

# Guidelines for translations of the IFLA ISBD namespace in RDF



ISBD Linked Data Study Group on behalf of the IFLA ISBD Review Group

Approved by the ISBD Review Group

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#### 1 Introduction

These guidelines are intended to encourage and support translations of the ISBD namespace containing representations of the IFLA ISBD standard<sup>1</sup> in the Resource Description Framework (RDF)<sup>2</sup> from the English language into multiple other languages.

These guidelines will not repeat the general *Guidelines for translations of IFLA namespaces in RDF*<sup>3</sup>, published in 2013 to be applied to all IFLA standards, except where it is necessary to clarify specific aspects.

In the general *Guidelines*, what can be translated is specified:

- Human-readable labels, names, titles, etc.
- Definitions, descriptions, etc.
- Notes, comments, etc.

These literals from the ISBD set of elements and the vocabulary used in the Content Form and Media Type Area can be translated in both constrained<sup>4</sup> and unconstrained<sup>5</sup> namespaces. The translation of the unconstrained namespace can be generated automatically from the constrained namespace using a spreadsheet.

## 2 Acknowledgements

The IFLA Guidelines for translations of the IFLA ISBD namespace in RDF aims to give guidance to professionals on the process of translation of ISBD namespaces into their own languages.

The *Guidelines* have been compiled by the ISBD Linked Data Study Group<sup>6</sup>, a successor to the ISBD/XML Study Group, proposed by the ISBD Review Group<sup>7</sup> and approved by the Cataloguing Section Standing Committee during the IFLA meeting in Quebec City, 2008.

Members of the ISBD Linked Data Study Group who contributed to the Guidelines:

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> ISBD: International standard bibliographic description. Consolidated ed. Berlin, etc.: De Gruyter Saur, 2011; ISBD Consolidated ed., March 2011, http://www.ifla.org/files/assets/cataloguing/isbd/isbd-cons\_20110321.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> RDF Primer: W3C Recommendation 10 February 2004, www.w3.org/TR/rdf-primer/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> IFLA Namespace Technical Group. *Guidelines for translations of IFLA namespaces in RDF (2013).* Accessible at: http://www.ifla.org/node/5353

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> ISBD elements: registration of classes and properties from International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD), consolidated edition: http://metadataregistry.org/schema/show/id/25.html

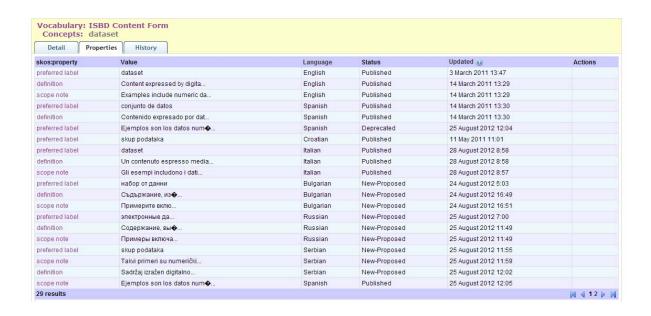
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> ISBD elements (open), Experimental set of ISBD properties without domains or ranges, for use by non-ISBD communities and applications, and for mappings between ISBD and other namespaces: http://metadataregistry.org/schema/show/id/62.html

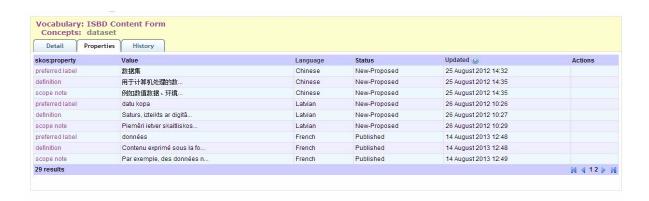
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> http://www.ifla.org/node/1795

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> http://www.ifla.org/isbd-rg

### 3 General guidelines

Priority of translation should be given to the vocabulary used in Area 0 Content Form and Media Type as this information is given in the bibliographic description in the language and script chosen by the cataloguing agency, and could be easily converted into the language of the catalogue in shared bibliographic records. Therefore the end user will soon benefit from translations.





Second in importance is the translation of labels that also can be used for display and serve as a memory device for technical developers.

Definitions and notes can be translated if desired, at the same time or later. Their purpose is to facilitate understanding by technical developers.

Translations of the ISBD namespace should remain as close as possible to the original language wording in the namespace; the correct meaning in the language of the translation should be assured while retaining consistency with the corresponding official translation of the ISBD text, allowing natural language processing. It is assumed that technical developers prefer to use as a reference source the official translation of the standard into the local language. If no such translation of ISBD is available, then the ISBD namespace should be translated directly.

