



IPTC Mirror

AGM Working Sessions

Although development efforts have been concentrated on the new News Architecture, consideration has also been given to the existing standards, with the Annual General Meeting seeing approval for a number of maintenance releases.

Opening the working sessions, standards Chairman Stéphane Guérillot (AFP) reminded delegates that the Roadmap 2005 had been drawn up in 2003, with the aim of presenting the new standards family at the 2005 Annual General Meeting. However extension of the scope of the project - to include development of a new news architecture - had resulted in some slippage.

Roadmap 2005

An updated roadmap 2005 had been distributed - this sees the first of the new standards - NewsML2 and EventsML - being ready for roll out in June 2006 (with the 2006 AGM being held in early July).

A lot of work had been carried out since the last meeting, including delivery of the News Architecture Implementation Guidelines. These guidelines form the foundation for implementation of the News Architecture, and so for the new generation standards.

It was important for the AGM

working sessions to build on the results already achieved, and provide a starting point for the next series of actions - which would lead to a fresh series of results for consideration at the Autumn Meeting.

Participation

Michael Steidl reminded the meeting of the importance of members participating in the work, as only a small group - of no more than 15 individuals - had been taking part in the regular conference calls and contributing to the discussion forums.

The request for members to contribute to the work was emphasised by the Chairman, who said that all IPTC work was carried out on a voluntary basis, but the arrangement of weekly conference calls made it technically easy for members to participate.

A schedule for all of these conference calls is provided on http://www.iptc.org/membersonly/schedule_main.php along with details on how to take part.

Summary

Standards Committee

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News Content Working Party

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NewsML 1 Maintenance Working Party

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NewsCodes Working Party

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NITF Working Party

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IPTC Meetings

Autumn Meeting 2005 24 - 26 October

Milan, Italy

Hotel: Capitol Millenium

27 October

Meeting with the Press Operations Managing Director and the Telecommunications Director for the Olympic Winter Games 2006 in Torino. Visit to the media centre.

Transport will be arranged and it is anticipated that delegates will return to Milan at around 1700.

Bookings for the Autumn Meeting are due by Monday 19 September 2005 - the booking form is in the "Members Only" section of the IPTC Web site (<http://www.iptc.org/membersonly/meetings/mo-booknextmtg-form.php>).

2006 Meetings

Spring Meeting

27 - 29 March 2006

Vancouver, Canada

Booking in January 2006.

Annual General Meeting

2 - 6 July 2006

Vienna, Austria

Hotel Bristol

Autumn Meeting

16 - 18 October 2006

Madrid, Spain

Approvals

In the concluding Standards Committee session (after the various Working Parties had completed their work) a number of Motions for adoption from the Working Parties were approved as follows:

- SportsML 1.6, and the Motor Racing plug-in. Both of these approvals were subject to the documentation being finalised before the standards were released.
- NITF 3.3, subject to a number of agreed changes to ensure that the DTD will validate properly.
- A series of modifications to the NewsML 1 functional specification.
- Generic male and female subject qualifiers and additional Subject-Matter headings for the NewsCodes. Some of the SubjectMatter additions involved deprecation of an existing heading and following discussion it was agreed that the deprecated codes would be retained but clearly marked as deprecated, with the reason for this action. In addition it was agreed that the Chair of the NewsCodes Working Party would look into the process to be used for proposing and approving the deprecation of NewsCodes.

IPTC brand

Consideration is being given (by the Management Committee) to establishing a "brand" for IPTC that will provide a consistent image for the new family of exchange standards - this will also help differentiate the new standards from NewsML 1 and the NewsCodes. The intention is to use a new name, but this has yet to be established (an initial choice was found to be already registered as a trademark).

Work is also under way to define an Intellectual Property Policy for IPTC.

Colour Space Task Force

Following a presentation from Manfred Werfel of ifra (see panel) the Standards Committee established a Colour Space Task Force - under Harald Löffler (ifra) to study current practice at member news agencies and recommend appropriate ways of retaining colour space information.

IPTC Core for XMP

An update on the IPTC Core for XMP initiative was provided by Michael Steidl. Formal rollout had

Image metadata for optimal print production

In a presentation to the Standards Committee at the AGM, Manfred Werfel, Research Director of Ifra, described the approach being taken to colour management by the newspaper industry.

Colour management based on standardised printing is now widely accepted. Ongoing projects have helped to standardise the production process, and advertising workflow is being covered, so attention is now turning to news photos.

Typically news agencies provide RGB images, generally with an undefined colour space, and the image processing software offers a choice of colour spaces. This means that there is no consistency in the colour rendition, and to provide a solution Ifra have investigated available RGB colour spaces and concluded that the best current compromise is Adobe RGB.

However, a better approach is to make use of the already existing EXIF (Exchangeable Image File) camera data - this is an extensive set of metadata that is used by all digital cameras, and includes colour space information. This data allows a degree of automatic image correction and optimisation (for example in photo printers) and the concept can be applied to any printing process.

Use of EXIF data would close the loop between the photographer and the final output device (which could be print, web or mobile display) and help ensure consistent image reproduction. To do this IFRA are asking news agencies if it is possible for them to preserve the camera EXIF data and transmit it with their pictures.



Manfred Werfel

taken place at Nexpo (USA) in March and the at the News Standards Summit (Europe) in May, and there had been a significant number of downloads from the IPTC website (www.iptc4xmp.org). Initial implementation issues had been dealt with, though there were still some issues with legacy IPTC headers.

