



## **IPTC Autumn Meeting 2003**

Held at the Victor's Residenz Hotel, Leipzig  
Georgiring 13, Leipzig, Germany

### **Minutes of the Standards Committee held on 8 and 10 October 2003**

**Present:**

Chairman: Stéphane Guérillot, Agence France Presse

Koji Akagi, Nihon Shinbun Kyokai  
Walter Baranger, New York Times Company  
Dominic Chan, Canada NewsWire Ltd  
Honor Craig-Bennett, PA NewsLtd  
Takahiro Fujiwara, EAST Co. Ltd  
Katsumi Hayashi, Nihon Shinbun Kyokai  
Geoffrey Haynes, The Associated Press  
Klaus Herwig, Deutsche Presse-Agentur GmbH  
Kelvin Holland, Harris and Baseview  
Martin Holroyd, PR Newswire  
Rudi Horvath, Austria Presse Agentur  
John Iobst, Newspaper Association of America  
Hugh Johnstone, IPTC  
Alan Karben, XML Team Solutions, Inc.  
Laurent Le Meur, Agence France Presse

Luka Lo, CINTEC  
Harald Löffler, ifra  
John Minting, United Press International  
Manabu Miyake, Nihon Shinbun Kyokai  
Peter Müller, SDA/ATS  
Stuart Myles, Dow Jones & Company  
Jo Rabin, Inxight Software  
Christian Ratenburg, CCI Europe  
Jean-François Richard, Agence France Presse  
Michael Schlein, New York Times Company  
Klaus Sprick, Deutsche Presse-Agentur GmbH  
Henrik Stadler, Tidningarnas Telegrambyrå  
Tom Taylor, PR Newswire  
Misha Wolf, Reuters Limited  
Ken Wolf, Business Wire

Michael Steidl, IPTC Managing Director as Secretary

#### **Agenda**

**Item 1 Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 and 5 June 2003 in Aarhus (STA0308)**

It was proposed by John Iobst and seconded by Walter Baranger that the minutes be accepted as circulated. This was agreed unanimously.

#### **Agenda**

**Item 2 Matters arising**

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

#### **Agenda**

**Item 3 Chairman's report**

◆ Roadmap / IPTC standards use survey:

There is no survey questionnaire available at this time, John Iobst takes care of the development of this questionnaire which is done by people at NAA.

This might result in a delay of the IPTC Roadmap 2005, primarily for the development of NewsML 2 which should rely also on the results of the survey in the news industry.

John Iobst apologised for having the survey questionnaire not finished in time.

(This was discussed further under item 4)

◆ News Standards Summit:

Misha Wolf is the leader of an organising committee containing people from IPTC,



OASIS and IDEAlliance including the chairmen of the Standards Committee. The membership will hear more about it under item 6 of this agenda.

## Agenda

### Item 4 Roadmap 2005

◆ Presentation of the document "Translating a DTD to a W3C XML Schema" (doc SSC0303). Henrik Stadler gave a presentation to the Committee.

Walter Baranger asked whether IPTC has to use a specific software to handle XML Schema

Henrik Stadler said all software packages named in the paper are basically equal with some constraints as reported in the paper.

Christian Ratenburg asked whether the DTD or the XML Schema will be the reference of an IPTC standard in future.

John Iobst said one will lose some type checking with DTDs compared to XML Schemas.

Jo Rabin said a) all IPTC developed XML Schema would have to take the same style and b) type checking is far better done by XML Schema and c) DTDs are less expressive.

Henrik Stadler said IPTC should decide as the customers request it.

The Managing Director reminded of Johan Lindgren's information given in Aarhus that controlling values of XML elements and attributes—which is done now by the controlled vocabulary mechanism—could be done by XML Schema – but in that case no backward compatibility would be provided since this can not be done in any equal way by a DTD.

Christian Ratenburg pointed out that customers require now a DTD or an XML Schema – with no clear preference – and said IPTC should provide both formats in parallel and reminding users of the shortcomings of a DTD compared to an XML Schema.

Misha Wolf seconded this.

John Iobst said even if we have an XML Schema we still should have a DTD as the tests using XML Schema for controlled vocabulary purposes did not work very well.

The chairman asked what could be derived from this:

does maintenance of DTD and XML Schema in parallel mean doubling the work?

Misha Wolf said an XML Schema would provide added value. It would be best to have and endorsed XML Schema that is "good enough".

Jo Rabin asked why special features of XML Schema should not be used.

