



IPTC SPRING MEETING 2006

held at the
 Vancouver Marriott Pinnacle Downtown
 1128 West Hastings Street
 Vancouver, British Columbia V6E 4R5 Canada

27 to 29 March 2006

Minutes of the NewsCodes Working Party held on 28 March 2006

Document history				[Document URN: urn:iptc:workdoc:ncd:0610:1]
Version	Issue Date	Pages	Author (revised by)	Remark
1	2006-04-21		Michael Steidl/John Minting	

Present:

Chairman: John Minting, United Press International

Najeh Al-Dulaimi, KUNA
 Khalid Al-Haqhaq, KUNA
 Walter Baranger, New York Times Company
 Scott Calder, Mainstream Data Inc.
 Dominic Chan, CNW Group Ltd.
 Dave Compton, Reuters Limited
 Honor Craig-Bennett, PA NewsLtd
 Jean-Pierre Evain, EBU
 Willis Fong, Canadian Press
 Takahiro Fujiwara, EAST Co. Ltd
 Andy Gleeson, BBC Monitoring
 Walter Grolimund, Keystone
 Stéphane Guérillot, Agence France Presse
 Darko Gulija, HINA
 Geoffrey Haynes, The Associated Press
 Niels Hojer-Pedersen, Ritzau Bureau I's
 John Iobst, Newspaper Association of America

Hugh Johnstone, IPTC Editor
 Alan Karben, XML Team Solutions, Inc.
 Paul Kelly, New York Times Company
 Hiroshi Kashima, Nihon Shinbun Kyokai
 Dean Large, Business Wire
 Laurent Le Meur, Agence France Presse
 Stuart Myles, Dow Jones & Company
 Fumiaki Nishino, Nihon Shinbun Kyokai
 Hitoshi Saito, Nihon Shinbun Kyokai
 Hiroshi Shinotsuka, Kyodo News
 Henrik Stadler, Tidningarnas Telegrambyrå
 Charles Tichenor, The Associated Press
 Pauli Tölli, Suomen Tietotoimisto Oy
 Rob Warner, Reuters Limited
 Michael Wolf, Reuters Limited
 Guowei Wu, Xinhua News Agency

Michael Steidl, IPTC Managing Director (MD) as Secretary

1 Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 October 2005 (NCD0515.1)

It was proposed by Dean Large and seconded by Geoffrey Haynes that the minutes be accepted as circulated. This was agreed unanimously.

2 Matters Arising

The chairman said UPI is late with a translation of the Subject NewsCodes into Spanish, but will endeavour to complete once V17 is released.

3 Chairman's report

The chairman said he has tried hard to get persons and companies with taxonomy experience from outside the IPTC involved with the NewsCodes work but so far without much success. Further discussion under item 6.



4 Approval of submissions

4.1 Report about submissions approved by the Fast Track Jury

The chair reported NCD0602.1 has been approved by the Fast Track Jury. (This replaces an earlier submission NCD0601.1)

4.2 SubjectMatter submission: see NCD0604.1

MOTION: To add the proposed entries of NCD0604.1 to the Subject NewsCodes.
This was moved by John Minting and seconded by Honor Craig-Bennett.

Discussion:

- re “sales”: is “auction” a better term for that?
- re “history”: this term already exists with code 13003002
- re “tribunal”: this term already exists with code 02011001
- re “wedding”: members felt the scope of the explanation is not clear enough not to interfere with the term “marriage”.

The chairman said he removes these four terms from the proposed set of new terms.

VOTE: This motion was agreed unanimously.

5 NewsCodes maintenance: reviewing updates to fix existing errors as agreed at the Autumn Meeting (NCD0515.1 – item 7)

5.1 update to the Subject NewsCodes: see NCD0606.1

MOTION: To apply the changes as proposed in NCD0606.1 to the Subject NewsCodes.
This was moved by Walter Baranger and seconded by Dean Large.

No discussion.

VOTE: This motion was agreed unanimously.

5.2 update to the NewsItemType NewsCodes: see NCD0607.1

MOTION: To apply the changes as proposed in NCD0607.1 to the NewsItemType NewsCodes.
This was moved by Walter Baranger and seconded by John Iobst.

No discussion.

VOTE: This motion was agreed unanimously.

(The MD added he was to redo this submission formally as Excel files are the reference, not XML topicsets.)

5.3 update to the Location NewsCodes: see NCD0608.1

MOTION: To apply the changes and additions as proposed in NCD0608.1 to the Location NewsCodes.

Discussion:

The MD said the semantics of town and city may hardly be disambiguated in languages other than English, and even there they are so close one can hardly draw a clear line between.

