is also appreciated that there is a need to take account of related activities in other areas. For example this might involve making use of appropriate standards, and making sure that other organisations want to work with IPTC and have a proper appreciation of the work being carried out. However it was seen as important that work should be clearly aimed at meeting specific IPTC objectives.

## Special Content

**S**teady progress continues in the investigation, development and adoption of systems for handling specific types of con-

tent, with Henrik Stadler (TT) taking the chair for this session. The high level of interest in events listing had led to a separate EventsML Working party being set up to deal with it (see below). A watching brief is being kept on the activities of other organisations working in such areas as financial data and press releases, but there did not seem to be a lot of new developments to report on this occasion.

### Weather Data.

A brief outline of the way the Swedish News Agency TT handle weather data was provided by Johan Lindgren (TT). Data has been provided by the Swedish Meteorological Office in an XML format since 2001 and this allows automated processing, eliminating a lot of the manual processing previously required. It is generated from a database and the information received by TT is restricted to that needed by their customers - such as daily and weekly forecasts, temperature and winter snow levels.

This led on to a review of the need for IPTC to undertake work on a general WeatherML. On one hand it looks as if a number of bodies (such as National Meteorological Offices) will continue to provide data using their own standards. For example this is the case in the United Kingdom and in Sweden, while the Hong Kong Observatory are planning to release a Schema in June 2003 which will have XML data in a NewsML format.

On the other hand there are a number of commercial organisations that provide weather data to publishers, so there would

appear to be a need for some form of standard data, while some members would like to take feeds from a number of sources and normalise them to a common standard for use.

After some discussion it was agreed to establish a subgroup to take a more detailed look, with the points to be investigated including: what do IPTC members want in the way of weather markup (both publishing and commercial requirements); are there any appropriate existing standards being used by meteorological organisations; and what would be the probable timescale for adopting/developing a suitable standard. It is hoped that an interim report will be ready for the AGM.

### RadioTVNewsML

An update on the RadioTVNewsML system was provided by Motoyasu Mise (NSK). He explained that it was proving rather difficult to find a suitable name that was not already in use, although a number of suggestions had been made - it was suggested that if possible the final name should be descriptive and have a degree of consistency with NewsML and SportsML. Subsequent discussion in the PR Committee lead to a suggestion of ProgramGuideML, but further checks are needed to ensure that the name is not already in use.

Work to develop a NewsML based listings system started at the end of 2001, partly because Kyodo News were beginning to develop NewsML services. There was a lot of activity leading up to the Spring 2002 Meeting (in Paris) where there was a major presentation of the project but subsequent development has been slower. However, Tokyo News have a test system in development and are planning to formally start a delivery service using the standard at the end of this year. Initially the service will run in parallel with the existing system. The NITF has been adopted as the text format for the system.

Further development is planned - input from outside NSK would be particularly valuable - with the aim of producing a final proposal for possible adoption and release later in the year. The current version is mainly intended for newspaper applications, but a presentation system for web sites is being worked on.

### SportsML

A draft SportsML V1.0 was released at the Autumn 2002 Meeting and was successfully promoted at the Sports Media Exhibition in New York. A number of trial systems are in use, and there are now more than 90 members of the SportsML newsgroup, with more than half having joined since release of the draft SportsML V1.0.

Some cleaning and refinement of the

## PR Committee

**P**lans for a press release to cover the formal release of SportsMLV1.0 were discussed with the release date to be confirmed when the documentation has been finalised. Other items that might be covered in a release include the launch of the EventsML project, and the continuing development of the Subject Reference System.

Delegates were informed that member PR Newswire have generously offered to circulate IPTC Press releases without charge, while efforts will be made to try and further widen the distribution. Given the wide recognition of the SRS it was decided that the Management Committee should be asked to investigate the possibility of registering it as a trademark.

The Japanese working group, in association with other members, suggested that ProgramGuideML would be a suitably descriptive name for the RadioTVNewsML system and this was generally considered to be appropriate. However, a check on the name - along with probable abbreviations such as PGML and PRGML - will have to be carried out before it is formally adopted.

