ISNI (ISO 27729) – Registration Authority

Prospective Organizational Plan

July 2009

Abstract:

This document describes the possible operating principles for the ISNI-Registration Authority.

1. History

Following a resolution taken at the SC9 plenary in Stockholm on May 22nd 2008, the SC9 Secretariat has published in October 2008 a Call for Expression of Interest to form a consortium to operate the ISNI Registration Authority.

In response to the call, a number of organizations have informally met to explore the creation of the ISNI Registration Authority (ISNI-RA)

2. Organization

The ISNI-RA will operate as a registered not-for-profit organization. The territory of incorporation and legal structure still needs to be defined.

The following organizations have expressed a non-binding interest in joining the consortium that will operate the ISNI-RA:

- CISAC - France
- IFRRO - Belgium
- OCLC – USA and Netherland
- Bibliothèque National de France - France
- The British Library - UK
- IPDA - Hosting in SWEDEN click here
- Bowker - USA

Jointly, these organizations bring expertise ranging from the Musical repertoire, the Audio-Visual repertoire and the literary repertoire. Furthermore, these organizations are already involved in a number of ISO/TC46/SC9 identifiers including ISBN (ISO 2106), ISWC (ISO 15707), ISTC (21047), ISAN (ISO15706) and ISRC (ISO 3901). Finally, these organizations currently maintain the largest proprietary party information databases, namely the Virtual International Authority File (VIAF) and the Interested Party Identifier (IPI) and International Performers Database Association (IPD).
3. Structure

The overall operations will be handled by a dual layer organization:

- **The ISNI Registration Authority**

  The Registration Authority (RA), appointed by ISO, will be in charge of creating and maintaining the single ISNI reference database. It will operate a centralized matching tool guaranteeing the uniqueness of ISNI numbers.

  The Registration Authority will not provide direct services to users. It will systematically channel potential users through a Registration Agency.

- **The ISNI Registration Agencies**

  The ISNI Registration Agencies (RAG) will act as independent representatives of the ISNI on their respective markets. They will act as interfaces between the users and the Registration Authority.