The MD asked if the term “federation” is right in this set of NewsCodes focusing on types of geographical locations.

The MD said the whole set should be renamed to LocationTypes as it is not a taxonomy of locations (like eg the UNLOCs)



Laurent Le Meur pointed out the “sublocation” is at the lowest level of this geographical hierarchy.

The MD added it should be applied to places like Stonehenge which is neither city nor town.

Laurent Le Meur asked what the goals for this set of NewsCodes is: a geographical hierarchy or to identify the various types of a location.

The chairman responded it should be a geographical hierarchy.

Darko Gulija pointed out that the Location NewsCodes are normative to the NewsML 1 standard.

The chairman asked for an informal vote whether to

- add only explanations (as requested by the last meeting): about 15 yes votes
- start all over on this taxonomy: 1 yes vote

The chairman said this will be reflected by a submission for the next meeting.

5.4 update to the Format NewsCodes: see NCD0609.1

Chuck Tichenor said he proposed to deprecate this set of NewsCodes as a whole and to apply values as a free text.

Then it was pointed out that the NewsML 1 element for the “format” requires a FormalName from a taxonomy and do not allow a free text value. But this could be resolved by provider specific taxonomies covering only the few formats used by this provider.

MOTION: To deprecate the Format NewsCodes.

This was moved by Chuck Tichenor and seconded by Walter Baranger.

VOTE: This motion was agreed unanimously.

5.5 report on the update or proposed deprecation of other NewsCodes.

- **Provider NewsCodes:** Walter Baranger said he will take action and circulate an invitation to register identifier for news feed with the IPTC.
The MD said he already asked for this in an email to all IPTC members and received a few requests.
- **Notation:** The MD reported from a survey among IPTC members it has become apparent nobody uses this set of NewsCodes.
Motion: to deprecate the Notation NewsCodes
Vote: This motion was agreed unanimously.
- **LabelType:** The MD reported from a survey among IPTC members it has become apparent nobody uses this set of NewsCodes.
Motion: to deprecate the LabelType NewsCodes
Vote: This motion was agreed unanimously.
- **HowPresent:** The MD reported from a survey among IPTC members it has become apparent nobody uses this set of NewsCodes.
As Reuters uses something very close to this set it was agreed not to deprecate it yet but to further investigate its use.
- **ColourSpace:** The MD reported from a survey among IPTC members that NSK uses this set of NewsCodes.
No action on this set of NewsCodes will be taken.



5.6 updates to the Audio- and VideoCoder NewsCodes

The MD said he had just received comprehensive lists for current Audio- and Video-Coders from Jean-Pierre Evain of the EBU and he will make a NCD submission out of it to be discussed and approved at the next meeting.

6 “Future of the NewsCodes” Working Group

The chair reminded members of the decision taken at the Autumn Meeting to establish a working group to review and discuss the future of the NewsCodes taxonomies. Then he invited Laurent Le Meur to give a summary of his paper on behalf of AFP on this issue.

Laurent Le Meur gave the requested overview – see Appendix.

The chairman continued his report on setting up this “future of NewsCodes”-WG: he has contacted several people outside the IPTC, with strong taxonomy backgrounds but despite agreeing to join this effort no one joined either of the two conference calls which had been arranged for this purpose.

The chairman said he likes the ideas of the AFP paper being more flexible, and to bring the Subject NewsCodes in the modern world.

Darko Gulija proposed to define the kind of news which is allowed to be assigned to specific Subject NewsCodes.

Dean Large asked if somebody uses our highly refined Subject NewsCodes terms.

Walter Baranger felt the IPTC – and the NewsCodes – have very different groups of clientele – some with high and some with very low knowledge about searching and building taxonomies.

The MD said regarding the AFP paper and the request to reduce the number of terms, that about 600 of the current 1300 Subject NewsCodes pertain to “sports” – leaving only 700 non-sports-codes versus the 300 requested by AFP.

The chairman said he will launch another attempt to set up a Working Group on the Future of the NewsCodes with the AFP paper as a starting point and he asked who of the membership is willing to join this effort.

These names were brought forward: Walter Baranger said he will nominate somebody of the New York Times, Geoffrey Haynes said he will nominate an AP representative; Honor Craig-Bennett, Andy Gleeson said they will join, somebody (to be determined) from AFP will join, the MD said he will approach the archive department of BBC Scotland which joined the IPTC recently.

7 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

8 Date and Place of Next Meeting

Annual General Meeting, 3-6 July 2006, Vienna (Austria) at the Bristol Hotel.

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