Misha Wolf replied that some features of XML Schema could not be transferred to a DTD.

Christian Ratenburg said our controlled vocabularies could have importance in the news industry – but they are difficult to use, using XML Schema could ease this pain. He understands the problem of not being able to provide these features to users of a DTD. Then he pointed out that validation of XML instances is very important to check the result of XML tools.



Laurent Le Meur said the expressiveness of XML Schema would be useful for NewsML 2 and would add value by providing type checking and inheritance of classes. Therefore he proposes NewsML 2 should be based on an XML Schema. He said he assumes that it is possible to derive a valid DTD from an XML Schema by automated conversion.

The Managing Director reported on the manual additions David Allen did after an automated conversion of the NewsML 1.1 DTD to an XML Schema. As a result from this no automated conversion is feasible, all the manually added checking has to be redone for any future versions of NewsML which are based on a DTD.

Misha Wolf emphasised that only those XML Schema features should be allowed that would allow automated conversion of a specific XML Schema to a DTD.

The Managing Director reported about complaints of a NewsML user who downloaded the NewsML package including the experimental xsd-file and found some NewsML instances to be invalid if validated against this XML Schema due to the value checking David introduced.

The chairman summarised: IPTC should consider having DTD and XML Schema in parallel and to convert from the XML Schema to a DTD in future. There is a requirement for an XML Schema and IPTC should consider how to maintain both.

Laurent Le Meur urged that a more restrictive type checking would be essential for NewsML 2 and should be considered thoroughly. The first step on changing the reference from DTD to XML Schema would be a big one, but later on maintenance would be easier.

Ken Wolf proposed having a DTD only for all versions of NewsML 1.x and to move to XML Schema for NewsML 2.

Christian Ratenburg emphasised that some customers require an endorsed XML Schema for their XML software.

Harald Löffler felt that if IPTC decides to go with XML Schema it should also use the advanced features to benefit from its use.

Jo Rabin proposed to

- (a) have an XML Schema for NewsML 1.x for functional validation only
- (b) have for NewsML 2 an XML Schema as reference and a DTD for functional validation only

If the DTD would be derived from the XML Schema it would validate at the same level.

Christian Ratenburg emphasised that IPTC would have to bring products to the market which are required there.

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◆ Survey: (This has been discussed during the second part of the session)

John Iobst said the content of the questionnaire for the IPTC Survey will be ready within two weeks, then it will be uploaded by NAA to a NAA website to be handled by a special survey software. The URL to access the IPTC Survey will be forwarded to the Managing Director.

Then it was discussed who should be asked to fill in the IPTC Survey questionnaire:  
- IPTC members



- clients of IPTC members
- members of NAA and IFRA

Timeframe for the survey:

- 2 weeks after the release of the invitation to complete the survey form a reminder will be sent
- 3 weeks after the release the survey page will be closed down.

Misha Wolf added he wants to see basic data about the professional background of the persons who completed the survey form.

**Action** ● a group of Stéphane Guérillot, John Iobst and Misha Wolf will review the questionnaire before being posted to the survey website.

## Agenda

### Item 5 Appointment of Vice-Chairmen

Some Chairmen named their vice-chairs:

For News Metadata: Honor Craig-Bennet

For NewsML: Stuart Miles

For Specialised Content: Henrik Stadler

(For NITF: Johan Lindgren was added later)

## Agenda

### Item 6 News Standards Summit

Misha reported on the upcoming event:

- Target audience are people who either develop or use/implement standards for/in the news industry.

- The event will be on 8 December, the full day, in Philadelphia, Pa, USA in conjunction with the XML (USA) Conference starting on 9 December.

- Program:

In the morning a presentation of standards, this will be chaired by Stéphane Guérillot

In the early afternoon several presentations of requirements for news standards from implementers, this will be chaired by Linda Burman

In the late afternoon an open discussion on how to make interaction between standards easier. This will be chaired by Misha Wolf.

- The registration fee will be 90 USD.

- On the organising committee are IPTC, OASIS and IDEAlliance

- Sponsors are these three and IFRA and NAA.

He underlined that all IPTC members are invited to this summit.

The Managing Director added that IPTC members should also invite their customers and partners to this summit.

Then some additional information about the goal and the intended interaction of standards was asked.

Geoffrey Haynes said AP will support this day as one of the biggest news providers in XML format.

**Action** ● Walter Baranger added that at the time of the release of the final program an IPTC press release should be circulated.



