



ISO/TC 46/SC 9 Secretariat
National Library of Canada
395 Wellington Street
Ottawa, CANADA
K1A 0N4

ISO/TC 46/SC 9 Secrétariat
Bibliothèque nationale du Canada
395, rue Wellington
Ottawa, CANADA
K1A 0N4

Telephone - Téléphone
(819) 994-6939
Fax : (819) 953-0291
E-mail: iso.tc46.sc9@nlc-bnc.ca

ISO/TC 46/SC 9 N 286
2000-05-04

To: Members of ISO/TC 46/SC 9
Organizations in liaison

Subject: Compilation of written comments on the Secretariat's proposal (N 277) to change the scope and title of ISO/TC 46/SC 9

ACTION REQUIRED:

- **For information at the May 10, 2000 meeting of ISO/TC 46/SC 9**

Attached are the written responses received to date on the Secretariat's proposal in document N 277.

Written responses have been received from:

- British Standards Institution (United Kingdom)
- Deutsches Institut für Normung (Germany)
- Swedish national committee for ISO / TC46
- International Federation of the Phonographic Industry

With the exception of the U.K. comment, these responses have already been distributed in other SC 9 documents (i.e. N277, Supplement 1 and N 280, item 6). This document is a compilation of the comments for ease of reference during the SC 9 meeting on May 10.

With regards,

[original signed by]

Jane Thacker
Secretary, ISO/TC 46/SC 9

Comments from DIN (Germany):

“The proposal made in [document N 277] makes sense and Germany supports the general idea behind it. However, we feel that a proposed merger of SC 4 and SC 9 needs some more deliberation. Germany thinks that a reduction in the work load of the new SC 9 is not a sufficient reason for abolishing the SC 9 altogether. The operation and scope of work of SCs needs to be handled in a flexible manner.”

Comments from the Swedish national committee:

“The fact that ISO 690 can be seen as completed for the time being does not mean that it should be left outside the reformed SC9 - several of the identifiers are also "completed" projects now, running under a normal 5 year validity. What is important is that it covers an area of wide applications in publishing, but before the stage of the publisher, and it does not fit into SC4. Nor does it merit a special maintenance machinery directly under the TC46 Secretariat. And the other two projects mentioned, spines and microform headers, are more or less in the same category. We like the rest, but think you should keep these products within the reformed SC9.”

Comments from International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI):

... [We] have reviewed the N277 document and broadly give strong support to your conclusions.

We have one specific recommendation on behalf of IFPI. We think the scope statement should be changed from:

“Standard code and numbering systems for the identification of documents and other information items in physical and/or digital formats.”

to:

“Identification of documents, content and media in physical and/or digital formats”

as "information items" appears to be a potentially confusing term to the broader "target audience", whereas there can be little doubt that "documents, contents and media" covers the range of objects we currently actually deal with.

United Kingdom position on ISO/TC 46/SC 9 N 277

We have to agree in principle with the rationale for these proposals. In the absence of adequate resource or market, work on certain standards should cease. In the light of this it seems a reasonable conclusion to reduce the scope of SC 9.

The United Kingdom as P-Member of SC 9, however, has an interest in a number of standards in the SC 9 programme of work, including those that are now proposed for transfer to TC 46 responsibility or withdrawal.

We are concerned, therefore, for the future of a number of the standards that are known to be used well (at least in the United Kingdom), e.g ISO 999 *Guidelines for the content, organization and presentation of indexes* (based on a former BS), ISO 690 *Bibliographic references* (one of the base standards referred to in the ISO/IEC Directives), ISO 2788 *Guidelines for the establishment and development of multilingual thesauri*, ISO 5963 *Methods for examining documents, determining their subjects, and selecting indexing terms* and ISO 5964 *Guidelines for the establishment and development of multilingual thesauri*.

All these are known to be important bases internationally for exchange and retrieval of information.

If formats in these areas revert back to national preferences, the international information and documentation community would suffer from a substantial loss of clarity in presentation of information and data.

It should be recognized that standards for subject description are of relevance outside the traditional library / information field, especially in the developing areas of taxonomy and corporate knowledge, and of course in electronic non-bibliographic information.

Badly structured and presented information becomes non-information and leads to misunderstanding and ultimately waste of resource and loss of revenue.

Acceptability of the SC 9 proposals, therefore, would be subject to the introduction of a reliable mechanism to ensure adequate maintenance (regular reviews and revision if necessary) of standards such as those mentioned above. The United Kingdom, if required, would again be able to offer a project leader in the area of subject description to assist with implementation of the N 277 proposals.