A paper has been prepared by the Managing Director, Michael Steidl, to outline proposals for a relaunch of the IPTC website. These were prompted by a desire to improve the presentation of IPTC's work (considered particularly important with the plan to move towards a new family of standards) and to make it easier for users to find specific information. There was general agreement that this would be valuable and a small group was formed to look at the proposal and establish the requirements for the redesign.

Standard has been undertaken over the past months and planned activities include: checking and completing the documentation; work on further examples; improvement of the tutorial, improvements to the marketing and promotion efforts; production of a guideline for adding new sports; and looking at the production of further sports-specific DTDs. In addition a phone meeting of the group is planned to consider use of the standard for coverage of the 2004 Olympics. However the draft version is not seen as needing any more work and a proposal to move SportsML version 1.0 to the Standards Committee for approval was adopted.

Sports ML is the first Special Content markup developed for use with NewsML (though it can also be used as a stand-alone system). To some extent experience with the project has helped to highlight the need for overall guidance of such projects by the Standards Committee. There is a need for well defined goals at the outset and particular attention has to be paid to the use of a common approach and to the interaction with other Standards. However, it is appreciated that this is not something that can be retrospectively applied to the current release of SportsML. In the longer term it may be appropriate to move towards the production of revised and fully compatible versions of Special Content Schemas which might take the form of NewsML plugins.

## EventsML

Since the group had come together after the formal end of the Autumn 2002 Meeting, the first action was to formally confirm the appointment of the Chairman - Dominic Chan of Canada Newswire. However Dominic had been unable to attend the meeting so the first session was chaired by

Johan Lindgren. The original aim of the Working Party had been agreed in Amsterdam and was to investigate a language that would address such things as planned news events, forthcoming elections or other matters anticipated in the future.

Preliminary work has included the production of a summary of the requirements specified by a number of members, and a draft specification. Both of these are available on the EventsML mailing list - (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/eventml-dev/>) - registration is needed to access the information. In the specification the purpose of project is stated as being to create an XML model to describe an Event that is not regularly scheduled, such as a TV show.

In this an Event is described as something that will take place at a predetermined time (and date) and that has a short life. Typical usages could include: daybook publishing (to provide information to interested parties about events such as news conferences or event planning); and as an editorial assignment tool, for publishing event information and associated data. It should be possible to incorporate the information into NewsML, and to use the model in a stand-alone mode.

There already seem to be a variety of existing packages used for the representation of event data, with examples given including: vCalendar and iCalendar, two closely related systems for Personal Data Interchange (PDI) and xCal, which is an XML DTD that conforms to the iCalendar specification. Development of iCalendar is being undertaken by the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) and the skiCal (Structured Knowledge Initiative Calendar) initiative aims to improve the information infrastructure of public events by promoting the use of iCalendar.

Subsequent discussion centred on

whether there was a real need for IPTC to develop its own system, given the existing initiatives. While there are advantages in adopting existing approaches where possible - such as comparability and the availability of tools - and any system adopted has to meet the specific needs of the news industry.

Accordingly, it was decided that the next step would be to develop a more comprehensive set of requirements and investigate the features of existing approaches to see if they can meet members needs. Work will be carried out using the EventsML mailing list and members (or other interested parties) willing to make specific contributions should contact Dominic Chan.

## News Management

An updated version of the News Management Guidelines has been produced, but distribution problems meant that not all members had been able to review the revised version before the meeting. Working Party Chairman Stuart Myles (Dow Jones) explained that the Guidelines added nothing new to the standard but were intended to pull together the items needed for news implementation.

In addition typical applications scenarios are looked at - from both the viewpoint of the information provider and of the information user. These scenarios are: No Archive (total replacement); Write Through; and Manipulation using Update Replace and Delete functions. However the scenarios are not an explicit part of NewsML, but intended to help implementers. During this review Stuart made the point that there were a lot of facilities within NewsML and that putting the Guidelines together had proved useful in developing his appreciation of the versatility of the available news management features.

