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REQUESTED ACTION

Circulated to P- and O-members, and to technical committees and organizations in liaison for:

- information
- discussion at SC9 plenary meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, May 14, 2009
[venue/date of meeting]
- comments by
[date]
- voting (P-members only by:

[date]

P-members of the technical committee or subcommittee concerned have an obligation to vote.

Activity Report on ISO 21047 (ISTC) from The International ISTC Agency Ltd – 2009-04-27

In August 2008 the consortium of CISAC, RR Bowker and Nielsen Book that was approved to operate the registration authority for ISO 21047, together with IFRRO (the International Federation of Reprographic Rights Organisations), created a stand-alone company specifically for this purpose. The International ISTC Agency Limited (“IIA”) is registered in England & Wales as a non share-capital, not-for-profit company limited by guarantee. It will operate, without enrolling any further company members, by licensing organisations to operate as Registration Agencies (“ISTC-RAs”) on a rolling contract basis.

The contract appointing the IIA as the Registration Authority was signed with ISO on 2009-01-30 and a website providing an overview of ISO 21047 & publicising the IIA’s activities was launched in the same month at <http://www.istc-international.org/>. ISO 21047 (ISTC) was formally published as an International Standard on 2009-03-09.

A first edition of the ISTC User Manual is, at 2009-04-27, being finalised in time for the first ISTC-RAs to go “live” during May 2009. The release of the first edition of this document is being timed to allow it to address and/or incorporate as many questions and issues as possible which have arisen either through testing of the registration system or during discussions with prospective registrants and registration agencies.

All ISTC-RAs will use a centralised, web-based system called the Standard Text Registration System (“STRS”); its main function is to automatically check the work-metadata provided in a registration-request and provide an ISTC number to each unique work-metadata record. To begin, only ISTC-RA staff will interface with the STRS, although it is hoped that in the longer term it may be possible to enhance the STRS to allow for 3rd-party systems, used by registrants, to interface with it directly.

Fine tuning of the STRS algorithms for trapping duplicate work-registration requests has been ongoing for over one year. While the overall system functionality has been reliable all along, the rules that were initially implemented have undergone successive improvements to make the registration process as efficient as possible, and the IIA is pleased with the system as it now stands. The IIA has taken the opportunity afforded by the early development to make the STRS functionality as effective and efficient as possible. The next phase of enhancements to the STRS will provide a publicly-available search facility, which will be required as soon as we start using the system to create “live” ISTCs, as well as making the user interface more intuitive for new ISTC-RA users.

There are no geographic restrictions on ISTC-RAs concerning where their registrants may be based, although the intention is to provide an even coverage of ISTC-RA services across all languages, focussing initially on the more prolific countries & languages in the publishing industry.

The consortium is seeking to make the IIA financially independent by enrolling at least 7 ISTC-RAs by January 2010, which currently appears viable. As at 2009-04-27, two ISTC-RAs, each operating other ISO identifier RAs and providing bibliographic services to the book trade, have been appointed: Nielsen Book (UK) and RR Bowker (US). Two further organisations have been approved, subject to contract, to become ISTC-RAs based in Germany and in Switzerland. Expressions of interest in becoming an RA have been received from organisations in the following countries and are currently in discussions with the IIA: Italy and The Netherlands. Informal expressions of interest in becoming an RA have been received from organisations in the following countries and are currently under discussion or awaiting action by the IIA: China, Denmark, France, Norway and Russia.