



# Work in Progress!

There is a continuing flow of proposals for additions, modifications and updates to the various IPTC standards. A brief summary of items due for consideration over the coming months - starting with the Spring Meeting - is given here.

A revised Schema Version of NewsML was presented at the Autumn 2001 Meeting with requests for further comments before adoption. This has resulted in some minor changes (mainly in relation to the date structure) and it is hoped that the latest version can now be formally adopted and released.

The question of Namespaces and Versioning in both NewsML and the NITF has been looked at, and the proposed approach outlined in a Discussion Draft (NMLS 02/02). A similar approach has been taken to the identification of the Content Creation Date (NMLS 02/02) and to extension of NewsML Byline structure (NMLS 02/04). In addition there is a request for a Functional

Specification change (to the definition of *Href*) to permit more flexible use of references (NMLS 02/05).

Specialised Content is a particularly active area, and while work is under way on a number of specific projects there remains a general need for members to draw the attention of the Working Party to any new Specialised Content DTDs (or Schemas) and related initiatives relevant to the news industry.

Version 0.5 of SportsML has been released for public comment (on [www.sportsml.com](http://www.sportsml.com)), with members and other interested parties being encouraged to undertake trial implementations using real sports data. Experience with the Winter Olympics has already produced some feedback.

Work by the NSK NewsML

## IPTC 2002 Meeting Schedule

**Spring**

24-27 February

**Paris**

*(Hotel bookings no longer available)*

**AGM**

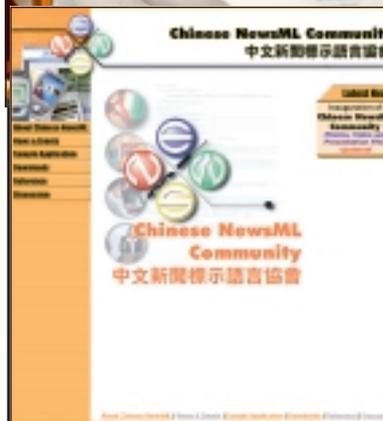
1 - 4 July

**San Francisco**

**Autumn**

9-11 October

**Barcelona**



**Professor K F Wong, Chairman of the Chinese NewsML Community receives the Membership Certificate from IPTC Managing Director David Allen (any enquiries about king-size certificates should be sent to David Allen!)**

## NewsML in China

The inaugural session of the Chinese NewsML Community was held in Hong Kong during January 2001 - the Community was set up by CUHK (Chinese University of Hong Kong) and is sponsored by the Innovation and Technology Fund. Its charter is to establish and promote a local NewsML standard and supporting tools in order to speed up the pace of e-business in Hong Kong and enhance Hong Kong's commercial competitiveness in the world.

One of the factors behind the initiative is said to be that while the advantages of NewsML have been recognized internationally, the news media and publishing industry in Hong Kong has only recently started to investigate it. This means that there is an urgency for them to exploit the potentials of NewsML and its associated technology. To help with this the Community have joined IPTC (they are the first members in the Greater China Region), while David Allen was a guest speaker at the launch.

Group (and Tokyo News) has resulted in a DTD for Television Listings (SPC 02/02 and 02/03).

Collaboration efforts are under way with other standards organisations, such as the financial standards (MDDL, RIXML, and XBRL) and the Prism metadata vocabulary. In general feedback on these areas is coming from members who have some direct involvement in the various development processes.

Similarly a close watch is being kept on the development of EML (Election Markup Language), with particular emphasis on the reporting aspects. Rights are another area of interest with contact having been made with RightsCom.

Work on the NITF has become a rolling process and the NITF Web site ([www.nitf.org](http://www.nitf.org)) includes a list of issues that need consideration. There is also a specific proposal for some additional attributes to handle Obituaries (NM 02/03), and a re-

quest (NM 02/02) for attention to be given to providing a more detailed way of identifying specific sections of articles. Development of a NITF Schema is under active consideration.

A number of additional entries (CAT 01/01 and 02/02) have been submitted for the IPTC Subject Reference System (which is now dealt with as part of News Metadata). There is also a proposal for a general tidying up and rationalisation of the existing entries (NMA 02/02). Procedures for maintaining and managing the use of TopicSets have to be established.