## Microsoft Word and XML

Ray Stevenson who described himself as a "technical evangelist" for Microsoft provided a brief outline of the integration of XML in Word 2003 - which is planned for release later this year. Although this information is for the Beta 2 version of Word 2003 it is not anticipated that there will be any major changes.

The new version of Word is described as having full XML integration in specific areas - it is possible to open, modify and save XML documents using Schemas that are compliant with the W3C specifications. Documents can be validated against the Schema and XSLT transformations can be applied during file-open and file-save operations.

It is possible to save the complete document in XML format

or just the XML data (which can subsequently be moved back into a Word document with the appropriate format).

Provision is made for managing elements and attributes, while images can be saved within the XML using base64 encoding. However, saving to XML has to be selected, with the default remaining the Word binary format,

Overall the impression among members was that this development looks to be a powerful tool that could be useful for some applications.



Ray Stevenson

A straw poll showed that a majority of the members present who had implemented NewsML systems had also implemented some form of news management.

There was some discussion of the reasons for not allowing management of content. A major factor is that NewsML is a container that makes no distinction between content types and it is not possible to update all possible types. In addition content management would introduce a further level of complexity and difficulty, while the capacity of modern telecommunication systems make total replacement relatively easy.

It was agreed that steps would be taken to ensure that the draft Guidelines were distributed to all members for further comments - consideration would also be given to making the draft available to a wider audience (possibly via the IPTC Web site).

Attention then turned to NewsML Profiles. These appear to be needed because NewsML has a lot of optional features and profiles may be used to indicate which features are being used for a specific service. Ken Wolf (Business Wire) outlined work he has undertaken to investigate possible general purpose mechanisms for this purpose. Although the work is continuing it looks as if the most appropriate approach would be to adopt an XML Schema definition with re-definition so that some optional elements and attributes (of NewsML) can be excluded, and others made required. Similar functionality could be achieved with DTDs, but the Schema approach allows formal

## Metadata structures

There is increasing interest in the possibility of incorporating other metadata structures in NewsML (this is under investigation by the NewsML Support Working Party) and Laurent Le Meur provided a brief overview of some relevant technologies. One of the most important is RDF (Resource Description Framework) and he explained that the W3C consider that RDF is central to the Semantic Web ([www.w3.org/RDF/](http://www.w3.org/RDF/)). RDF is based on a model for describing named properties and property values and it appears to offer a lot of power, but at the price of being complex. If IPTC decides to make use of RDF there are ways of overcoming the complexity, but at the moment it may not be appropriate to expect users to handle RDF data, especially since the existing TopicSet structure is straightforward to implement and appears to be well accepted.

However, RDF is starting to be more widely adopted. For example the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative ([www.dublincore.org/](http://www.dublincore.org/)) is developing interoperable online metadata standards and work has been undertaken to encode the metadata in RDF (<http://dublincore.org/documents/2002/04/14/dcq-rdf-xml/>).

Similarly Annotea ([www.w3.org/2001/Annotea/](http://www.w3.org/2001/Annotea/)) is part of the W3C Semantic Web effort and is intended to allow attachment of annotations to Web documents. It uses a RDF based annotation schema for describing annotations as metadata.

Adobe's eXtensible Metadata Platform (XMP) (<http://www.adobe.com/products/xmp/main.html>) is a labelling technology that lets users embed data about a file in the file itself. It is already supported by a number of Adobe applications and available under an open source licence.

validation.

## NewsML Support

Chairman Laurent Le Meur reported that, following approval and release of NewsML V1.1 at the Autumn 2002 Meeting, there were a number of outstanding issues to be dealt with.

