



ONIX – an update

Digital books & the standards for identifying,
describing and trading them

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ONIX

- Online Information Exchange
- An international standard for describing and communicating product information for books
- Widespread adoption internationally
- Maintained in the U.S. by BISG
- Version 2.1 currently in use
- Current version inadequate for e-books

ONIX 3.0

- Release 3.0 scheduled for September 2008
- Three main aims:
 - Improved handling of digital products
 - Remove data elements deprecated in ONIX 2.1
 - Provide additional functionality requested by ONIX groups
- Will not be fully backwards-compatible
 - But no major structural changes from version 2.1
 - Removal of deprecated elements demands new release

ONIX 3.0: key dates

- May 23 – end of requirements gathering phase
- June – release of final specification
- September – publication of version 3.0
- Continued support for earlier versions
- “Sunset date” for earlier versions will be announced in due course, allowing international standardization around a single version

ONIX: further information

- Check www.bisg.org for news and information
- BISG members may register for the BISAC Metadata Committee – chaired by Richard Stark of Barnes & Noble – to be involved in future developments
- Contact BISG office for more information

Thank you.



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