



## Spring Meeting 2006

27 - 29 March 2006

Vancouver, Canada  
Marriott Pinnacle  
Downtown Hotel

*The booking form for this meeting will be available in January 2006.*

Party for IPTC to ask members to carry out tests using the draft News Architecture and provide written feedback (see panel on page 3). Consideration was given to the possibility of having a public test, but this was considered impractical due to time constraints.

Similarly, approval was given to a motion from the NewsCodes Working Party to approval a definition for deprecating any NewsCode topic.

### IPTC Core for XMP

Michael Steidl reported that translations for the IPTC Core for XMP have been completed for Japanese and German, and that a French translation would be available in the near future. A RDF-Schema for the core is also available.

Some requests had been received for extensions to the core - for example to include entities (such as people). It was decided that a first step should be to collate the business requirements, and see how they fitted in with the News Architecture - as it was considered important that any XMP core work should be synchronised with the other IPTC metadata efforts.

As it now appears that work on the IPTC Core will be a continuing process it was agreed to create a new Working Group under the News Content Working Party with the task of developing and maintaining the "IPTC Core Schema for XMP" and co-ordinating their work with the News Architecture Working Party.

### Colour space

The Colour Space Task Force was set up to investigate use of EXIF header information and a questionnaire was created to help establish image workflow and see where the EXIF information might be lost.

Unfortunately response to the questionnaire had been disappoint-

ing and Task Force leader Harald Loeffler (ifra) told delegates that the deadline for returning the questionnaire had been extended until the 23 December 2005 (further replies were received shortly after the meeting, but more input would be welcome). Members were also encouraged to join the IPTC colour-space discussion group - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/iptc-colourspace-dev> and take part in the work.

A report dealing with the handling and use of EXIF data - with particular emphasis on automatic processing has been produced by IFRA and a draft version of "IFRA Special Report 2.40 JPEG News Photos - Automatic Image Processing" is available through the discussion group.

## News Architecture

Development efforts remain concentrated on the News Architecture (NAR) and the NAR Working Party Chairman Laurent Le Meur (AFP) explained that this is not a IPTC standard for end users - it is a generic framework that individual standards will implement for specific applications.

Work since the AGM had involved nearly 1000 emails on the discussion group, along with two conference calls a week (totalling around 40 hours) - plus a considerable amount of individual effort in preparatory work. However, most of the effort has come from a small group of regular contributors and additional participants would be welcome.

### Achievements

Items that had been dealt with included:

- refinement of the News Structure (but with no changes to the major features as these had been stabilised);
- development of common components and establishing data types;
- a lot of work on the News Metadata Framework, including the use of consultants;
- work on the XML Syntax (implementation of the model) with a XML Schema produced by consultants being available for experimentation;
- and discussion of aspects of the processing model.

Contact with other communities - such as the W3C and Dublin core has also been maintained. These

efforts meant that the development group were close to establishing a good framework, but there were many details that still had to be decided on.

### Documents

Results of the development process will be presented in a set of documents:

**NAR Model** - what the NAR provides. This is expressed as verbal documentation complemented by UML (Unified Modelling Language) diagrams. It provides an introduction to a model for the creation of common components; a set of datatypes and common components; a conceptual model; and a metadata framework. There will be "core" and "power" conformance levels.

**NAR Technical Specification** - How NAR works in detail. Expressed as more formal verbal documentation with XML samples and including a set of datatypes, a set of common components, a set of reusable items, and the processing model associated with each component and item.

**NAR Glossary** - to supplement the Model and Technical Specification. *Note that these documents are continuing to evolve and the latest versions are available to members through the <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/iptc-news-architecture-dev> group. To conform with the brand name being adopted for the new standards family, documents for the News Architecture will be titled as "NewsML 2 Architecture".*

### Testing

Laurent went on to propose an experimental phase that would allow IPTC members to gain some experience of the NAR, testing it with "real life" use cases. This would be in parallel with the release of public drafts of the documentation and a XML Schema.

Tests would help identify practical issues that had not been found by the WP and the experience would help finalise the NAR Technical Specification.

It was intended that the experimental phase would start in December with feedback on the results due by mid-February 2006 (to allow analysis of the results before the Spring Meeting). Following discussion launch of the experimental phase was approved, with an initial group of members confirming their intention to participate.

In the longer term the aim is to have the NAR documentation



width. Feedback indicated that at least some members would require capability for partial updates.

