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UK Position on SC36 WG2 IRDS projects

Status: UK Position for consideration at the ISO/IEC JTC 1 SC32 Plenary meeting, 2000-01-24 to 2000-01-28.

Date: 29 November 1999

1 Background

When SC32 was formed in 1998, Working Group 2 (Metadata) was established and given responsibility for a number of existing projects, including all the then current projects concerned with IRDS (Information Resource Dictionary Systems). There has been little work on these projects since then, partly because of a combination of lack of resources and changes in national body representation.

The underlying IRDS standards (IRDS Framework, ISO/IEC 10027:1990, and IRDS Services Interface, ISO/IEC 10728:1993) were published some years ago, and the current projects build on them in various directions. In addition, some of the ideas developed in the IRDS work have been used in other standards work, including some of the parts of ISO/IEC 11179 which is now the main focus of work in WG2.

Editors of all outstanding IRDS projects have been diverted from this work for various reasons: involvement in other projects, lack of funding, or change of employer.

It would be wise for WG2, and the national bodies contributing to its work, to close down in an orderly fashion those projects which seem unlikely to be completed in a timely manner, and to concentrate efforts on a manageable programme of work, and one with visible user and implementor interest.

2 Projects affected and current status

The current IRDS projects are:

- a) Project 06.06, NP17415, IRDS Content Module - Design Support for SQL Applications (Editor: Don Bartley, Australia). Though there has been occasional work on this for several years, there is as yet no CD, and in view of the constant development of the SQL standards this project is aiming at a moving target.
- b) Project 06.07, ISO/IEC 10728, IRDS Services Interface Extensions (Editor: Tim Bourne). A Working Draft for this exists, and there was a second CD ballot in late 1998 from which some comments remain to be resolved. The main reasons for delay are dependencies on the revision to the IRDS Framework, and lack of availability of the editor.

- c) Project 06.08, ISO/IEC 10027, IRDS Framework Revision (Editor: D J L Gradwell). A CD for ballot is awaited. The delay has been due mainly to resolving some issues in other IRDS projects that affected this one, and then to the lack of availability of the editor following a change of employer.
- d) Project 06.09, ISO/IEC 13645, Guidelines for the design of IRDS Content Modules (Editor: D J L Gradwell). Following FDIS ballot this awaits minor editorial corrections before publication.
- e) Project 06.09.01, CD13237, IRDS Content Module to Support a Naming and Thesaurus Facility (Editor: D J L Gradwell). This awaits a second CD ballot after changes to bring it into line with the final version of 13645.

All other IRDS projects are complete and published.

3 Recommendations

The UK recommends that:

- a) Project 06.09 (ISO/IEC 13645, Guidelines for the design of IRDS Content Modules) be completed for publication if the remaining work can be accomplished within the first six months of 2000.
- b) All remaining IRDS projects listed above (06.06, 06.07, 06.08, 06.09.01) be closed down, with the current document for each project being published as an SC32 document to make the work so far achieved available to SC32 members.