



New WP organisation

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Rev a.				

Introduction:

The STA committee has organised its work around 5 main Working Parties, namely the

- ◇ NewsCodes WP (former News Metadata)
- ◇ News Management WP
- ◇ NewsML Support WP
- ◇ NITF maintenance WP
- ◇ Specialised Content WP.

Under each of the Working Parties we find Working Groups, ad hoc groups or task forces in charge of very specific subjects with – in theory – a shorter life time.

While scrutinising the existing IPTC standards as a first step of the “Roadmap 2005” effort their high interdependencies were obvious and this was expressed by the “Tower of Standards” view introduced in May 2004 and by the Global Metadata Framework initiative.

As a result Working Groups (e.g. EventsML) are considering adopting components which are common to several standards thus making a standard a composition of specific and common components.

In parallel, it is recognised that within the NewsML Support WP, and to finalise NewsML2 several different issues are discussed which are not specific to a standard for General News purpose but are more structure oriented with definition of common rules to be applied on all IPTC Standards.

In October 2004 it was proposed to the STA chair to reconsider the committee’s working structure to provide a more effective way to achieve the goals of the IPTC Roadmap 2005 and to obtain a much better result regarding any future release of a new IPTC standard.

After long and exciting discussions, exchange of ideas, and conference calls, this document is circulated to provide a guideline and a proposal for a new organisation for the STA Committee and its Working Parties.

Comments:

In this effort, we have two separate issues that have to be agreed upon by different instances:

- The technical issues which are behind the technical work of creating the tools, the methods in the standards generation process; these issues are to be managed by the STA Committee;
- The communication and branding issues that have to be managed by the MAN and the PR Committees.

In conclusion all given names within the document could be modified at a validation stage and the NewsML2 branding and concept will be adapted if necessary.



1 Goal and Solution

The **Goal** is:

- to simplify the understanding and implementation of IPTC standards and to facilitate wider adoption
- to give IPTC Standards a common base with a family style
- to shorten the overall standard development cycle
- to ease and improve the support and management of standards
- to make sure that all IPTC standards share as much components as possible

The **proposed Solution** is to develop a generic model (abstract notions specifying the Architecture behind IPTC Standards) used as a **master plan** for all IPTC work and to define and manage **common components** used whenever possible by all IPTC standards.

Then each specialised IPTC standards will be created by specialising this generic model plus the inclusion of specialised extensions and use of the common components.



2 Areas of work

We have identified the following **areas of work**:

The **Generic News Standard Architecture** to study, define and propose the construction rules and concepts behind all standards. Up to now it was identified as the Framework behind the new IPTC Standards. These are the basic principles with a lot of abstract notions, conventions, structures, rules and definitions. (we should use the object-oriented programming concepts and vocabulary) It seems that the initial work load is high but also that the maintenance and follow up could be easy, at least for one generation of standards.

The identification, development, maintenance and support of **Common Components**. Not all components (or modules) are to be classified as Common Components. The requirements and specifications for any new component should be defined by the respective Specialised Content WGs according to their needs. A specific ad hoc group should, after a pre-study decide either to include it in the Common Components list or, if too specific, assign it to local management at the Specialised Content WGs level. It is an ongoing effort during the Standards life time. This for example would include Person-component(s) or Location-component(s).

The **Generic Item Management** is the transposition of the existing work done by the News Management WP, including processing rules. Its scope is widened to any **item**.

After an initial heavy involvement on the specification and development it seems that because of implied complexity, the maintenance and support work load could be relatively high.

The **General News Content** is in fact covering all issues regarding the general news domain as undertaken today within NewsML. In fact it could be defined as one of the Specialised Content standards for **non-formalised** journalistic information.

The **Specialised Content standards** are today including EventsML, SportsML, ProgramGuideML, WeatherML standards. They should continue their respective work within the new IPTC framework with a focus on formalised information.

The provision of a Global Framework for Metadata comprises how to express, refer to, describe, maintain, extend... controlled and uncontrolled vocabularies used by IPTC standards. This is the task of the **Global Metadata Framework** (GMF) working group.

It seems that the initial work load is high but also that the maintenance and follow up could be easy, at least for one generation of standards.

The study and recommendation for an **XML Schema style** to be used in common for all IPTC standards. A specific Task Force was formed in October 2004 and its mission is to come with recommendations or alternate options by the Spring 2005 meeting.

It seems that the initial work load is high but also that the maintenance and follow up could be easy, at least for one generation of standards.

The **News Codes** as a standard set of Metadata values for controlled vocabulary.

The maintenance of the **NITF** standard.

The maintenance of the **NewsML1** standard.



3 Proposal for a New WP Organisation

First of all the **NewsCodes** and **NITF maintenance Working Parties** are continued in their existing form, with the same mission and charter.

For clarification purposes, at the STA Committee level, the NewsML Support Working Party is renamed into **Architecture WP** and reorganised.

Its mission is modified to take into account all common architectural issues of the “new generation” of IPTC standards plus the NewsML 1 support and maintenance.

It will be organised in Working Groups with the following initial composition:

- The **Generic News Standards Structures WG** dealing with an abstract news model customisable to the needs of the IPTC standards;
- The **Generic Items Management WG** formed by the transfer of the current News Management WP;
- The **Common Components WG** to cover all related issues and to include an Ad hoc WG to deal with revising submissions from the SC WP;
- The **Global Metadata Framework WG** with its same existing mission statement;
- The **NewsML 1 Support WG**.

The **Specialised Content Working Party** is maintained in its existing form, with the same mission and charter but we would include the **General News WG** as a new working group. The SPC WP responsibilities are increased as it is required to provide full comprehensive specifications/requirements to the Common Components WG and take into account the components and related processing and holding structures as made available within the set of Common Components.

As the **XML Schema style** task force has a very limited life time with recommendations to be applied to all Standards, it will remain directly under the STA Committee.

The **STA Committee** will then co-ordinate the work of the NewsCodes WP, NITF maintenance WP, Specialised Content WP and Architecture WP plus, on a temporary basis, the XML Schema Style task force.



4 Glossary

Component: a component is a specific part of an overall structure used within the exchange of newsworthy information and it is to be specified by the IPTC.

The generic scope of use of such a component is being adopted by any IPTC standard for news exchange on an optional basis; hence these components are attributed as “Common Components” of IPTC standards.

These Components have to be independent from each other to a high extent.

Examples are: Labels, Rights Management, Management, Identification.

Formalised information is used to define all kinds of information that could be presented like in a form – a structured set of information.

This is more “data” oriented as statistics, any type of results (sports, elections), information about persons, organizations, locations ...

Non-formalised information: it is used primarily in the general news domain to cover all kinds of news, mainly produced by a journalist and its content could be text (news article), audio, photo, video...

An **item** is a managed object.

An **atomic-item** is the smallest unit of management for all IPTC compatible systems.

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