3 - recipients need to know exactly what has changed. Such as the explanation for a total replacement, or details of a partial update.

4 - evolution of news over time. Maintain relationships between items as a story (perhaps a multi-media package) develops.

5 - updates involving referenced items. Several items might reference a photograph but what happens if the photograph is replaced. Should the provider track which stories went to which recipient and inform them of the change, or should it be the responsibility of recipients to track and apply updates?

Overall the extensive discussion of these points provided detailed information on the current practices of members, and so of the requirement that NAR news management will have to meet.

### Sports Application

As part of his SportsML presentation Alan Karben showed how the News Architecture can be used for SportsML, and included a "wish list" of possible NAR improvements. The presentation was very well received as a valuable contribution to the development process, with the "wish list" being taken into account in NAR development since the Meeting.

## News Content

### SportsML

Version 1.6 of SportsML is now available on the web site - [www.sportsml.org](http://www.sportsml.org). This version has a number of improvements and additions to the core DTD along with a new sport-specific plug-in for motor racing.

It was explained that the motor racing plug-in relies on some of the core improvements, so is not backwards compatible.

Future developments under consideration include the handling of Wintersports (for the 2006 Winter Olympics) and a plug-in for cricket. A draft XML Schema for SportsML 1.6 is also available (some customers of XML Team are already using Schemas).

### Documentation

Alan Karben (XML Team) explained that the documentation is no longer embedded in the DTD but is now in the Schema version and

he used the Titanium xs3p schema documentation generator to extract the comments (see <http://titanium.dstc.edu.au/xml/xs3p/>).

### Schema adoption

Alan went on to say that he hoped a SportsML 1.7 XML Schema - including further validation of elements and attributes - will be available for consideration, and possible approval, at the Spring 2006 Meeting. This possibility resulted in delegates giving more general consideration to the relationship between DTDs and XML Schemas for IPTC standards, and the intention to have a common Schema style.

During the discussion members were reminded that the intention is to adopt XML Schemas for the NAR as they allow more precise definition and flexibility, so there will be a need to make the switch from DTDs for existing standards.

### News markup

Laurent Le Meur (AFP) reviewed the basic principles behind news markup, which is intended as a standard for representation of general news, including articles, illustrations, and multimedia presentations.

To help ensure that it is a true interchange standard the design will encourage users to implement the same feature in the same way - this will mean that a single processor should be able to handle the output from several providers (which is not the case with NewsML 1). However there will be at least two levels of complexity with a "core" conformance level and a "power" conformance level, along with provision for provider defined extensions.

### Simple standard

The intention is that the "core" profile will be as easy to learn as RSS or Atom, but will have greater capabilities from the start. News markup is based on the NewsItem (along with the PackageItem and the TopicItem) and at the moment most of the work in this area is being undertaken by the NAR group so direct news markup activity is relatively limited.

### Text markup

However, one area that has to be specifically addressed by the group is text markup, with two main options under consideration - XHTML and NITF. Both of these standards have strong support and it seems

likely that NewsML 2 will have to be neutral to the text format. To minimise potential problems it may be appropriate to make specific recommendations on how the text standards will be used in NewsML 2.

### EventsML

A conference call had been held prior to the Autumn Meeting to discuss the current state of EventsML and see how it would work with the NAR.

During the meeting, EventsML WG lead, Johan Lindgren (TT), explained that initial work undertaken by the EventsML group had provided a starting point for some of the developments in the Common Components WG. As with other new content standards EventsML will be based on the NAR.

Areas that are specific to EventsML include:

**Assignment** - which is internal information on the way a news organisation deals with an event. This would include details of the editorial staff assigned to cover the event, resources and instructions for the staff, and supporting material such as archive information.

**Coverage** - which tells the users (news organisation customers) what the coverage of the event will be, and when it will be available.

### Incomplete dates

Another area needing special consideration is the handling of incomplete dates and it will probably be necessary to specify these in discrete steps such as "year", "month" and "day". The nature of events means that this question of incomplete information may also apply to other areas such as address information.

### ProgrammeGuideML

Members were reminded that ProgrammeGuideML had been adopted as a release candidate at the 2004 AGM, so it was appropriate to review its status. It appeared that none of the members present at the Meeting had any immediate intention of supporting the standard.

