

**ISO/TC 46/SC 9 Secretariat****ISO/TC 46/SC 9 Secrétariat**

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Our ref: ISO/TC46/SC9 N 291

Ms. Ia C. McIlwaine
Chair, IFLA Division IV (Bibliographic Control)
School of Library, Archive and Information Studies
University College London, Gower Street
London. WC1E 6BT

2000-08-08

Dear Ms. McIlwaine,

I am writing on behalf of ISO Technical Committee 46, Subcommittee 9 to enquire whether IFLA is interested in adopting a project which we have had to withdraw from our own programme of work. TC 46/SC 9 is the committee of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) that is responsible for ISO standards on the description and identification of documents.

The project in question is a multilingual list of abbreviations for terms commonly used within the bibliographic community. Largely because of ISO's pricing policies, it has proven impossible to continue this work as a future ISO publication. At our most recent meeting the members of our committee decided to cancel this project and offer its content to IFLA for further development, if desired.

I am attaching a document which describes the work in question. Sample pages from a print version of the list of abbreviations will be included with a copy of this letter that is being sent to you by fax.

I realize that the timing of this letter may prevent its being discussed when the Division of Bibliographic Control meets this month in Jerusalem. If so, may I ask you to table this matter for discussion at the next available opportunity?

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this proposal. I look forward to hearing from you at your convenience.

Yours truly,

Original signed by

Jane M. Thacker
Secretary, ISO/TC 46/SC 9

cc. Christine Deschamps, Chair of ISO/TC 46/SC 9
Marie-France Plassard, IFLA liaison to ISO/TC 46/SC 9
Sten Hedberg, former project leader for DTR 11015



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**Proposal to IFLA regarding the former ISO project on
"Abbreviations of typical bibliographic terms"
(also known as ISO Draft Technical Report 11015)**

Background:

The ISO project to create an international, multilingual list of abbreviations for bibliographic terms was first adopted in 1977 in conjunction with a related project to establish rules for abbreviating bibliographic terms. It was assigned to ISO/TC 46/SC 9 which is responsible for ISO standards on the presentation, identification and description of documents.

Under the project leadership of the former State Library of the U.S.S.R., abbreviations for bibliographic terms in the following languages were solicited from ISO's member organizations and compiled into a single database:

Albanian; Bulgarian; Byelorussian; Croatian; Czech; Danish; Dutch; English; Estonian; Finnish; French; German; Hungarian; Icelandic; Irish; Italian; Latin; Lettish; Lithuanian; Macedonian; Modern Greek; Moldavian; Norwegian; Polish; Portuguese; Romanian; Russian; Serbian; Slovak; Slovenian; Spanish; Swedish; and Ukranian.

The full list of abbreviations was circulated as a printed document for comment in 1989, attached to the final draft of the future ISO standard on which the abbreviations were based (i.e. ISO 832:1994, "Rules for the abbreviation of bibliographic terms"). Since then the list of abbreviations has not been published and the data remains stored in the form in which it was originally prepared by the Russian State Library. The 1989 review also produced a set of requested corrections for many of the language sets included in the draft. Those corrections have been stored separately and have not yet been incorporated into the abbreviations database.

As a printed document, the 1989 version consisted of some 200 pages, incorporating two versions of the data: a) the list arranged alphabetically by term, and b) the list arranged alphabetically by the corresponding abbreviation. A language code is also attached to each data set (term and abbreviation).

Following the 1989 review the work became inactive because of changes in the project leadership. In 1997 ISO/TC 46/SC 9 agreed to reactivate the project as ISO Draft

Technical Report (DTR) 11015. We also decided that the work should be reconfigured for publication as a Web-accessible database instead of proceeding as a printed ISO standard. ISO set a final deadline of December 2000 for completing the project. Mr. Sten Hedberg of Uppsala University Library (Sweden) kindly agreed to act as the project leader for this work, with the intention of hosting the DTR 11015 database on the Swedish LIBRIS system.

Cancellation of the ISO project:

At the May 2000 meeting of ISO/TC 46/SC 9, the project leader reported that technical difficulties had halted the development of this project as a future component of the LIBRIS system. In addition, it was not clear that ISO's policies would allow the list of abbreviations to be made freely available on the Internet under the ISO imprimatur. However, as a printed document, ISO's policy of pricing materials according to their number of pages would make the list of abbreviations prohibitively expensive for its intended users.

In light of these difficulties, ISO/TC 46/SC 9 decided to withdraw this work as an ISO project. During that discussion the hope was expressed that IFLA might be able to finalize this work and publish it in a form that would be more affordable and accessible to its intended users. Accordingly, TC 46/SC 9 took the following resolution at its May 2000 meeting:

Resolution 3 -- Project 11015, Abbreviations of bibliographic terms

SC 9 agrees to withdraw the project on Technical Report 11015, and subsequently offer the contents of DTR 11015 to IFLA for further development.

We hope that IFLA will consider our proposal as this multilingual compilation of bibliographic terms and their abbreviations would be a useful reference tool for the bibliographic community.

If IFLA is interested in pursuing this matter, further details and a copy of the DTR 11015 data on diskette can be provided by the ISO/TC 46/SC 9 Secretariat at the address given above.

Thank you.