From: Todd Carpenter
ISO/TC46/SC9 Secretary

Title: Report from the International ISMN Agency for the TC46/SC9 plenary meeting on May 4, 2011 and the TC46 plenary on May 6, 2011 in Sydney, Australia

Source: Hartmut Walravens, International ISMN Agency

Project(s): ISO 10957

Status:

Additional information:

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

- [ ] information
- [ ] discussion at [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.
AGM
The latest Annual General Assembly of the ISMN community took place in Lisbon, Portugal, on September 14-15, on invitation of the Biblioteca Nacional. It was an excellent meeting, for two reasons: It followed immediately the AGM of the International ISBN Agency, which took place at Estoril, on the outskirts of Lisbon. This allowed for a closer contact of representatives of both communities and cut costs as in not a small number of cases the same persons are responsible for ISBN and ISMN. Thus the attendance of the ISMN AGM was larger than usually. The other reason, of course, is the wonderful hospitality of colleagues at the National Library: Ms. Inês Cordeiro and her staff did their best to make colleagues feel welcome; it also turned out that there was actually more music publishing in Portugal than previously assumed. The next AGM will again be aligned with the ISBN AGM: It is planned for September 13 in Pretoria, by invitation of the National Library of South Africa. In this case the ISMN AGM will be followed by a training course for ISBN and ISMN (Sept. 14), and then the ISBN AGM is to follow. Again, it is an opportunity for colleagues to take part in several meetings – and kill several birds with one stone. There has been some discussion whether it makes sense to travel all the way to South Africa for such a meeting, to a country which cannot compare in music production with Europe and North America. On the other hand, as the standard claims to be international, the impression should be avoided that it was just something for Europeans ... Actually, South Africa is not yet an ISMN member; but the meeting will offer opportunities for African colleagues to familiarise themselves with the standard and perhaps join the community.

Standard
The standard revision was completed and the new standard published as is well-known by now. No problems with the implementation were reported. The revised standard has been in force as of Jan. 1, 2008.
The annual ISO TC46/SC9 meeting took place in May on Jeju Island, Korea. Major subjects were progress on new ISO standards, especially DOI and ISNI (International Standard Name Identifier) and enhanced interoperability between existing identifiers. As of last year, the International ISMN Agency has an A Liaison with TC46.
This year’s ISO TC46 meeting will take place in Sydney, Australia, at the beginning of May.

Publications
The latest ISMN Newsletter (no. 20) – also available on the Website – provides information on the 2010 AGM.
Just off the press is an ISBN and ISMN Bibliography; it contains a large amount of grey literature on the subjects:

**Membership**
There are now 52 ISMN agencies, the latest member are The Netherlands.
There is progress in the negotiations with further interested countries:
– China is preparing the introduction of ISMN.
– At the beginning of May, an information seminar on identifiers was conducted in Seoul, Korea, at the National Library which is considering the introduction of the ISMN. Prof. Sam Oh was very kind in arranging the event.
– In the US, Library of Congress has successfully conducted a feasibility test on ISMN implementation. While the Library, music libraries in the US, and the US IAML branch are in favour of ISMN, the publishers associations show little interest; on the other hand, it is difficult to blame them because so far they are not familiar with the standard and lack the imagination of envisaging that it comprises all the benefits known from ISBN – and who can sell books on a global scale without this identifier?
It should be emphasized that according to the ISO standards ISBN must not be used for notated music.

**Publishers’ database**
A directory of music publishers with their ISMN prefixes was installed on the International Agency’s website. It succeeds to the former printed directory which is not continued by the publisher. Also, it will be no longer possible to offer worldwide music publisher information – it would be too much of an effort. Therefore only ISMN members will be listed, in agreement with the stipulations of the standard.

**Applications**
ISMN has not yet reached the stage where the whole sheet music sector is geared to the ISMN – as the book sector to ISBN. A promising application is IDNV marketed by the German and the British ISMN agencies who cooperate on this venture. It is a Music in Print catalogue with currently about 400,000 titles, and it is growing. While printed music reaches a much smaller audience than books, an advantage is the worldwide market as there is no language barrier. Thus a truly international Music in Print would make the ISMN indispensable ....
In Australia, TROVE is the information system of the National Library of Australia, including music (formerly: Music Australia); it is an ideal basis for the ISMN, too.

**Meetings**
In 2011 the International ISMN Agency will be represented at the annual ISO TC46 meeting, the Frankfurt Music Fair and the IAML Conference in Dublin as well as at a Turkish standards conference in Istanbul (by kind invitation of the Turkish Ministry of Culture).

**Agency Projects**
- Improved performance of the ISMN website, with more information on the benefits (applications), a News Section, more up-to-date content, better interfaces to music dealers and wholesalers, more interoperability between related identifiers.
- Publication of an informative brochure about ISMN and its application – it should be more general than the ISMN Manual and targeted at a wider audience within the music and trade sectors.
- We try to find ways to motivate publishers, music dealers and wholesalers to make more use of the ISMN, especially in catalogues and on the Internet.
An intern has been working at the Agency for six months to design improvements and devise an action plan.

Board
At the Bonn AGM a new board had to be elected as its three year term was over. The board was re-elected and therefore consists still of
Dr. Hartmut Walravens, chair
Dr. Joachim Jaenecke, vice chair
Dr. Bettina von Seyfried, treasurer.

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