NewsML has a rich set of feature, many of

which are optional, and dealing with them can create problems for both information providers and system implementers, and the NewsML News Agency User Guidelines are intended to help provide a uniform approach. However, the existing Guidelines have undergone steady growth and increased in complexity, including both basic information and details on specific features

## nm-fusion Content Management System

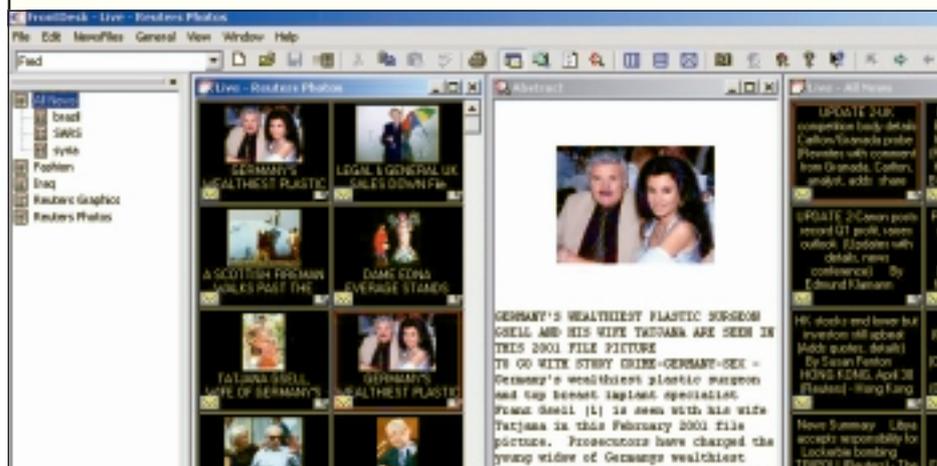
Transtel are a UK based company who started producing software based news management systems about ten years ago. News Agencies form an important part of their customer base and their systems can handle most European languages as well as Arabic with Unicode support.

The nm-fusion News Content Management System is a modular, PC based, application suite for news reception and transmission that can handle up to 256 news feeds and is said to be fully compatible with IPTC standards including NewsML,

the NITF and older 8-bit codes.

Extensive editorial features are available, including transaction tracking and the system can be used in unattended mode for automatic reception and retransmission of selected items.

See [www.transtel.com](http://www.transtel.com) for further information.



Top right: Fred Hanley, Transtel Managing Director gave a presentation on the nm-fusion system at the Nice Meeting. Left: the "Front Desk" user interface can handle a range of multimedia files including pictures, graphics, text, audio and video, Thumbnails of each media type are created for display and users can create profiles to suit their applications.

in a single document. Because of this there now seems to be a need to take a fresh approach with the production of one, or more, documents which should help encourage the wider use of NewsML.

An outline contents list for a first documents providing detailed explanations for new users has been produced. The basic Guideline would be complemented by an "Expert Zone" series concentrating on specific technical issues - the hope is that these would be contributed by users with specific expertise in the area. This proposal met with general approval, but it was suggested that since the Guidelines would be primarily intended for technical users there was also a need to provide (separate) information on the business case for NewsML adoption, along with a general explanation of what NewsML is, and does.

Approval (by the Internet Engineering Task Force) of the proposed format for a IPTC namespace had not yet occurred, but consideration was given to ways of dealing with Version changes to the standards. Changes could be made either at minor version changes (for example NewsML V1.1) or left until there was a major change where backwards compatibility could be lost (NewsML V2.0). After some discussion of the implications of these approaches it was agreed that assistance should be sought from an expert in the namespace area.

Some problems had been encountered by members trying to validate XML instances with composite Schemas. It ap-

pears that these were mainly due to the software being used (XML Spy V5.0) and the vendors have been approached to see if they have a solution.

Other (generally technical) points considered included the coding of multilingual news; formats for naming standards and documentation; application of "Location" metadata; the handling of other metadata structures within NewsML; inclusion of vCard (personal data interchange) data; and the syntax for DefaultVocabulary-For/@Context.

In a new development the Working Party Chairman circulated a brief summary of the points raised to the broader NewsML discussion group to let them know the direction development was taking and to seek additional comments on specific points.

## News Metadata

Main activity of the News Metadata Working Party was the continued extension of the Subject Reference System (SRS) and the Nice session reviewed one of the first proper applications of the 'Fast Track' process for consideration of additional Subject Detail codes. This was a substantial set of around 200 entries which had been produced by UPI as a result of an analysis of their output (they also found that there was another substantial group of SRS terms that were not used in UPI output).

