

**UK THEMA NATIONAL GROUP – Minutes****Location:** Elsevier, London Wall, London EC2Y 5AS**Date and time:** Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018, 2pm**Minutes taken by:** Sophia Sophocleous**Present**

Graham Bell, EDItEUR  
 Richard Davies, Elsevier  
 Isabel Gouveia, Amazon (dialled in)  
 Ingrid Harrold, DK  
 Andrew Henty, Virtusales (AHE)  
 Azar Hussain, Faber & Faber (AHU)  
 Lada Kriz, Penguin Random House  
 Karina Luke, BIC (dialled in)  
 Laura Murray, Bloomsbury (delegate)  
 Chris Saynor, EDItEUR

Sophia Sophocleous, BIC  
 Gabrielle Wallington, Waterstones  
 Howard Willows, Nielsen (Chair)

**Apologies**

Alaina-Marie Bassett, BIC  
 John Bell, HarperCollins Publishers  
 Kat Coveyduck, Virtusales  
 Fiona Green, Bloomsbury Publishing  
 Euan Hirst, Blackwell's  
 Alan Trewartha, HarperCollins Publishers

**1. Introductions and apologies**

HW welcomed the Group to the meeting and delivered the apologies. He thanked RD for hosting the meeting and welcomed IH to the membership of the Group.

**2. Competition Law – Conduct Reminder**

The Group were reminded about BIC's Competition Law Policy – for further information regarding this policy, click here: <http://www.bic.org.uk/149/BIC-Competition-Law-Policy/>

**3. Review minutes and follow up on actions from the last meeting**

CS noted that he was not present at the last meeting of this Group, but the minutes indicate that he attended. The minutes were approved with minor amendments.

➤ **ACTION:** SS to amend and recirculate the previous set of minutes, ASAP.

- French Thema National Group

CS noted that he has been in touch with the French National Group.

➤ **ONGOING ACTION:** CS to continue liaising with IG about this item.

- Thema v1.2 translations

GW noted that she has not yet liaised with Russian-speaking colleagues at Waterstones regarding the proposed translations and new, hierarchical structure for Russia's geographical qualifiers. CS noted that it is not necessary to carry this action over since this action was related to geographical qualifiers, which have now been approved.

- Proposals for v1.3 Fiction section

HW noted that actions regarding proposals for v1.3 Fiction will be discussed under item 4 of the agenda.

#### 4. Review of proposals for *Thema* v1.3

CS shared the proposed *Thema* v1.3 updates and additions with the Group.

Topics discussed included the following:-

- FBA: Modern and contemporary fiction  
CS informed the Group that the notes for this code have been amended to refer to books first published in the last 50 years or so, rather than stating 'from 1960' as they did before.
- FRT: Romance: fantasy and paranormal / FRV: Dark romance  
CS noted that the proposed codes try to distinguish between what is aimed at a romance audience (FRT), and a fantasy audience (FRV).
- FYR: Category fiction  
CS noted that 'category fiction' refers to books such as Mills & Boon. The term 'category' is used here as this term is popularly used in other markets.
- FYV: inspired by or adapted from  
CS noted that this code also appears in the children's list, as code YFZV. The Group went on to discuss whether a code for children's general knowledge and trivia would be possible. GB suggested that this could take the form of a sub section for code YNG.
  - **ACTION:** CS to look into adding children's non-fiction (general knowledge, trivia books) to code YNG
- JBSL1: Ethnic groups & multicultural studies  
CS noted that the wording of this had been changed from 'minorities' to 'groups', on the recommendation of the Canadian National Group. HW noted that some BIC codes, removed from the initial draft on which *Thema* was based, are now being re-introduced to *Thema*, such as JNSR: Remedial education & teaching. GB agreed that some are being added with minor changes.
- LASH: Legal skills: drafting & legal writing / LASK: Legal skills: negotiating & interviewing / LASN: Legal skills: research methods  
CS noted that the request for codes relating to legal skills had come from the UK. HW noted that the law codes would benefit from restructuring and simplification at some point.
- PSVA: Zoology: invertebrates  
HW noted that again, PSVA and other codes relating to zoology have been taken from the BIC Subject Category Codes. GB noted that, as with the law codes, these will benefit from some revision at a later point.
- QRG: Yoga (spiritual discipline)  
The Group agreed that yoga as exercise should be added to the list of proposals, and cross referenced with yoga as a spiritual discipline.

