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IPTC *Mirror*

NITF Version 3

Continuing activity by the NITF Maintenance Working Party means that Version 3 of the standard should soon be ready for consideration, approval and release.

A series of changes to the NITF have already been approved, and members attending the Ischia session were updated on a series of proposals resulting from a development meeting that had been held in New York City.

It was explained that the main aim of the work is to produce a NITF Version 3.0 and the plan is to post the proposed new version of the DTD on the NITF Web site (www.nitf.org) along with documentation of the changes, and encouragement for users to move to (trial) implementation. The proposals will then be reviewed at the IPTC Autumn Meeting (in Vevey) with a formal vote on adoption and release.

This new version will include previously agreed changes, recommendations from the New York Meeting, provision for metadata-rich tables, and a general cleanup with the aim of depreciation more of the HTML attributes that are currently included. However it was pointed out that the number and type of changes mean that the new Version 3 will not be backwards com-

patible with previous releases.

Output from the New York session included a proposal to improve access to document metadata by including some of the enriched text elements within the head (and possibly the `block_head`) parts of the DTD. In general the intention would be to include those elements that can carry useful information without including `pcdata` (which should not be included in the head). Possible inclusions are *chron*, *copyrite*, *event*, *function*, *location*, *money*, *org* and *person*.

The possibility of adding a Concept element had previously been considered as a way of providing an additional mechanism to complement the established Subject Codes and keywords. This has been extended to a more general Classifier element that will be capable of wider application, and appropriate amendments will be made to the `block_head`

Three approaches have been identified for development of metadata-rich tables: creation of a new `<nitf_table>` element;

Autumn Meeting

The 2001 Autumn Meeting is being held in Vevey, Switzerland, from Wednesday 10th to Friday 12th October. Planned activities include further development of NewsML, work on Sports markup and consideration of the proposed new Version 3 NITF. Presentations from SeiNet, NetHorizon and Eidos Media have also been arranged.

Electronic booking forms have been distributed, and the high level of attendance at recent meetings means that early booking is recommended.

overloading the current `<NITF_table>` with content-filled metadata; and adding additional metadata elements to the `block.head`. All of these were considered to have their own specific advantages but after some discussion it was decided to continue with the first option, which effectively isolates the metadata from the table model itself.

Transfer of ownership of the `nitf.org` domain name is still under way - it is anticipated that the domain will formally become the property of IPTC by the end of August. Planned changes for the site include: adding links to publisher and vendors that are using NITF; improvements to the tutorial section; HTML rendering of the Subject Codes and other controlled vocabularies; and a mapping between NITF and NewsML which would also include links to the Subject Code system. This mapping could also be included on the newsml.org site and in the section of the iptc.org site concerned with the Subject Code System.



New Look

Following considerable effort by the Public Relations Committee, a new-look IPTC logo has been released.

Developed by Klaus Sprick (dpa) with detailed feedback from Committee Members the design presents an updated image, while keeping a visual link to the previous, well-established, logo.

A Namespace URL for NITF is to be established in the same way as the one for NewsML - a NewsItem containing the NITF DTD with a URN will be generated and published on the site.

Until recently Tony Rentschler was Chairman of the NITF group, but a change in his responsibilities at AP meant that he would be unable to continue with his efforts in this area. Alan Karben (Screaming Media) has agreed to take over the responsibility and was in the Chair for the Ischia session.