However, it was considered possible that the EBU (European Broadcasting Union) - who have now joined IPTC - might have an interest as the standard works closely with their TVAnytime standard. It was anticipated that if further development is undertaken, the standard

will have to be reworked to fit the NAR.

## NewsCodes

Reporting on activity since the last session of the NewsCodes Working Party, Chairman John Minting said that although there had been little direct action (in terms of TopicSet changes) since the last meeting, there had been an increasing level of interest in the general area of NewsCodes.

### Major revision

He believed that there was a feeling that the IPTC NewsCodes need a major revision - for example the Subject Reference system needed further expansion along with facilities for internal and external links - and suggested that it would be appropriate to move back from looking at the details to take a look at the whole picture.

The concept of a review was generally well accepted and discussion confirmed growing interest - from both IPTC members and other parties - in improving the available metadata. It was pointed out that any review would also have to take account of how the NewsCodes would work with the NAR - though the technical requirements in this area are the responsibility of the News Metadata Framework WG.

### Categorisation server

During the discussion George Landau (News Engin) said that his organisation was looking at the possibility of providing a public server that would allow users to have their stories categorised using the IPTC SubjectCodes. He hoped that input from users would help improve categorisation, and said that the initiative would be at no cost to IPTC.

### Metadata framework

Mischa Wolf (Reuters), as Chairman of the News Metadata Framework WG, provided an overview of the way the News Metadata Framework could be used for IPTC TopicSets.

Key points for the use of Thesauri were:

- Do use schemes;
- Do continue to use the existing Topic codes;
- Do not continue to treat the codes as representing a hardwired hierarchy;
- Do develop thesauri of uneven depth, to suit the tasks in hand;

- Do feel free to relocate nodes in the thesauri;
- Do consider creating subthesauri for distinct groups of concepts (such as Sports and Finance);
- Do allow nodes to have multiple parents where appropriate (for example Medico, Nicosia, Russia, Turkey);
- Do make use of typed relationships for linking Topics. Specific points for NewsItems were:
- Do include ancestor Topics (replacing the hardwired hierarchy). For example for "Swimming" also include "Sport";
- Do make use of the <bag> element for grouping concepts.

These points were complemented by examples showing how NewsCodes could be incorporated in a NewsItem, and the grouping of Subject NewsCodes to replace qualifiers.

### Structure

The need to ensure that NewsCodes development will fit in with the NAR was recognised by the delegates and it was decided to establish a new Working Group to study possible changes to the structure of IPTC NewsCodes, including the architecture and relationship of the Subject Codes. The group will make a first report at the Spring 2006 meeting, and it is anticipated that initial work will be by conference calls, possibly supplemented by meetings in the US.

### Organisations

A series of 20 submissions dealing with International Organisations had been submitted for inclusion in the Subject NewsCodes as Subject Details, but the Fast Track Jury had decided that their inclusion would not be appropriate as they were entities, and not categories.

Accordingly the Jury proposed the development of a new TopicSet to deal with organisations, and it was suggested that some sort of tree hierarchy would be appropriate. There was also a need for a way of linking entries in any "organisation" TopicSet and the Subject NewsCodes, and one way of achieving this is by means of the XML <property> element.

### Deprecation

The decision to deprecate a SubjectMatter entry (*treaty and international organisation*) had resulted in considerable discussion at the AGM session.

Following this a draft definition to explain the practice of deprecation has been produced and was put forward for discussion. Some minor changes were made to produce a version for approval by the Standards Committee:

*In a world that continues to change there will be a continuing need to remove, relocate or replace existing terms in the IPTC Topic Sets. In order to support legacy content items that may contain a topic set term/code that needs to be changed, the original term, its numeric code and explanation must remain as part of the topic set, but must be labelled in the 'Change Comment' field as 'Deprecated - shall not be assigned after yyyy-mm-dd'.*

### TopicSet review

Following a review (initially undertaken by NSK during translation into Japanese) various issues have identified with the IPTC TopicSets (many of which were originally developed for use with the IIM). Typical problems included unclear explanations, outdated and incomplete entries and missing translations. It was agreed to undertake a thorough review with individual delegates taking responsibility for specific TopicSets.

## NITF Maintenance

Charles Tichenor (AP) has been appointed Vice-Chair of the NITF Maintenance Working Party, and took charge of the Milan session, while Chairman Alan Karben (XML Team) took part by a teleconference link.