- **ACTION:** CS to differentiate between Yoga as a spiritual discipline and as exercise by adding these definitions (exercise / spiritual discipline) to the heading and cross reference each in the notes.
  - SHP: Weightlifting  
HW suggested adding weightlifting as exercise to the list of proposals. The Group also suggested that curling should be added as a winter sport. LK suggested that capoeira should be added as a martial art. GW suggested adding insomnia and sleep disorders to the 'coping with...' list. IG suggested adding a code for comfort food to the list of proposals.
    - **ACTION:** CS to consider adding training with weights / strength training as an exercise (as opposed to weightlifting as a sport).
    - **ACTION:** CS to consider adding curling as a winter sport.
    - **ACTION:** CS to consider adding capoeira as a martial art and to consult the Brazilian *Thema* Interest Group on this potential addition.
    - **ACTION:** CS to consider adding insomnia / sleep disorders to the 'coping with...' list.
    - **ACTION:** CS to consider adding a code for comfort food.
  - 5PX-GB-S Shakespeare  
GB noted that he believes that the International Steering Council will approve this as a National Extension code.
  - YFZV: Children's / Teenage fiction: inspired by or adapted from  
IH speculated whether YFZV could apply to both children's fiction and non-fiction.
    - **ACTION:** CS to consider changing YFZV (Children's / Teenage fiction: inspired by or adapted from) to apply to both children's fiction and non-fiction.
- Post-meeting update from GB:** all of CS's actions have already been completed. In several cases, consideration of the proposal has led to a new category, and in others there has been a refinement of the subject heading or notes for an existing category. In a few others it has resulted in addition synonym(s) to make searching easier. The new categories are visible in the main version 1.3 of *Thema* at: <https://ns.editeur.org/thema>
- IH suggested that a code should be added for books such as 'maker' books, which involve the practical application of technology, science, art etc. GB agreed that these books are popular in international markets. IH agreed to provide the Group with some examples.
- **ACTION:** IH to provide examples of 'maker' books.
- 4Z-GB-ACL: Eleven Plus (11+) exam  
GW noted that this code will be very beneficial to Waterstones. GB noted that books using codes for specific exam boards may be suitable for, but not necessarily endorsed by, those exam boards. GB added that ONIX can be used to distinguish between the two, however.
  - Time Period National Extensions  
CS informed the Group that there have been clarifications made to UK Time Period

National Extensions (and others by agreement with the National Group concerned; where possible, date ranges have been added to the heading, and specific country references removed. This to emphasise the point that, although many headings relate to events in specific locations, national extensions from a given country should in theory be available for use with a book about a different country, eg UK heading 3MNQ-GB-V Victorian period (1837–1901) could be used for a book about India at that time.

GB noted that this is the biggest single revision of *Thema* and thanked the Working Group for their hard work.

CS noted that the Group (especially members of the Group whose organisations publish children's books) should look over the draft proposals for children's books.

- **ACTION:** ALL (especially members of the Group whose organisations publish children's books) to look over the draft proposals for children's books in *Thema* and provide any feedback to CS before the Book Fair.

## 5. Update on *Thema* activity

Due to time constraint, the Group agreed to combine items 5, 6, 7 and 8.

- HW – HW informed the Group that a BIC Breakfast on Creative Classification in *Thema* had been due to take place on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018, but had to be postponed due to weather conditions. He noted that the BIC Breakfast will now take place on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018. HW noted that the BIC Implementing *Thema* training course will run on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018 and that he is currently working on a *Thema* to BISAC mapping.
- GB – GB noted that he has been giving training on *Thema* in New York and that representatives on the training course included representatives from Amazon. GB added that a representative from Amazon Japan will be attending the meeting of the International Steering Council.
- LM – LM noted that FG (who was not able to attend this meeting) had wanted feedback on her proposed codes for linguistics. CS noted that synonyms could be added to *Thema* v1.3, rather than waiting for the next version and agreed to email FG regarding this.
- GW – Waterstones are currently looking at mapping from *Thema* rather than BIC Subject Category Codes.
- IH – IH noted that she has noticed a positive change in attitude towards *Thema*.
- CS – CS noted that EDItEUR is updating the User Guide for *Thema* to include action points.
- KL – KL noted that BIC's Implementing *Thema* training course will run twice this year, on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2018. KL added that *Thema* use will be included in BIC accreditation, e.g. the use of *Thema* will be compulsory in order to attain a 'Gold' level of accreditation.

HW noted that it would be useful to have 'worked examples' added as a recurring topic for discussion in forthcoming meetings.

- **ACTION:** AMB to add 'worked examples' as a recurring topic for discussion under Item 5 'Update on *Thema* activity' of the agenda going forwards. (HW suggested that this should be on the agenda at the end of the meeting).

6. **Thema promotion in UK**  
This item was discussed under item 5.
7. **Reports of Thema progress from members**  
This item was discussed under item 5.
8. **A.O.B.**  
This item was discussed under item 5.
9. **Date of next meeting**  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2018.