Translations of the language dependent sections of the Core specifications and the Custom Panel User Guidelines were needed, and he asked for assistance from members in dealing with this.

News Content

EventsML WG

Working Party Chairman Geoffrey Haynes (AP) explained that development of EventsML had been kept on hold so that it can be synchronised with the NAR, and the Working Group has made submissions for both metadata requirements and common components.

Work that has been completed includes the identification of properties for EventItems and AssignmentItems, along with links between EventItems and an update mechanism. Planned work includes completing the EventItem and As-

signmentItem properties and establishing how assignment information will be applied to event and news items.

Delegates were also informed that the EventsML project was starting to attract attention from potential users beyond the direct news industry - such as Public Relations organisations.

NewsML WG

As with other News Content standards, NewsML 2 will be based on the new news architecture, so only limited progress can be made until the NAR is finalised. A central concept of NewsML 2 is the NewsItem and it was explained that it had become clear that the NewsItem was a generic structure that can be used by other standards, so its development has been moved to the NAR Working Party.

SportsML

Interest in SportsML continued to grow and the Working Group Chairman Alan Karben (XML Team) told delegates (over a teleconference link) that the discussion group had expanded again. A draft SportsML 1.6 had been circulated for discussion, with changes including a number of core improvements and

a new plug-in for Motor Racing.

Additions to the core were mainly prompted by the new plug-in and include new attributes for the <site-metadata> and better support for events that occur regularly on a yearly basis. There is also a <events-stats> element to handle data relating to an event as a whole.

The Motor Racing plug-in concentrates on events like the Indy-Car Series and Formula 1 racing, and it is recognised that more work may be needed to cover other types of motor racing. As with the other six plug-ins the Motor Racing one handles data that is considered specific to the sport - such as the number of laps, speeds and caution flags, along with vehicle details like make, engine and tire used.

There was some discussion about the handling of event metadata in SportsML and the need to co-ordinate it with EventsML, but this was not considered to be an immediate problem.

It was agreed to move SportsML 1.6 and the Motor Racing plug-in to the Standards Committee for approval, but some concerns were raised about the documentation available and it was decided that this should be completed before the standards were released.

XTOSS

Alan Karben also provided an introduction to XTOSS - the XML Team Open Sports Schema. This is a relational database for sports information that will be available under the GNU General Public Licence - see www.xtoss.org.

NewsML1 Maintenance

Work carried out to prepare NewsML 1 for adoption as a Japanese Industrial Standard (JIS) identified a number of minor errors in the specification and these were reported to IPTC for action.

Following a review of the NewsML 1.2 Functional Specification, the NewsML 1 Working Party proposed a series of modifications, which were described, and adopted during the AGM session. It was also agreed to add a reference to RFC 3085 (the specification for the NewsML URN) as this had not been available when the functional speci-

fication was initially produced. The revised functional specification was approved by the Standards Committee and can be downloaded from <http://www.newsml.org>.

Kyodo News

An overview of the ways NewsML 1 is being used by Kyodo News was provided by Hiroshi Shinotsuka of the Kyodo News Systems Planning Office.

In Japan major news agencies and newspapers have adopted NewsML in accordance with guidelines developed by NSK. Work in this area is continuing with creation of the NSK NewsML Support Team, and a successful effort to have NewsML 1 adopted as a



Hiroshi Shinotsuka

JIS Standard (JIS X7201:2005) - both areas in which Kyodo are active participants.

Kyodo News have been providing a NewsML service to newspapers and Internet sites since 2003, with XML systems being system friendly and cost-effective, while NewsML has the advantage of being a well supported standard.

A large number (more than 90) DTDs have been designed for specific requirements by analysing legacy text formats and systems have been developed to allow grouping of articles and images. Current efforts include establishing the requirements for migration from NewsML1 to the NAR.

NewsCodes

Activity in the NewsCodes Working Party has been relatively low key, with only three submissions being put forwards:

- A new SubjectMatter heading *freedom of religion* under the *Religion and belief* Subject. This had been recommended by the Ad-hoc group and was approved.
- Introduction of generic gender qualifiers that can be used for subjects other than sports. To do

this the qualifiers have been added to the virtual Subject '00'. This proposal had been informally raised at the Spring Meeting, and a formal proposal was subsequently passed by the "fast track" jury.

- Additional SubjectMatter headings for *treaty* and *international organisation* under the *Politics* Subject.

This last proposal also involved deprecating the existing *treaty and international organisation* subject matter and resulted in considerable discussion as some members had made extensive use of the heading. However it was pointed out that the old code would not disappear - so existing references would remain valid - but would not be available for future use. This proposal was passed by a majority vote, with all three submissions being forwarded to the Standards Committee for approval.

Version 16 of the NewsCodes, taking in these additions and changes, is now available on <http://newscodes.org/>.

NITF

Proposals for a maintenance release NITF 3.3 had been discussed at the Spring Meeting. Modifications were backwards compatible and involved a change to the content model for 'dd' (definition data) to include enriched text, and reinstatement of the data-location attribute for the media-reference element. A brief discussion of the proposal identified a minor error in the draft DTD that was amended. The amended NITF 3.3 DTD was then moved to the Standards Committee for approval.

Working Party Chairman Alan Karben (XML Team) - who took part via a teleconference link - told members that work on the draft NITF 3.3 Schema was continuing.

News Architecture

Most of the IPTC standards development effort has been devoted to the new News Architecture and this was reflected in the AGM working sessions. A summary of the proceedings in these sessions, along with an overview of more recent developments will be given in the next issue of the IPTC Mirror.