



# IPTC Mirror

IPTC - INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FOR NEWS

## Keeping up the Good Work!

**The first IPTC Meeting of 2003 takes place in mid March. An overview of the work in hand and a look at some developments since the last Meeting is given below.**

Although the Autumn 2002 Meeting (in Amsterdam) saw approval and release of the first revision of NewsML the development process continues, as does the rolling programme of NITF development. Other projects - such as SportsML and the television programme system - are approaching the formal release stage, while new areas of interest, notably EventsML, have been identified and work started.

**Standards:** New working arrangements have been established for the Spring 2003 meeting, which will start with a Standards Committee session to present and organise the work it is planned to undertake. Outline work priorities will be established by a separate conference of the Working Party Chairmen in advance of the Meeting.

A number of areas of interest had been identified by the end of the Autumn 2002 Session with some work under way, while further consideration may well result in further items being included in the planned agendas.

**NewsML:** items already being looked at by the NewsML Support Working Party include possible modification of the metadata structure in response to more general developments in this area - for example in-

creasing use of the Resource Description Framework (RDF) and the application of Topicmaps. Similarly, the structure used for the IPTC Subject Reference System (SRS) codes may need to be revised.

There also appears to be a requirement for a series of ContentCreationDates to deal with different stages in the life of digital content items - such as the date a (film) photograph was taken; the date it was digitised, the date it was digitally edited; and so on.

**Special content:** this remains a very active area with a several projects under way:

SportsML - a draft Version 1.0 was released in October 2002, for comment and test applications with the intention of moving to a full release early in 2003. The standard was promoted during the Sports Media and Technology exhibition (held in New York during November 2002) and attracted considerable attention, while services based on the standard have already been launched.

EventsML - the possibility of producing a markup to handle event listings was raised in Amsterdam and it appeared that a significant number of members have a need in this area. Following what is now

normal practice an e-mail mailing list has been set-up for use in EventsML development

(<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/eventml-dev/>). Activity in this group over the past months has resulted in a development specification, which is available through the email group. In view of the level of activity a separate Working Party session for EventsML has been included in the Nice Agenda.

Elections - it was agreed that efforts in this area would concentrate on monitoring of other developments, and it has been reported that OASIS are moving towards

**Spring Meeting  
2003**

**Tuesday 18th March  
to  
Thursday 20th March**

**Hotel Mercure Nice  
Centre Notre Dame  
28 Avenue Notre Dame  
06000 Nice, France**

## Management Handover

Transfer of the Managing Director's responsibilities to Michael Steidl from David Allen has now been completed, with the actual office move to Vienna taking place at the end of January. Official contact details remain the same, with the Windsor address and telephone number remaining in operation until further notice.

Advantage has been taken of the change to simplify the Managing Director's e-mail addresses to [mdirector@iptc.org](mailto:mdirector@iptc.org) while there is also a new Editor's address [editor@iptc.org](mailto:editor@iptc.org). The previous e-mail addresses will still work, though the old [ho73@dial.pipex.com](mailto:ho73@dial.pipex.com) address for David Allen is no longer active. Anyone wanting to contact David can now reach him on [mdavidallen@onetel.net](mailto:mdavidallen@onetel.net).

*Over to you! Michael Steidl (left) and David Allen at the handover of the IPTC office.*



initial approval of their Election Markup Language.

RadioTVNewsML - during the Autumn Meeting it was proposed to use the name Broadleaf for the RadioTVNewsML system. Unfortunately subsequent investigations have revealed that this name is already in use as a Trademark (by Sycamore Networks), so another effort will have to be made to find a suitable name for the system. Initial applications are planned to start this Spring and further feedback from users, and other interested parties, would be welcome.

**News Management:** the possibility of providing users with a profile of the type of service being supplied by an information provider is under investigation. This will probably be achieved by addition of new NewsItemTypes and should not require any DTD changes. Use of a system of "Advisories" to allow more comprehensive management of news items is under consideration.

**News Metadata:** efforts are underway to develop a TopicSet for geographic regions which will be appropriate for news applications. As normal, a series of proposals for additions to the Subject Reference System (SRS) have been submitted for consideration. The intention is that this will be achieved following the update procedures detailed in the SRS Guidelines.

**NITF Maintenance Working Party:** Incremental development of the NITF in response to user needs continues, and internationalisation of the standard has been identified as an important area needing attention. As part of this a method of handling a Japanese requirement for "Ruby" (a particular form of annotation) has already been identified, with the necessary changes to the DTD being developed. A number of other detail changes have been

proposed, along with changes to the documentation - specific information is available

on the [www.nitf.org](http://www.nitf.org) site under the "documentation" heading.

## Chinese NewsML

**Activity by the Chinese NewsML community continues to run at a high level with a seminar being held in Beijing during December to help further encourage interest in the standard within China.**

The two-day programme included a series of presentations and discussion panels covering NewsML itself, recent developments, research, practical applications and tools, and the specific value of NewsML in the Chinese context. Among the speakers were a number of regular participants at the IPTC meetings - David Allen (in one of his last presentations as IPTC Managing Director), Kelvin Holland (Press Association), and Masaaki Sugimoto (Chunichi Shumbun) - along with representatives from the Chinese NewsML community, universities, system developers and users.

The organisers reported that there were around 200 registrations for the symposium, though (as normal) it seems that not all participants

*Left: demonstration at the Beijing seminar. Below: speakers and panel members.*



attended on both days. According to Jussie Chan (the CINTEC delegate to IPTC) it appeared that many of the participants were aware of the



NewsML standard before they attended the symposium. They were glad to have a chance to obtain firsthand updates of the trends and applications of NewsML from IPTC members and experts. Interests in the standard varies a lot: as a data exchange format among applications; as a data storage format for content management system; and as part of the solution for smoothing the workflow of news production and delivery.



Based on previously released software, CIDAX (Corporate Information Digital Archive in XML) is an integrated set of tools that manages everything from editing, to storing to delivering NewsML documents. Tools include: COMPOSER - for automatic conversion of content to NewsML format; MARKER - for addition of subject reference and meta content including keywords, name entity, location and organization; DATABASE - stores the content in NewsML format; NAVIGATION & EXPORT - allows browsing and searching of the NewsML Database and exported through different channels in various formats; and READER - a user-friendly interface for viewing the content and structure of a NewsML document.

In addition the Chinese NewsML Community have translated the IPTC Subject Reference System into Chinese. The translated version is now available for consultation and trial on their web site [www.cnewsml.org](http://www.cnewsml.org) - any comments would be welcome.

### Happy Birthday!

Considering the amount effort put into development of XML applications by IPTC, it may come as a surprise to realise that the XML standard is only celebrating its fifth birthday in February 2003.

IPTC quickly appreciated the potential of this standard with the XML version of the NITF being released in October 1998. This was followed by NewsML with work starting in 2000 and the (comprehensive and complex) standard being released a year later.