

RFID for Libraries

Standards Australia Working Group IT-019 -01-02

Wednesday March 30th 2006, 0930 - 1230

Yarra Plenty Regional Library - Whittlesea Civic Centre
Ferres Boulevard - South Morang

Attendees:

Alan Butters, Sybis (Chair)
Jan Wild, DA Library Technologies
Leona Jennings, GCCC
Brian Dunne, 3M Australia
Christine Mackenzie YPRL

Apologies:

Peter Dart, Pearson Australia Group
Lynn Regan, BHSC
Craig Anderson, RMIT
Janifer Gatenby, OCLC PICA

1. Welcome and meeting objectives

AB welcomed the members to the fifth meeting of the IT-019-01-02 working group and outlined the objectives of the meeting which were:

- Discuss the Finnish proposal and the significance of the changes that it makes to the Danish DML.
- Get vendor feedback regarding the added workload of implementing a proposal along the lines of the BSi suggestion.
- Make fundamental structure decisions regarding the Australian proposal document and commence the compilation of same.

2. Finnish Data Model proposal

Using a set of overview documents compiled by AB, the group discussed the merit of the proposed changes that the Finnish group proposed to make to the Danish DML. The group did not support the locking of the mandatory block in this model, particularly at the current embryonic stage of the model's development. The group also expressed some concern at seeing additional data elements appearing in the

unstructured part of the model. This highlighted the fundamental deficiency of prescriptive models such as the Danish DML where data elements cannot be added and self declared within the model. Concern was expressed that other countries may take a similar approach and the result might be a large number of slightly different data models with diminishing interoperability over time.

3. Data Model architecture

The group discussed the basic architecture of the proposed Australian data model. The positives for the Danish / Finnish / NBLC type models were seen as:

- Relatively easy to implement by vendors.
- Relatively easy to understand by library professionals.

The negatives of these models were perceived to be:

- Very little flexibility for new data elements or selection of data elements.
- Inefficient use of tag memory owing to prescriptive format and fixed length fields.

For the BSi style architecture, the positives were seen as:

- Excellent flexibility with only a single mandatory element.
- Good use of tag memory due to non-prescriptive architecture.
- Good foundation for use of standards in the higher layers (ISO 15961 / ISO 15962)

The potential negatives of this approach were perceived to be:

- More complex implementation for vendors.
- ISO standards involved are difficult for non-specialists to comprehend.

The conclusion of the group was that the needs of libraries generally and Australian libraries in particular, would be better served in the long run by an architecture similar to that of the BSi model. This approach allows libraries to have full flexibility in deciding which data elements best suit their operation without sacrificing interoperability.

4. Implications for vendors with a BSi architecture

Brian Dunne has been in communication with the 3M development laboratories in the Unites States and reported that a preliminary examination suggested that the amount of extra work involved (at least at the tag formatting level) to implement this style of model would not be onerous. The group considered a possibility where perhaps the level of standards implementation might initially be limited to that required to produce the appropriate structure on the tags, thus paving the way for a more comprehensive future implementation allowing device interoperability at higher levels.

5. Appropriate Data Elements

With the question of architecture decided, the group turned its attention to a discussion of what optional or required data elements should be included. Inter-library loans was considered carefully and the role of the ISIL code in future systems was

canvassed. No firm decision on data elements was made but this will form the basis for the next meeting.

BD raised the topic of the CRC contained in the Danish DML and pointed out that it is only useful if the entire mandatory block is read, where it then serves to confirm the integrity of the tag data. Transmission of the tag data across the air interface is validated by means of a CRC check included in the standard.

JW & LJ to follow up with the National Library to determine if a plan for the roll out of ISIL codes exists. **JW** to follow up with Geoff Chamberlain in NZ for comments. **AB** to obtain the ISIL standard document and circulate to the group.

6. Item Security

While acknowledging the fundamental weakness inherent in using the data encoding area of the tag for security purposes, the group felt that the “AFI” approach taken by the Danish model was appropriate for libraries. This allows for a tag based security method without eliminating the possibility of an EAS style tag based system or an RFID / EM security combination.

7. Moving forward

It was agreed that work on a formal data model proposal for Australian libraries should be commenced immediately using the information and decisions made so far. AB is to perform the bulk of the writing work with technical expertise from the vendor representatives sought as the proposal develops.

8. Other business

A question regarding the progress of the new NISO group was raised. **BD** to follow up with his contacts and report back to the group.

9. Next meeting

The group will attempt to meet again during May. AB to canvas possible options.

10. Meeting closed

The meeting concluded at 1235