**Agenda**

**Item 7 URN Namespace for IPTC**

The Managing Director gave a presentation on this issue based on documents DIR0306a and draftB-steidl-iptc-urn-00.pdf.

The chairman asked how this namespace will replace the use of URNs from the NewsML namespace for standards.

The Managing Director said he and Laurent Le Meur agreed on having a NewsML-URN based XML namespace for all versions of NewsML 1, considering a change for NewsML 2.

For NITF and SportsML no XML namespace URNs are defined yet and they will be taken from this new IPTC URN-Namespae.

Alan Karben asked if there would be a web URL available that point to this draft document so a preliminary namespace URN could be defined with a reference to this document.

Jo Rabin proposed to change the definition of the “std-version” string in a way that allows for the value “current” which should be used for documents representing the current version of a standard.

While discussing this it was agreed that this “current” string should only be used for a URN – URI resolution mechanism and not for identifying a specific document. But this resolution mechanism has to be discussed and specified in detail.

Misha Wolf asked whether the position of the “xmlns” for namespace definition is at the right level of the structure, he proposed to put in one level up as a third branch besides “spec” and “doc”.

The chairman said the draft should be reviewed by a group of Jo Rabin, Misha Wolf and the Managing Director and the result of this should be a motion in the Friday session of the Standards Committee.

*[As this motion was not proposed in the Friday session it will be circulated to the Autumn Meeting participants for an electronic vote in October.]*

**Agenda**

**Item 8 Project Management (PM) at IPTC.**

Geoffrey Haynes gave a presentation on Project Management as it could be implemented for IPTC’s purposes. The basic notation for this is: “put some structure to our work”.

It was discussed to have a group of IPTC member delegates for reviewing incoming project draft and to review the current process of standard development, this could be called a "Project Review Committee".

Laurent Le Meur asked how the requirements for a standard could be created and he asked how to deal with human resources since all persons developing a standard come from an IPTC member and are volunteers in this position. Finally he asked how testing could be improved at IPTC.

Stuart Myles agreed to what Geoff had outlined and asked what could be done in parallel? He urged that checkpoints have to be defined and PM should be applied also to “old”, but currently still operational standards.



Christian Ratenburg asked whether PM documents to be provided by Geoff are free of licence fees from any creator.

Geoffrey Haynes said no license fees will apply since he creates them from scratch and will only be inspired by documents he knows.

Walter Baranger urged that people on the Project Review Committee should not be people who maintain specific standards.

Michael Schlein said there should be a “lighter” set of requirements for PM to be implemented and not “pure” PM. PM should not suck resources from the work of IPTC.

Klaus Sprick said he welcomes this initiative and a more formal approach to manage our work. But he does not know to assign human resources of volunteers to a project. He also asked whether it makes sense to contract an external consultant for reviewing the work done under PM.

Finally he said that the Management Committee should review the work done on IPTC standards since they have the responsibility for the products of IPTC.

John Iobst said IPTC should provide forms, templates and other stuff on PM that people understand and PM should not stop standards from being developed.

The chairman said IPTC should pursue implementing PM and asked Geoff to propose an implementation.

Stuart Myles proposed to test using PM at IPTC with only one project.

John Iobst proposed to make the weather-data effort this test project.

**Action** ● Geoffrey Haynes said he feels some consensus on having PM at IPTC he will develop and circulate a proposal for implementing PM.

**Action** ● The chairman asked Geoffrey Haynes, Stuart Myles and the Managing Director to form a group that reviews the process of PM implementation. Geoff added he will provide material and the group should review this prior to any further circulation.

Klaus Sprick pointed out that in his view only the Management Committee is eligible to review a specific project, whether it has succeeded or failed.

## **Agenda**

### **Item 9 Introduction of a unified directory structure for IPTC data**

The Managing Director introduced a draft for a common directory structure (STA0309) to be used for file systems. The goal is to avoid having more than one instance of a specific file in such a directory tree when downloading packages of different IPTC standards – which is now the case.

Ken Wolf said this structure should be aware of the need for having access control mechanisms applied to it and for this reason he is in favour of a subdirectory for each standard that also holds all specification files (DTD, XML Schema files).

Jo Rabin said he would like not having an absolute path defined for the IPTC directory – this idea was brought up discussing the presentation.

Alan Karben said he would like to have all letters of terms used in the tree in lower case and each standards should have its own dtd directory.



Walter Baranger asked whether IPTC should provide tar packages for the use of Unix/Linux users.