### 4 Specific guidelines

#### 4.1 Style

General guidelines on the use of upper case, lower case, and camelCase, the use of definite and indefinite articles, and the use of singulars over plurals, are followed in consistency with local conventions. It should be kept in mind that the ISBD set of elements is declared as properties or sub-properties of the class Resource. Therefore verbal phrases for property labels are used. Properties are the predicate in an RDF data triple; the subject-predicate-object, adopting the form of a verb by prefixing the ISBD set of elements with "has ...". Latin and other alphabets advise writing these properties labels with lowercase.

For e.g.: Resource XXXX "has title proper" xxxx

Detail Statements History										
Profile property	Show object	Lang	Status	Updated 😡	Updated by 😡	Actions				
name	hasTitleProper	English	Published	13 June 2011 12:37	Gordon Dunsire (ifla)					
label	has title proper	English	Published	3 March 2011 15:21	Gordon Dunsire (ifla)					
type	subproperty	English	Published	13 June 2011 12:43	Gordon Dunsire (ifla)					
uri	http://iflastandards.info/n	English	Published	13 June 2011 12:37	Gordon Dunsire (ifla)					
status	Published	English	Published	13 June 2011 12:38	Gordon Dunsire (ifla)					
description	Relates a resource to the t	English	Published	3 March 2011 15:22	Gordon Dunsire (ifla)					
note	The title proper includes a	English	Published	3 March 2011 15:22	Gordon Dunsire (ifla)					
domain	http://iflastandards.info/n	English	Published	3 March 2011 15:22	Gordon Dunsire (ifla)					
label	tiene título propiamente d	Spanish	Published	3 March 2011 15:23	Gordon Dunsire (ifla)					
description	Relaciona un recurso con el	Spanish	Published	3 April 2011 13:55	Gordon Dunsire (ifla)					
note	El título propiamente dich	Spanish	Published	3 April 2011 13:56	Gordon Dunsire (ifla)					
subpropertyOf	has title	English	Published	13 June 2011 12:43	Gordon Dunsire (ifla)					

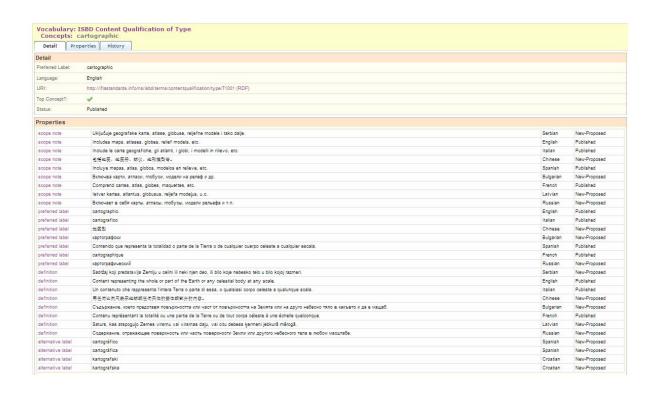
#### 4.2 Disambiguation

The only parenthetical information used in the ISBD namespace element set is in the subclasses "Title Proper (Compound) Of Series Or Multipart Monographic Resource Encoding Scheme", and "Parallel Title (Compound) Of Series Or Multipart Monographic Resource Encoding Scheme" and it is not used for disambiguation but for clarification that the title proper and the parallel title proper can be composed of a common title and a dependent title.

#### 4.3 Value vocabularies

As said in the general *Guidelines*, grammatical inflection is rare in English, but common in many other languages.

Inflection has a significant impact on the translation of the controlled vocabulary used for the Content Form and Media Type in Area 0. The qualifiers are given as adjectives to allow them to be used in user-friendly compound phrases; e.g. "image (cartographic)", where "cartographic" is a qualifier. In Latin languages "cartographic" is inflected in two forms, e.g. in Spanish "cartográfica" and "cartográfico", that depend on the gender of the noun being qualified: "imagen (cartográfica)" and "objeto (cartográfico)" and in the Croatian translation: "kartografski" and "kartografska". The current approach used in the ISBD namespace is to record the inflected terms using the skos:altLabel property, which is repeatable for any language. This means there is no skos:prefLabel for the concept in those languages.



In some languages one or another term is inflected, and the terms are not always the same.



### 5 Procedure

If a translation of the ISBD namespace is planned, the ISBD Review Group should be contacted:

- 1) for declaring the intention to translate the namespace and
- 2) for publishing the translation in the ISBD namespace.

Later modifications resulting from the maintenance and updating of the translations should also be communicated to the ISBD Review Group and the IFLA Linked Data Technical Sub-Committee (LIDATEC), the successor of the Namespaces Technical Group.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> http://www.ifla.org/node/5353