Consideration of this application by the Jury had resulted in a number of changes to the original submission, and these had

been taken into account in the version presented to the Working Party. A second UPI submission, with three further proposals, had also been approved. Although the UPI proposal were accepted - having been properly presented and considered by the Jury according to the agreed procedure - there was a view that it would be advisable to restrict future use of the process to allow more detailed consideration of the individual entries. Accordingly it was agreed that future 'Fast Track' submissions would be limited to a maximum of 20 items at a time (for a given session).

A request had also been made by the Swiss Agency SDA/ATS for a number of additional entries to the Sports section. Unfortunately there were no explanations for the entries - partly because they had been derived from the German language usage, while explanations for the SRS have to be in English. Although there was an appreciation of the problems associated with the production of proposals in such circumstances it was decided that SDA should be asked to re-submit their entries with the required information. This was carried out following the meeting and the proposals - now with explanations - re-circulated as NMA 0307a. The Subject Qualifier and Subject Details in this proposal are being dealt with under the 'Fast Track' procedure while the Subject Matter entries may require further consideration.

Another series of proposals had been submitted by the Croatian News Agency HINA. These had been identified following

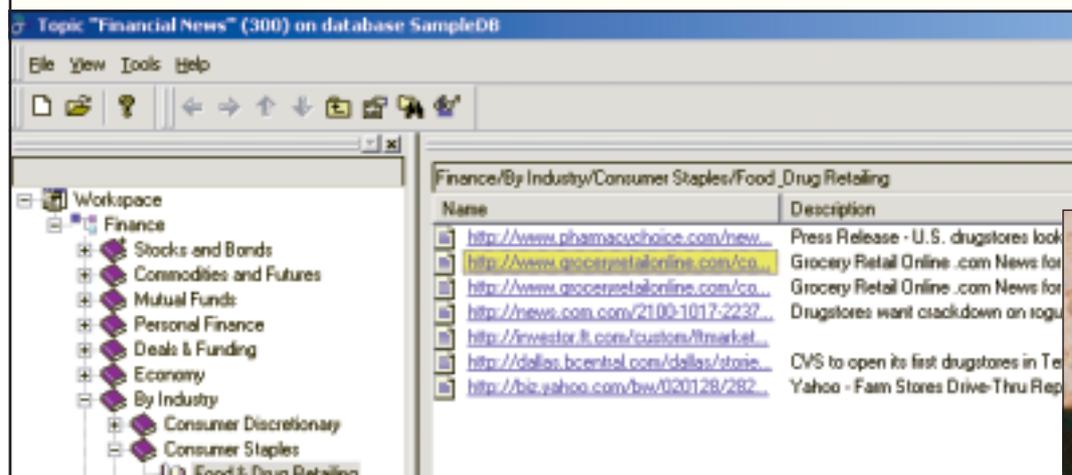
GammaWare News Edition ([www.gammasite.com](http://www.gammasite.com)) uses a combination of human judgement and machine learning to establish a taxonomy for automatic categorisation of unstructured news stories. Stories can also be tagged with appropriate metadata such as categories, keywords and links to related articles.

The user interface allows editors to see the reasons for a classification decision and allow fine tuning as required. An XML API is included to allow easy integration with other systems for on-line categorisation as stories are produced, while batch processing allows high throughput rates - for example with

## GammaWare News Edition

archives.

Pre-trained taxonomies are generally easier to adopt and GammaWare News Edition offers full support for the IPTC SRS. However every language needs to have appropriate training for the taxonomy and to help promote adoption of the IPTC SRS GammaSite are looking for news agency partners who will undertake the training individual languages.



*Alon Men (below) from gammasite provided a demonstration of the GammaWare News Edition system (left).*



an update of the HINA editorial system and dealt with areas that appeared to be missing. Most of the suggestions were for Subject Matter headings, and were referred to a sub group for more detailed consideration (following revision these entries have now been resubmitted ready for consideration at the AGM session).

During discussions the point was made that there appeared to be some inconsistency in the name being used for the SRS - in some cases it was being called the Subject Reference System and in others the Subject Reference Scheme. It was agreed that the proper name is the Subject Reference System, and that care should be taken to ensure that this name is used in future.