Jo Rabin said versioning should be available with this structure and asked therefore to intersperse a new directory level under each standard's directory telling the respective version of this standard.

Christian Ratenburg emphasised this unified structure should be implemented as soon as possible since he and other users are aware of problems caused by the current mix in structures.

Walter Baranger proposed to create a final draft at the Autumn meeting by an ad hoc working group.

The chairman said he will bring this item back to the table on the second part of the Standards Committee session on Friday.

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Minutes from the Friday session:

The Managing Director reported that the draft has been reviewed and changed to resemble the structure of the proposed IPTC URN Namespace:

- an additional level under a standard's directory is introduced holding directories named after the version of the standard (e.g. 0.1, 1.0, 3.2)
- For these version-dependant directories are only three subdirectories defined:
  - \* "specification" to hold all specification documents
  - \* "documentation" to hold all documentation documents
  - \* "examples" to hold all examples files, best in subdirectories.
- all directory names except the IPTC directory and the directories showing the standard names are in lower case.

Motion: To make the unified directory structure as outlined by the reviewed draft mandatory for any future releases of files and file packages of IPTC standards. This motion was proposed by Misha Wolf and seconded by Walter Baranger.

The motion was approved unanimously.

## Agenda

### Item 10 Change Request for registered IPTC MIME types

Misha Wolf introduced document (STA0311) which proposes to register two new MIME types for NewsML and NITF files and to deprecate the previous ones.

Motion: To register application/vnd.IPTC.NewsML+xml and application/vnd.IPTC.NITF+xml and to deprecate text/vnd.IPTC.NewsML and text/vnd.IPTC.NITF.

This motion was proposed by Misha Wolf and seconded by Henrik Stadler.

The motion was approved unanimously.

**Action** ● The Managing Director will take the appropriate steps to register and deprecate these MIME types.



**Agenda  
Item 11**

There was no item 11 on the agenda.

**Agenda  
Item 12**

**Report from the Specialised Content Working Party**

Geoffey Haynes reported:

\* EventsML: requirements from IPTC members were collected and a table was made to show how they align with each other and with the vCal/xCal structure. It was decided to create an events standard under the OASIS umbrella, as first step a group of three OASIS members has to be found to create a discussion group there about this standard. From this group IPTC expects seeing interest from other OASIS members. IPTC will continue its work by creating an object model to further explain what our objectives for this are.

\* ProgramGuideML: First the WP has heard a report about how ProgramGuideML interacts with the EBU standard "TV-Anywhere" and it was obvious that they align to a high extend despite pursuing different goals and mapping would be possible. Then the ProgramGuideML version 1.0 draft was presented pointing out the difference between the previous 0.7 draft and this one and it was discussed to approve the version 1.0 as standard at the Spring Meeting 2004.

\* SportsML: Information about the use of this standard was updated, two major sports stats providers in the US use it. The next steps for this standard are a version 1.5 for the Spring Meeting 2004 and a draft XML Schema.

\* Weather Markup Language: a draft XML Schema was under critical review of John Iobst and Honor Craig-Bennett. This will be the first standard where IPTC will apply Project Management methodologies. The XML Schema will be circulated to the membership to seek comments and new requirements.

**Agenda  
Item 13**

**NewsML Support Working Party report**

Laurent Le Meur reported:

While working on NewsML 2 only small modifications to NewsML 1.x should be applied.

Some small changes to NewsML 1.1 were discussed and the rather lax handling of controlled vocabularies by implementers.

Laurent Le Meur gave a presentation on the proposed version 1.2 of NewsML:

**Motion:** To create version NewsML1.2 with the following changes:

1. Element Creator is repeatable
2. A Contribution element is added in Creator and Contributor  
Contribution is empty and has %localid and %formalname attributes
3. The following sentence is deleted from the comments within the NewsML dtd:





“If there is no Vocabulary attribute and the above algorithm fails to identify a resource that serves as the controlled vocabulary, there is an error, which the NewsML system may signal to the user.”

*(Comment: this item of the motion results from the discussion of Item 8 of the NMLS Working Party. The motion carried there, saying "add to the NewsML documentation "The FormalName attribute of the Language element is controlled by RFC 3066 ..." was accidentally not included into the wording of this motion but has to be considered as intentional part of this motion.)*

4. The change includes a change in the XML Schema, in order to remove constraints on the values of some attributes. [End of Motion]

Jo Rabin said he has sent a proposal to be considered together with the version 1.2 proposal. As it turned out intention for this text was not clear enough so this paper has not been circulated.

