RFID for Libraries

Standards Australia Working Group IT-019 -01-02

Thursday September 8th 2005, 0930 - 1300

RMIT - City Campus - 360 Swanston Street, Building 8, Level 5

Attendees:
Alan Butters, Sybis (Chair)
Leona Jennings, GCCC
Peter Dart, Pearson Australia Group
Brian Dunne, 3M Australia
Jan Wild, DA Library Technologies
Craig Anderson, RMIT

Apologies:
Christine Mackenzie, YPRL
Lynn Regan, BHSC
Janifer Gatenby, OCLC PICA

1. Welcome and introductions
Alan Butters welcomed the members to the first meeting of the IT-019-01-02 working group and outlined the history behind the group for the benefit of those unfamiliar with it. Each member gave a brief snapshot of their experience and background. Alan explained the role that Janifer Gatenby would play and her connection with the TC-46 committee.

2. Standards and the standards process
Peter Dart spoke about the standards development process and responded to questions from the working group. Peter emphasised the need for patience with the process. Also explained was the difference between normative standards and informative standards and how standards may contain components of both.

3. Standards workshop
The bulk of the meeting comprised a presentation delivered by Alan Butters aimed at providing background information on the current standards situation as related to RFID within the library application. The second half of the presentation introduced members to the RFID Data Model for Libraries proposal. Questions were taken

throughout the session. A copy of the proposal was included in handouts distributed during the presentation. The presentation was to be emailed to participants following the meeting. It was generally recognised by the group that there is a great need for education concerning RFID standards within Australian libraries. Part of the role of the working group is to act as a resource in this area for the wider library community.

4. Review and questions
Several preliminary comments were made within the group regarding the proposal. These included:

- The proposal appears to be very vendor-centric with a focus on materials supply and sorting
- The acquisitions-related components appear to be restrictively specific
- Privacy issues are not addressed by the proposal - this may be unsatisfactory
- The three part approach of the data model does provide for individual flexibility

5. Housekeeping - next meeting etc.
5.1 Strategy for next meeting
Alan Butters proposed a shift of focus for the next meeting. After considering the proposed Data Model for Libraries from the Danish group, the suggestion was to step away from the document and consider more broadly the requirements of the Australian library and vendor community. The aim would be to capture local requirements which could be then used as a context for revisiting the proposed data model in a subsequent meeting. This would hopefully prevent the thinking of the group from becoming too constrained by the document that has been put forward. The consensus of the group was to adopt this approach.

5.2 Location for subsequent meetings
Alan Butters explained that the initial assumption was that the group's membership would be weighted toward NSW and so it was expected that most meetings would be held in Sydney. As it eventuated, the preponderance of members are from Victoria. A discussion was held to determine an equitable way to allocate meetings. While no formal strategy was adopted, the decision of the group was to hold the next meeting in Melbourne and the following meeting in Sydney. Craig Anderson offered the use of RMIT's facilities again for the next meeting should they be required.

5.3 Meeting frequency
Alan Butters proposed that meetings be monthly for a period of three to six months before becoming less frequent, perhaps quarterly. Peter Dart reminded the Chair that membership of standards groups was voluntary with members having full time occupations which made demands on their availability and, as such, a monthly meeting program might be onerous for some. No formal decision was made as to meeting frequency but the consensus was that the next meeting could be held in the first half of November. Peter also suggested that Alan Butters prepare an outline document which might serve as a framework for the gathering of local requirements and which could be circulated prior to the next meeting. The group accepted this

suggestion as a next step. Leona Jennings offered to submit a summary of requirements and issues based on GCCC's investigations and the experience of other Australian libraries who have implemented RFID to assist with the preparation of the document.

5.4 Next meeting
The next meeting is to be held in Melbourne During November. Date and location TBA.

6. Close
The meeting concluded at 1310