Charles Tichenor (AP) has agreed to act as Vice-Chairman for the NITF Working Party

Documentation for NITF 3.3 has been completed and the standard has been publicly released on the web site ([www.nitf.org](http://www.nitf.org)). This version was approved at the 2006 AGM and has minor, backwards compatible, additions. Work on a draft XML Schema for the NITF is continuing and it is hoped that it will be possible to submit the XML Schema for approval at the Spring 2006 Meeting.

Alan Karben has also produced a simple text markup - known as Arti-

leML - which is essentially NITF with most of the metadata stripped out to allow easy integration with the News Architecture (which has its own metadata structure). Further work is under way to develop examples of how this will work.

Alan also believes that ArticleML would be useful for 'blog' applications.

A sample of ArticleML is available at [www.articleml.org](http://www.articleml.org).

## NewsML 1 Maintenance

NewsML 1.2 was formally released as a Japanese Industrial

Standard (JIS X7201 : 2005) in July - the standards document is available at a cost of 25 Euro or \$30.

Working Party Vice Chair Takahiro Fujiwara (East Co) gave a brief presentation on the approval process. Work on the submission was undertaken by the NSK NewsML Support Team and the NewsML JIS Working Party, and Takahiro pointed out that many of the members of these groups had also taken part in IPTC meetings. One of the main reasons that NewsML 1 was adopted as a formal standard is that is already in widespread use in Japan (due to the efforts of NSK in promoting it)

The NewsML 1 specification has been fully translated into Japanese, and produced in accordance with JIS requirements, while the NewsML implementation guidelines are also available in Japanese.

### Documents

A series of additional documents have also been produced for NewsML 1 applications in Japan. These include NewsML Image Transmission Guidelines; NewsML FAQ, The Merit of NewsML (2005); a NewsML White Paper (2004) and a guide to the pronunciation of NewsML Terminologies.

# 2006 Winter Olympics - Torino

The XX Olympic Winter Games open in Torino on 11 February 2006. At the invitation of Cristiano Carlutti, Press Operations Managing Director, a special briefing on the Press arrangements for the Games was held for IPTC delegates immediately following the Autumn Meeting.

## Facilities

Press operations will be centred on the Main Press Centre, which shares the Main Media Centre with the International Broadcast Centre (IBC). The shared facilities will be at Lingotto Fiere, about 10 minutes from Torino city centre, and close to the City competition venues (for skating and hockey). In addition there are media centres for all the 14 competition venues.



*Richard Palfreyman is head of the Main Press Centre. At the briefing he recognised some of the delegates, having met them at the IPTC Briefing for the Sydney Olympics 2000 - where he was Head of Press Operations.*

### Main Press Centre

The Main Press Centre includes a common press working area which has 576 seats with power outlets, pay phones with data ports and WiFi coverage. Rate-card telecommunications services will be available, along with CATV feeds from the competition venues, and terminals and printers for Info 2006 - the Olympic private Internet.

The Service Centre adjacent to the press room will provide central assistance for agencies ordering

through the rate-card, copy and fax facilities, lockers and includes the equipment inspection centre.

There are also a private offices for 54 agencies, along with the IOC Communications and Marketing offices.

Fit-out of the Main Press Centre (MPC) starts on the 1 December, and the operations timeline is given in the panel alongside.

## Photo Services

Peter Charles (Photo Services Supervisor) outlined the changing nature of photo operations - at the Sydney 2000 Olympics some 336,000 rolls of film were handled, but in Athens 2004 the figure was just 7. Now the aim is to enable photographers to move pictures as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Photo Work Areas have become very important and the Kodak Image Centre has over 100 work stations. The Torino photo services also aim to provide a modern telecommunications system that will ensure that the photographs taken will reach newspapers around the world as quickly as possible.

### Coverage

It is anticipated that there will be around 600 photographers covering the games, while there is also increasing use of remote cameras (with automatic download of their images). Some 20 km of fibre optic cable has been installed to photo position on the mountains - for example the downhill area has 3 km of cable from start to finish

Accredited photographers will be able to have a free camera clean and check carried out by

## Main Press Centre Operation Timeline

Fit out starts	1 December 2005
"Soft" opening	10 to 22 January 2006
24-hour operation	23 January to 26 February
Peak operations	8 to 26 February
Close operations	27 February
Bump out	28 February to 4 March 2006