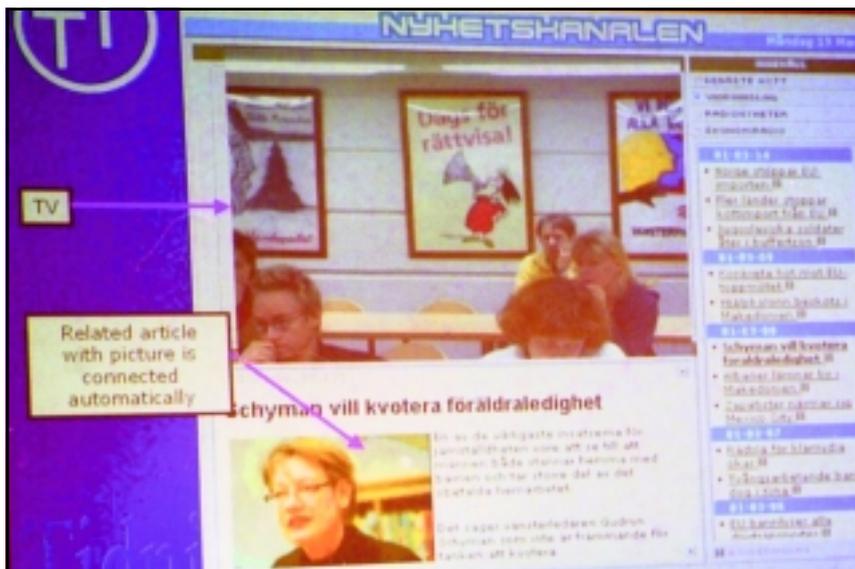
Development Updates

SportsML - at the AGM the Sports subgroup of the Specialised Content Working Party set itself the ambitious target of developing an initial SportsML DTD for consideration at the Autumn Meeting.

While substantial progress has been made, the results to date also show that the volume of information involved means that development will be a major task. Efforts are being co-ordinated by a regular series of telephone conferences along with a dedicated electronic mailing list (sportsml@yahogroups.com).

An initial version of the functional requirements for the standard has been produced, along with a series of spreadsheets summarising common data items, along with the information specific to a first set of individual sports. One proposal for the DTD is to have a lightweight structure that includes those properties that are common to most sports, adding sports-specific child elements as appropriate to the application.

NewsML Schema - progress has also been made in refining the prototype NewsML Schema (presented in Ischia) with a revised version being distributed for consideration. The revised version conforms with the current Schema specification and includes datatyping which conforms to the NewsML Functional Specification.



During the AGM Johan Lindgren demonstrated a system that has been developed by TT to deliver a selected package of multimedia news to their web customers on a daily basis so that they can provide a running news service.

Customers are able to choose between short and long versions of news stories; how to put the items in categories; priority levels; and the presentation, which may be generated automatically or manually. The service covers five main areas - Finance, Information Technology, Sports, Gambling, and Other - with each category having its own priority ratings. Pictures are provided in co-operation with photo agencies. As stories develop over time, and pictures become available, the fresh version automatically replaces the earlier one.

Radio services are available with the "News from TT" being updated at least once an hour. Radio is also provided to web sites and links can be made to text items. Television services were started in autumn 2000 and with web services the image plays within the page.

Cross links can be established between video, audio and text covering the same story. For example text might provide background information to a video story, with further analysis on audio. Items have individual identifiers, and automatically created links take the form of an XML file with associations being established by the journalists.

The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) formally issued XML Schema as a W3C Recommendation for general use (<http://www.w3c.org/TR/xmlschema/>) in May and this should result in an increasing number of tools becoming available to support the standard.

Subject Codes - extended discussions by the Category Codes Working Party during the Ischia Meeting resulted in agreement

on a series of additions and amendments. Unfortunately this occurred after the formal close of the Meeting so the changes could not be ratified. Accordingly they were circulated to members for consideration under the fast-track proposal. Since no objections have been received the Working Party recommendations have been ratified, and an updated Subject Codes TopicSet is now available.

Update

Latest papers issued

CAT 01/08	Fast track codes
MAN 01/07	Ischia Minutes
NM 01/12	Ischia Minutes
NMLS 01/09	Extensibility Guide
NMA 01/13	Physical Metadata (Revised)
NMG 01/04	Ischia Minutes
PRC 01/03	Ischia Minutes
SPC 01/05	Ischia Minutes
STA 01/08	Ischia Minutes
AGM 01/03	Ischia Minutes

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IPTC Standards

NewsML Version 1.0
News Industry Text Format
IPTC-NAA Information Interchange Model and
IPTC-NAA Digital Newsphoto
Parameter Record
IPTC Recommended Message Format 7901