



IPTC Mirror

IPTC - INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FOR NEWS

NewsML Systems in Japan

Adoption of NewsML in Japan is proceeding rapidly with strong support from the NSK NewsML Team, which has a continuing programme to encourage understanding and use of the standard.

At Mainichi Newspapers the existing system was unable to meet the growing demands being placed on it, and in a presentation at the IPTC 2002 Autumn Meeting Naoki Onodera explained that work started in early 2001 to develop the new Palace System. Intended to provide a solution to the company's immediate, and future, needs it is a multimedia system with NewsML content management and covers the complete production cycle.

Inputs can be in a variety of file formats, from XML (including NewsML) through plain text to CSV (Comma Separated Values), along with binary formats for graphics, audio and video. Similarly the system can handle a number of transmission protocols such as SOAP, FTP, MAIL and HTTP.

Incoming data is converted to NewsML format for input to the Mainichi NewsML database. Items are then edited to add appro-

appropriate metadata such as category codes (both the IPTC Subject Reference System and Mainichi codes are used), the NSK area code, and status and revision information, along with headlines. Linking between items is achieved by using the NewsML AssociatedWith and DerivedFrom elements.

One of the processed outputs is "Formation News" which is produced for a number of services including the English language Mainichi Daily News Web service (<http://mdn.mainichi.co.jp>), Mainichi Interactive (Japanese language site) and PDA and cellular phone services. With Formation news the edited news items are sorted into groups and ordered to produce content packages for the various services. Components of the packages are identified by use of the AssociatedWith element and individual NewsItemRef identifiers.

"Flash News" content is produced in a number of formats with full text being used

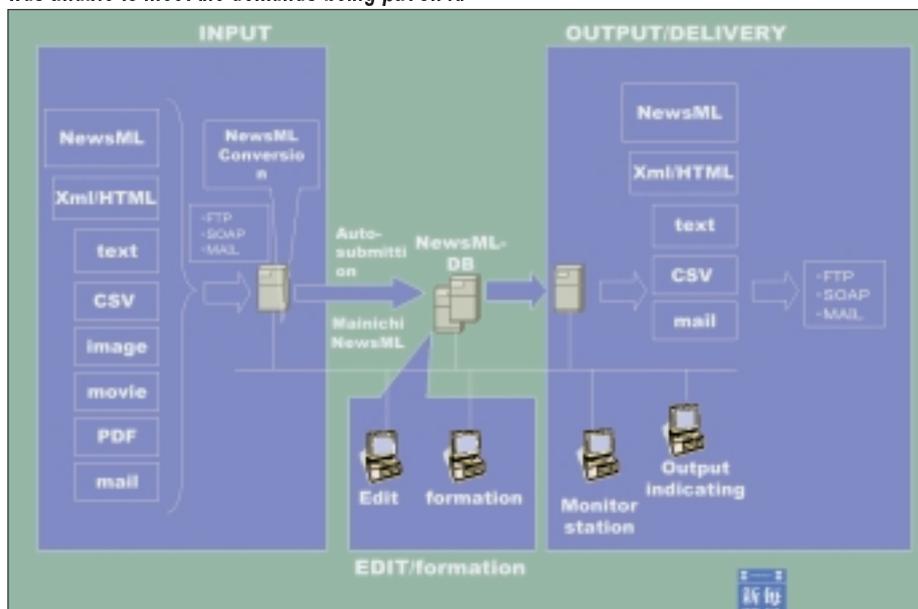
for the web sites, while both 105 and 45 character formats can be produced for Cellular Phone and PDA applications, and 88 character for

broadcasting datacast.

The internal Mainichi NewsML data is converted into various formats for delivery, including XML - this may conform to NewsML or other DTDs. Similarly a number of transmission protocols can be used for the output. Delivery may be immediate (as soon as the NewsItem is produced) at fixed times (as for Formation News services) or as specified by the customer.

First phase of the system went into operation in late 2001 and involved

Below: components making up the new Palace System introduced by Mainichi Newspapers for content management and based on NewsML for content management.. Naoki Onodera - from Mainichi (bottom right) explained that the integrated system was developed rapidly as the existing system was unable to meet the demands being put on it.



2003 Meetings Schedule

Spring:

18 - 20 March
Nice, France

AGM:

2 - 5 June
Aarhus, Denmark
(At the invitation of a consortium of Scandinavian members)

Autumn:

8 - 10 October
Leipzig, Germany

Electronic booking forms for each meeting will be sent to members in due course.



design of the NewsML database, interfacing it to the existing system and producing a NewsML validation system. The second phase of development is currently under way with completion planned for early 2003. NewsML output from the system is being used on the Mainichi newspaper Web site - complete with a "Powered by NewsML" logo.

The Chunichi Shimbun Group produce six daily newspapers with a circulation of nearly four and a half million copies. Work is under way to construct a NewsML-based photo database for the group, and Masaaki Sugimoto hopes that NewsML will find widespread application in the Group.

