



IPTC SPRING MEETING 2005

held at the
Holiday in on the Bay hotel
1355 Harbour Drive, San Diego, CA 92101, USA

3rd to 5th March 2005

Minutes of the NewsCodes Working Party held on 5th March 2005

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Revision	Issue Date	Pages	Author (revised by)	Remark
unrevised	2005-03-19	3	Michael Steidl/John Minting	

Present:

Chairman: John Minting, United Press International

Walter Baranger, New York Times Company

Guthrie Collin, The Associated Press

Dave Compton, Reuters Limited

Honor Craig-Bennett, PA NewsLtd

Arnaud Descamps, Relaxnews

Takahiro Fujiwara, EAST Co. Ltd

Stéphane Guérillot, Agence France Presse

Darko Gulija, HINA

Klaus Herwig, Deutsche Presse-Agentur GmbH

Niels Hojer-Pedersen, Ritzau Bureau I's

Rudi Horvath, Austria Presse Agentur

John Iobst, Newspaper Association of America

Hugh Johnstone, IPTC

Alan Karben, XML Team Solutions, Inc.

Dean Large, Business Wire

Laurent Le Meur, Agence France Presse

Jaak Leenknecht, Agence de Presse Belga

Johan Lindgren, Tidningarnas Telegrambyrå

Harald Löffler, ifra

Jayson Lorenzen, Business Wire

Angelo Marrara, ANSA

Peter Müller, SDA/ATS

Stuart Myles, Dow Jones & Company

Karl Oanes, CCNMatthews

Jean-François Richard, Agence France Presse

Hitoshi Saito, Nihon Shinbun Kyokai

Hiroshi Shinotsuka, Kyodo News

Klaus Sprick, Deutsche Presse-Agentur GmbH

Henrik Stadler, Tidningarnas Telegrambyrå

Charles Tichenor, The Associated Press

Misha Wolf, Reuters Limited

Michael Steidl, IPTC Managing Director as Secretary

1 Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th October 2004 (NMA0435)

It was proposed by Walter Baranger and seconded by Honor Craig-Bennett that the minutes be accepted as circulated. This was agreed unanimously. (The NewsCodes Working Party is the successor of the News Metadata (NMA) Working Party.)

2 Matters Arising

No matters were arising from the minutes not covered by this agenda.

3 Chairman's report

The majority of work since the Autumn meeting had concentrated on cleaning up errors and updating translations of the Subject Codes. The Spanish version is now complete



4 Submissions for NewsCodes changes or additions:

The Chairman reported:

Subject NewsCodes submission NMA0436 was discussed by the Fast Track Jury and three terms of Subject Details in the sports domain were deprecated.

Subject NewsCodes submission NCD 0501 was discussed and approved by the Fast Track Jury, three terms were moved within the Subject NewsCodes and three added.

5 NewsCodesViewer program: release to the public

Johan Lindgren gave a short overview on the current state of the NewsCodesViewer program.

The Managing Director added that Johan and he has created a comprehensive user guide.. This package was used by two IPTC members, dpa and a group in Finland, to make translations of NewsCodes. Apparently it worked well; a few glitches were fixed.

RESOLUTION: To release the NewsCodesViewer program and its documentation to the public. This resolution was moved by Walter Baranger and seconded by Honor Craig-Bennett.

VOTE: This resolution was agreed unanimously.

Action ● The Managing Director will make packages for internal use (= WITH editing features) and public use (= WITHOUT editing features) available.

6 NewsCodes translations

The Chairman said these translations were submitted to the IPTC Managing Director and should be available soon:

- Subject NewsCodes in Spanish, V15
- German: Subject -, SubjectQualifier -, Genre – and Scene NewsCodes, the latest version

Danish: Ritzau is still evaluating the need for having the Subject NewsCodes translated.

7 NewsCodes change management guidelines

Discussed document: NewsCodes_0.0-doc-ChangeManagement_2.pdf

The Chairman said this document was created by the Managing Director and asked him for explanations.

The Managing Director said this document is based on the change management section of the Subject Reference System Guidelines. The section for Subject - and SubjectQualifier NewsCodes is simply copied from this document, and a similar guideline for the other NewsCodes without the Fast Track procedure.

No changes were made to any procedure.

Stéphane Guérillot asked where the constraint of only “20 terms per week per submitting member” for Subject NewsCodes comes from.

The Chairman said this was decided at the last meeting at the request of a member who was concerned that the Fast Track Jury workload could become untenable.

No objections to this document were raised.

Action ● To make this document publicly available as guideline for NewsCodes submissions. (Managing Director)



8 NewsCodes naming (NCD0503.1)

The Chairman presented this document to the members of the working party saying this had to be done to reflect a consistent naming after applying “NewsCodes” as a brand to all controlled vocabularies provided by the IPTC.

No objections were raised.

Walter Baranger reported that the Management Committee had discussed at its meeting the previous day, splitting the IPTC “products” into two branches:

- 1: the NewsCodes = metadata controlled vocabularies
- 2 the news exchange format standards.

9 Any Other Business

* The Chairman asked the members for ad hoc comments to a proposal to add generic SubjectQualifiers, gender for example, under the non-existent Subject with a code of “00”. This would make these qualifiers agnostic to all specific Subjects.

John Iobst said this idea was already discussed years ago.

No specific objections were raised, the chairman said he will to prepare a motion for the next meeting.

* The Chairman suggested that members who had, or were planning private extensions to the IPTC News Codes first put these extensions to the WP to discuss if they could be added to the public domain and so become part of the international standard.

Misha Wolf responded he considers the current technology of the Subject NewsCodes (the implicit structure expressed by substrings of the codes) to be a “joke”.

Finally Reuters considers their codes to be an intellectual property asset and will not give them away for free.

As WG chair of the News Metadata Framework group Misha Wolf added they will not force a change to the current structure of the Subject NewsCodes but they will extend the technology to make different structures available as well.

10 Date and Place of Next Meeting

6 – 9 June 2005, London, Bonnington Hotel in Bloomsbury

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