A revised version of the Subject Reference System Guideline has been produced and circulated for comment (NMA 02/03). Physical metadata requirements have been specified (NMA 01/12 and NMA 01/13) and members have been asked to provide usage examples, along with further information on the requirements for multimedia applications (especially audio).

Recommendations have been developed for the distribution of Government papers (STA 01/09) - with the intention of encouraging Governments, and other official bodies, to adopt better practices. A Guide to News Management with NewsML is under preparation.

## XML 1.1 Draft

A Working Draft for XML 1.1 has been released by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C).

The main reason behind consideration of a new release of the standard is continuing development of the Unicode standard which is used by XML for character definitions. Although additional characters introduced in new versions of Unicode can be used in character data, they are not permitted in XML 1.0 names but will be acceptable in version 1.1.

Another consideration is a general change in the approach to names - compared to the rigid definition of names in XML 1.0, the proposed new version has been designed to allow the use of everything that is not specifically forbidden.

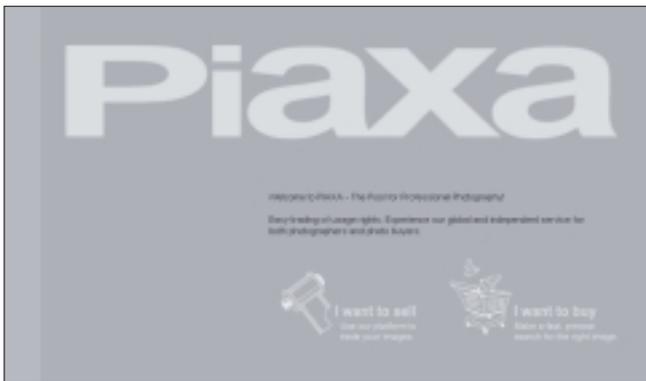
Changes have also been made to the line-end conventions to simplify interoperability between mainframe and non-mainframe systems.

A new XML version, rather than a set of errata to XML 1.0, is being created because the changes affect the definition of well-formed documents. XML 1.0 processors must continue to reject documents that contain new characters in XML names or new line-end conventions. The distinction between XML 1.0 and XML 1.1 documents will be indicated by the version number information in the XML declaration at the start of each document.

## Visual Image Searching

Piixa ([www.piixa.com](http://www.piixa.com)) is an Internet-based image market designed to let potential photo buyers get an initial impression of the portfolios offered by photographers, agencies and archives. Transactions that can be carried out range from image selection to downloading and the purchase of user rights.

A key feature of the system is a visual language-independent search system, complemented by the normal keyword and thematic searched. With the visual search system the used is presented with an initial selection of images and then marks the images to show their preference. The system then uses an artificial intelligence system to recognise similarities between the images and refine the search to produce a new selection.



Both sellers and buyers are catered for on the Piixa site.

### Update

#### Latest papers issued

CAT 02/03	SRS update
DIR 02/01	Paris Schedule
MAN 02/05	Expenditure 2001
NM 02/03	Obituary Attributes
NMLS 02/05	Href changes
NMA 02/03	SRS Guideline
NMG 02/01	Paris Agenda
PRC 02/01	Paris Agenda
SPC 02/03	XMLTV DTD
STA 02/01	Paris Agenda

Published by the International Press  
Telecommunications Council  
Royal Albert House, Sheet Street,  
Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1BE  
England  
Managing Director: David Allen  
Editor: Hugh Johnstone  
TEL: +44(0)1753 705051  
Fax: +44(0)1753 831541  
Email: [m\\_director\\_iptc@iptc.org](mailto:m_director_iptc@iptc.org)  
[editor\\_iptc@iptc.org](mailto:editor_iptc@iptc.org)  
Web Pages: [www.iptc.org](http://www.iptc.org); [www.newsmml.org](http://www.newsmml.org);  
[www.nitf.org](http://www.nitf.org)

#### IPTC Documents

IPTC-NAA Information Interchange Model  
and  
IPTC-NAA Digital Newsphoto  
Parameter Record

IPTC Recommended Message Format 7901

News Industry Text Format