In the first phase newsphotos are digitised in NSK TIFF and converted to Chunichi Reference NewsML for storage in the Database. This can then be searched and images downloaded using Internet Explorer. With the second phase possible inputs will also include direct connections from reporters with portable computers and digital cameras, and graphics.

A lot of additional information is stored along with the images, and it will be possible to pass these on to other NewsML systems as they come on line. This information might include, for example, details of the type of image (portrait); how long the image it to be kept in storage; revision details; and credits. A total of around 100 management items are needed for the application, though some of these are already provided by NewsML.

Until recently the IPTC Subject Reference

All Change!

Handover to new Managing Director

As from 1 January Michael Steidl will be an employee of IPTC. During the period before David Allen retires (end of February) the Office and duties of Managing Director will be transferred to Michael throughout January. As from 1 February David will be "on call" to answer any queries and assist Michael as needed. The existing telephone, post and e-mail arrangements will continue unchanged.

NewsML Implementation Assistance

Following his retirement from IPTC David Allen will be available to undertake consultancy work to assist in the implementation of NewsML and associated standards from IPTC. Any IPTC member or other organization needing such services should contact David at m davidallen@onetel.net.uk.

System (SRS) has not been widely used in Japan with most companies having their own classification systems. With the introduction of NewsML services the SRS is finding increasing application and a user interface has been developed to support its application. This uses a search function on text strings to identify specific terms and select the appropriate code.

A system with full multimedia capability is being introduced by The Tokushima for newspaper production and planned multimedia services. The central management system is based on NewsML and designed to handle text, images, audio and video (in the future).

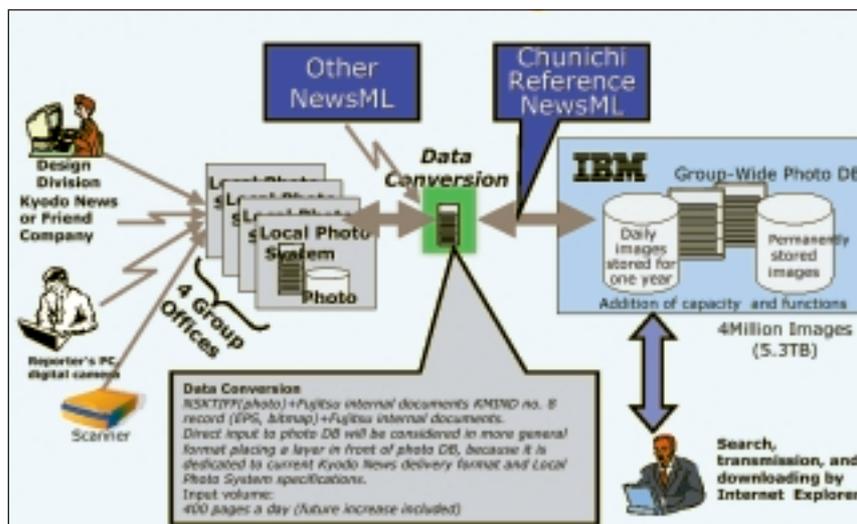
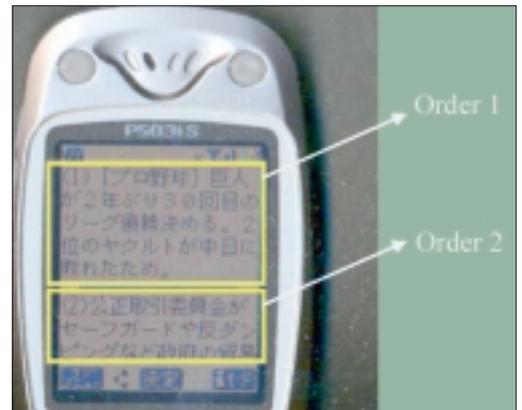
Kyodo News are planning to in-

roduce a Stock Information system early in 2003, with system development having started in late 2000. This system receives price and related data from the Tokyo stock Exchange, and processes it as NewsML for delivery.

The systems considered above make use of IBM Japan products and services and details were included in their presentation at the Autumn Meeting.

Right: I-mode cellphone showing 45 character news generated by the Mainichi system. The service offers sets of ten news items, with two being indicated here.

Below: The second phase of the Shunichi Group Photo Database is planned to start operation in early 2003, with the first phase - dealing with scanned images having been in use since May 2002.



Latest Papers

MAN 02/10	Amsterdam Minutes
NM 02/122	Amsterdam Minutes
NMA 02/20	Amsterdam Minutes
NMG 02/07	Amsterdam Minutes
NMLS 02/25	Amsterdam Minutes
PRC 02/05	Amsterdam Minutes
SPC 02/10	Amsterdam Minutes
SPC 02/11	Oasis Election and Voter Services Technical Committee Meeting
STA 02/08	Notes on Ad-Hoc Session on Event and Calendar Markup
STA 02/09	Amsterdam Minutes