The text was presented to the membership but it was said that the usual procedures of IPTC do not allow such a last minute presentation of motions.

Jo Rabin withdrew his proposal.

**Vote:** The motion for approval of version 1.2 without any amendment was approved unanimously.

## **Agenda**

### **Item 14 News Management Working Party report**

Stuart Myles reported:

- The News Management Guide will be integrated into the comprehensive documentation currently under development.
- An accurate processing model for NewsML will be developed. This could form the news management parts for the new version of NewsML.  
Several member delegates volunteered to create such a processing model:  
Klaus Herwig, Tom Taylor, Ken Wolf and Laurent Le Meur.

## **Agenda**

### **Item 15 News Metadata Working Party**

John Minting reported the working party tries to provide full featured and complete topic sets. From that:

- explanations were added to a lot of terms of the current Subject Codes
- a new topic set for the description of scenes, primarily for images, was created
- topics were added to the CharacteristicsProperties topic set

Updated versions of translations of the Subject Codes into German and Spanish were introduced, but some expected translations are still missing.

Motion #1: That document NMA0319a and its associated Excel spreadsheet with the following changes be included in the next version of the iptc-subjectcodes topicset. The



changes to NMA0319a being the removal of descriptions from the terms whose code is between 14011001 and 14011009.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion #2: That documents NMA0320 & NMA0321a with the following change to NMA0320, be included in the next version of the iptc-subjectcodes topicset. The change to NMA0320 is the replacement of the description of "electronics" with "the branch of engineering or physics concerned with the controlled flow of electrons or other carriers of electric charges, especially in semiconductor devices, including the design, manufacture, and maintenance of electronic devices" and replace "or MARS" with "(MARS)".

Motion #3: That the terms and explanations contained in document NMA0322 with the following changes, become a new IPTC topic set called "iptc-scene". The changes to NMA0322 are:

The codes have another two zeros added at the right.

That "nighth" be corrected to "night"

That "feature" becomes "off beat"

That hyphens be removed and capitalisation be corrected.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion #4: That the terms and explanations etc contained in document NMA 0326 with the following changes be added to IPTC topic set iptc-characteristicsproperty. The changes being to add "legacy" to the description of "image type", to change Formal Name "Word" to "Words", and to change "SamplingFrequency" to "SampleRate", the name "Color Space" changed to "Colour Space" and correct missing spaces in the names.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion #5: That the wordage contained in document NMA0316a with the exception that "maybe" is replaced with "may be" in item 3 of the Fast Track change section, be used to modify the SRS Guidelines.

The motion was approved unanimously.

John Minting said he is grateful to all who contributed to that approved material.

## **Agenda**

### **Item 16 NITF Maintenance Working Party report**

Geoffrey Haynes reported since the chairman already had left at that time:

- The new design of the website was presented
- the changes to NITF to make version 3.2 were presented – primarily adding class and styles attributes and the inclusion of Ruby as a module.

**Motion:** To approve NITF version 3.2 as presented.

**Vote:** The motion was approved unanimously.



**Agenda**

**Item 17 Any other business**

- ◆ Liaison to other standards bodies

Misha Wolf proposed to make clear assignments of liaison persons to other standardisation bodies.

The chairman said this is not a formal liaison but a person from IPTC to communication with the respective body.

Appointed were:

OASIS tech-liaison: Misha Wolf

*[The Managing Director is the company liaison,  
as approved in the Spring 2003 Meeting]*

Atom liaison: Laurent Le Meur

**Action ●** The Management Committee was asked to provide a guidance for these liaison persons.

- ◆ Takahiro Fujiwara said that the NKS NewsML team will consider the outlined development for NewsML 2 and will report back to the IPTC Committees and Working Party.

- ◆ Internal communication of papers:

Jo Rabin urged means for online discussion of circulated papers should be provided by IPTC.

The chairman said after hearing some proposals for this, to pursue this goal is a mix of improvement in tools, procedures and management.

- ◆ Project Review body

Geoffrey Haynes asked how to proceed with this body which was brought up while discussing the implementation of Project Management.

The chairman said he want to pursue this idea.

**Motion** to the Management Committee: To create such a body for the review of IPTC projects.

The motion was proposed the chairman and seconded by Stuart Myles.

**Vote:** The motion was approved unanimously.

**Agenda**

**Item 18 Date and place of next meeting**

15 – 17 March 2004, Athens (Greece)

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