ISMN Update for the Year 2013

Membership
There are now 56 ISMN agencies since Brazil cancelled its membership as of 2013. Interest in membership was recently shown from Austria, Bolivia, Botswana, Cambodia, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nigeria, South Pacific region, Switzerland, Vietnam. The United States agency at the Library of Congress started its operations successfully. The Music Center of The Netherlands with the only recently established ISMN agency was unfortunately no longer funded by the government and had to close down by December 2012. As of 2013, Donemus Publishing took over the agency responsibility.

AGM
The latest Annual General Assembly of the ISMN community took place in Washington DC, USA, on September 13, 2013, hosted by the Library of Congress. For the fourth time we aligned our meeting with that of the International ISBN Agency. Since this brought synergies on both sides we intend to continue with this arrangement. As guest speaker Nick Woods from the International ISBN Agency gave an update on recent developments of the ISBN. Paul Jessop gave a report on the state of affairs with the ISRC standard revision. Wolfram Krajewski reported on his EU-funded project for direct distributing of digital notated music. Mary Wedgewood presented the music stacks of the Library of Congress and the newly established US ISMN agency. The next ISMN meeting will take place in Istanbul by invitation of the Turkish ISMN agency.

Publications
The latest ISMN Newsletter (no. 23) – also available on the ISMN Website – provides information on the 2013 AGM.

Conferences
In 2013 the International ISMN Agency was represented at the Frankfurt Music Fair, a meeting of ISBN and ISMN agencies from the Balkan region in Belgrade, the ISO TC46 meeting in Paris, the IAML Conference in Vienna, the CDNL meeting in Singapore, the CERLALC conference and the ISBN annual meeting in New York.

Guests
In October, 5 representatives of the National Library of Indonesia and the regional government of South Kalimantan visited the International ISMN Agency to explore more information about the benefits and applications of the ISMN.

Problems
We got notice that Amazon refuses the ISMN and insists on ISBN for musical works, which is against ISO standards and the interest of the music community. Reasons are not given, neither answers to messages. This is deplorable as no valid reason can be seen behind this ruling - the ISMN fits completely into the ISBN and EAN scheme so that Amazon staff would be unable to distinguish between an ISBN and ISMN were it not for the preceding acronym.
Board
The Board still consists of Dr. Hartmut Walravens (Chairman), Dr. Joachim Jaenecke (Vice Chairman), Dr. Bettina von Seyfried (Treasurer). The next board elections are scheduled for 2015. The daily business is run by Carolin Unger.

The IA confirmed its readiness to cooperate with the Linked Contents Coalition if they should initiate a project to enhance the interoperability of the SC9 identifiers. The IA will also cooperate in the working group on the revision of the ISBN standard.

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