



News release - common dictionary for DOI and ONIX metadata

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The International DOI Foundation (IDF) and EDItEUR (the International Group for electronic commerce in the book and serial sectors) announce their intention of continuing the work announced last year* towards ONIX and DOI metadata harmonisation, through the development of a common data dictionary.

IDF has carried out a proof-of-concept exercise aimed at providing support for all current and future DOI metadata requirements through use of this dictionary. Terms from the DOI metadata set, ONIX for Books Release 2.0, CrossRef DOI applications and relevant portions of the draft MPEG21 Rights Data Dictionary (RDD) have been mapped together using the "contextual" methodology developed through the original indecs framework and subsequent work including the MPEG21 Rights Data Dictionary standardization process**. The ONIX mappings are now under review, completion and approval by EDItEUR. On approval, an essential first step will have been taken towards the establishment of a **single operational dictionary** to support both DOI Application Profiles and the various ONIX messages.

ONIX and IDF collaboration

EDItEUR and IDF announced last year their intent to work towards ONIX and DOI metadata harmonisation. In line with commitments recently made by EDItEUR and IDF and others (<http://www.cores-eu.net/interoperability/>), all dictionary Terms would carry unique identifiers (URIs) such as DOIs for reference.

When a common dictionary, and processes to support its maintenance and ongoing development, are established:

- DOI RA and ONIX Terms would all be part of a single dictionary.
- Each Term in the dictionary would have a unique XML tag and URI, which could be explicitly cross-referenced in any DTD or Schema for a DOI RA or ONIX format in which it appears. The Term may have a different name and written definition in each different scheme, but as long as it is recognised as having the same meaning it could be linked to a common dictionary tag and URI.
- The dictionary would support mapping different DOI RA and ONIX schemes using the methodologies developed in the indecs framework and MPEG21 RDD.
- A broad and continually expanding dictionary of well-formed metadata Terms would be available to RAs to help in developing their own metadata declarations.

EDItEUR and IDF will continue to work together on the next stages of this development, and intend to do everything possible to ensure that DOI metadata policies and ONIX formats are consistent in those areas where interoperability is increasingly required. This leaves open the possibility of other bodies participating or joining in the use of this dictionary: IDF and EDItEUR also welcome collaboration with other parties wishing to adopt a similar open and interoperable approach to metadata use.

Implications for DOI use

Edition 3.0 of The DOI Handbook (<http://www.doi.org/hb.html>), to be published shortly, will include extensive information on this dictionary and also on the practical development of **DOI Applications**

DOI resolution can return complex *metadata*, related to the identified entity. DOI resolution combined with metadata provides a tool for managing DOIs, Application Profiles, and associated services. The relationship of DOIs to Application Profiles is many-to-many, as is the relationship of Application Profiles to Services. This provides the essential functionality on which sophisticated applications may be built; earlier in DOI evolution this was summarised in a stated aim of moving "from one to many": going from one-to-many relationships to many-to-many relationships, which has now been realised: DOI Application Profiles are a grouping mechanism. DOIs are used to identify different kinds of entities with different attributes and different related services. When a new service is created it will not be necessary to change every DOI to point to that service; nor will users have to find out about the service; the Application Profile of each DOI is the key to making that happen dynamically: add the new facility to the application profile record and all of the millions of DOIs associated with that AP inherit the new facility.

The single operational dictionary of ONIX and IDF will be known as the *indecs Data Dictionary* in recognition of the fact that this work is fundamentally grounded in the work of the indecs project (www.indecs.org) and subsequent developments of the principles and framework of indecs through activities such as the ISO MPEG-21 Rights Data Dictionary development work co-funded by IDF**

Further announcements on these new developments will be made shortly. To ensure you receive the information, sign up for DOI News at www.doi.org

Further information:

- International DOI Foundation: <http://www.doi.org>
- ONIX Product Information Standards: <http://www.editeur.org/onix.html>
- *Earlier press release on IDF and ONIX collaboration: <http://www.doi.org/news/020319-Editeur.html>).
- **Announcement of indecs-based work for MPEG Rights Data Dictionary: <http://www.doi.org/news/010418-multimedialP.html>
- CrossRef DOI applications: www.crossref.org
- Press contact: Norman Paskin, Director of the IDF: n.paskin@doi.org