Increasing interest in, and use of, the SRS means that attention has to be given to further development of the system, and Working Party Chairman John Minting outlined some of the points that needed consideration. He believed that for a taxonomy to be useful it had to evolve. One way this could be done was by maintaining the system with around the current number of entries and encouraging individual members to create their own extensions to meet specific needs. Alternatively the core system could be allowed to continue expanding in response to members requirements.

There was general agreement that this was a complicated subject, but the SRS has become something that IPTC is well-recognised for and so needs careful handling. In addition there seems to be value in maintaining the SRS as a universal standard to ensure that information from different sources has the same meaning. During initial development one of the aims was to keep the system relatively simple as it was anticipated that coding would be human based.

Although increasing use is now being made of machine categorisation it still seems important that the system should continue to be on a scale that can be understood by human users. It seems that a system with about 1000 terms might be a good compromise, being large enough to allow reasonable detail, but still manageable with manual coding.

However, the SRS in its present form may be approaching its limits, so there may be a need for IPTC to start looking at other ways of describing content. A possible approach would be to use a form of faceted approach where subjects are described by their properties. Whatever approach is adopted, the general principle remains that the system

developed should be primarily based on user needs - rather than available technology.

The SRS is maintained in English and translated into other languages for use. Alternative procedures (proposed by Michael Steidl) for handling the non-English versions were presented to the Working Party for consideration. One option is to maintain all language versions in a single reference XML file with stylesheets to present the individual language versions and maintain the file. Alternatively the reference English version and the other language versions could be maintained as separate files with a stylesheet to check the integrity of the translated versions against the reference.

The need to manage production of translated versions was also considered This should be done under IPTC control and ideally individual members (or a group of members working together) would take responsibility for specific translations.

## News Industry Text Format

Unfortunately the Working Party Chairman (Alan Karben - Pinnacor) had been unable to attend the Meeting and Charles Tichnor (AP) stood in at short notice, though some of the planned items - NewsML URN and possible V3.2 updates - had to be deferred to the next session (in Aarhus at the AGM).

A number of modifications suggested by AP were looked at. One was to allow multiple <headline> elements, to give alternate

## World Regions

Discussions during, and after, the Nice Meeting resulted in a list of world regions that are seen as best meeting the needs of the news industry. The way these regions may be used, and to some extent which country falls into which region, will probably be left to individual users. Subject to approval it is intended that the list will become an IPTC TopicSet for use with NewsML and other IPTC formats. The proposed regions are:

- Europe
- Africa
- Middle East
- Asia
- Oceania
- Antartica
- North America
- Caribbean
- Central America
- South America

headlines (of equal importance) for a given story. It was decided that doing this would need a mechanism to differentiate between the headlines and a formal proposal will be prepared for consideration.

Help was sought on the best way to handle a series of legacy ANPA fields in the NITF without using a lot of meta tags. In some cases it appears that the fields may be present in the NITF in an expanded form, but if these are not always suitable it might be appropriate to introduce a generic ANPA field.

## NetMedia 2003 Conference and Awards

**Both the 9th annual NetMedia conference and the 5th European Online Journalism Awards events are being held in Barcelona, Spain, on 3 July.**

NetMedia is an annual event examining the ways digital technologies are changing journalistic and media practices, and brings together leading journalists and media managers from the US and Europe to share their experiences and knowledge of current developments. This year the conference focuses on the key issue of how to make online news services pay for themselves.

The European Online Journalism Awards (EOJA) were the first awards in the world to honour the work of those who write for the Web as well as the first pan-European digital media awards. They are open to all European journalists and the judges are drawn from leading European media houses and journalism schools.

The 2003 Conference and Awards are being organised in partnership with the European Journalism Centre, the European Federation of Journalists, the University of Pompeu Fabra, the Col.legi de Periodistes de Catalunya, the Grup de Periodistes Digitals and the Centre Internacional de Premsa de Barcelona. Media partners are Lavanguardia, El Pais, El Periodico and Avui., while sponsors to date are Yahoo! Europe, EDS, Neilsen NetRatings, and Ajuntament de Barcelona.