

BIC LIBRARY WEB SERVICES TASK & FINISH WORKING GROUP (T&FWG) MEETING – Minutes**Location:** GoToMeeting / Conference Call**Date and time:** Thursday 8th June 2017, 2pm**Minutes written by:** Alaina-Marie Bassett**Present**

Alaina-Marie Bassett, BIC
 Francis Cave, BIC Consultant
 Catherine Cooke, Westminster Library
 Simon Edwards, Consultant (Deputy)
 Graham Jones, Askews & Holts
 Ian Manson, Infor
 Gwyneth Morgan, Nielsen
 Joe Schulkins, University of Liverpool
 Heather Sherman, Dawson Books
 David Thomas, SirsiDynix
 Terry Willan, Capita
 Steven Wright, Bucks County Council

Apologies

Matthew Dovey, Ceridwen
 John Garrould, Bertram's (Chair)
 Karina Luke, BIC
 Alan Oliver, Ex Libris

1. Welcome and apologies

The Group was welcomed to the meeting and the apologies were delivered.

2. Competition Law – Conduct Reminder

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

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

The minutes from the last meeting of this Group were approved with minor corrections.

- **ACTION:** AMB to amend 'NSIP' to 'NCIP' in the last set of minutes.
- Branding / re-naming this T&FWG
 AMB noted that there has been some confusion about this T&FWG following its rebranding at the last meeting; the similarity between the *BIC Realtime* for Libraries T&FWG and the *BIC Realtime* T&FWG is not beneficial to members of both Groups. FC noted that the product produced by this Group should be branded as *BIC Realtime* however this is not necessary for the T&FWG itself. The Group agreed.
 - **ACTION:** AMB to amend the name of this T&FWG to the BIC Library Web Services T&FWG, including on the agendas and minutes produced to date.
- UBL vs EDItX
 - **ACTION CARRIED OVER:** FC to investigate UBL and EDItX further and ascertain whether there are other options available to libraries.

4. Choosing a Chairperson and Deputy

After the last meeting, the members of this Group were asked to nominate someone or else volunteer themselves for the role of Chairperson for this T&FWG. The nominations and volunteers were read aloud during the meeting and the Group cast their votes.

❖ **DECISION:** JG was chosen as the Chair for this Group, and SE as the Deputy Chair.

5. The Library Web Services Project

- Terms of Reference (ToR)

SE suggested that this Group should sign off on the ToR document for this T&FWG ASAP. He suggested that any amendments could be put forward by the Group using Google Docs to allow everyone to see the changes being suggested and allow them to provide further feedback. CC and DT raise their concerns about the use of Google Docs, noting that it can be difficult to gain access due to their organisation's security settings and/or internet browsers.

➤ **ACTION:** AMB to circulate the ToR document alongside the actions for this meeting.

➤ **ACTION: ALL** to review the ToR and either approve it or provide information about any concerns / amendments that may be required by Friday 30th June 2017.

Post-Meeting Update: The ToR document has now been formally approved by the members of this Group, without amendments.

- Frequency of meetings

AMB noted that the last meeting of this Group was cancelled due to ongoing testing of the new BIC website. SE assured the Group that its meetings will be more frequent going forwards. IM requested an update on the new BIC website and the progress made to date which SE provided.

- Representation from organisations / organisation types on this project

SE noted that this T&FWG consists of representatives from libraries, library suppliers and library systems vendors to date. AMB, IM and GJ suggested that representation from the British Library (BL), self-issue organisations (in BIC membership), and BDS may also be beneficial. SE noted that self-issue organisations are represented on the BIC LCF Review Group and LCF Technical Panel.

➤ **ACTION:** AMB to approach both the BL and BDS about joining this T&FWG.

- Functionality

SE noted that the requirements (in terms of functionality) which were identified at the BIC Library Web Services Workshop on Wednesday 24th June 2015 will need to be reviewed by this Group in order to prioritise its workload. The requirements identified to date are as follows:

- Enhanced Content
- Inter-Library Loans (ILL)
- Financial Authorisation
- EDI

- Patron Driven Acquisition (PDA) for eBooks / Digital Books
- PDA for Print / Physical Books
- Reading Lists
- Loan Usage – Public
- Supplier Selection
- Subscriptions
- Transformation Layer
- Claims Request (e.g. damaged, etc.)
- Consolidated Invoices
- Request Skeleton MARC
- Changes Sync

- Price & Availability (P&A) and Request and Retrieval for MARC records

SW noted that BIC's trade API for Price & Availability (P&A) is already in use and that this would be of use to libraries. FC informed the Group that there is also a Request and Retrieval API for MARC / ONIX records in the suite of existing BIC trade APIs which would be repurposed for libraries. SW noted that his organisation's requirements relate primarily to acquisitions and real-time acknowledgements in EDI. CC agreed but suggested that it may be more worthwhile to start with a requirement that is not catered for, i.e. functionality that does not exist at present.

FC commented that, in relation to P&A feeds, the prices which libraries are supplied with may contain individual copy processing / servicing and so this will need to be reflected in the library version of the P&A API. SW also noted that Bucks County Council Libraries need to know the total cost of an order before it can be placed so it would be beneficial for the total cost to be provided in real-time as part of the API. SE noted that APIs / web services have to be hosted by the party holding the data; as such the responsibility of providing the total cost of an order would lie with library suppliers who would develop the API to offer this functionality and the library systems would request this information.

FC noted that this Group discussed skeleton MARC records during the last meeting in relation to ordering and EDI Quotes. GJ noted that Askews & Holts can only supply MARC records to a limited number of organisations; those which have obtained a BDS licence (as BDS is the source of these MARC records). SE suggested that a linked web service could be produced to streamline this process, i.e. an API could link the library with BDS via Askews & Holts. GJ noted that if a library requested a MARC record and did not have a BDS licence they would have to reject the request. Equally other sources of MARC data may become available offering APIs, and Askews & Holts could link to the appropriate source for the library concerned.

- eBook Ordering in libraries

TW noted that the ordering process for eBooks has been an ongoing issue under

discussion at the BIC Library Technical Implementation Clinic (LTIC) for some time, however trade APIs now exist which could facilitate eBook ordering in libraries. He suggested that any solution created for eBooks will facilitate ordering processes for print books and other products also.

- ❖ **DECISION:** The Group agreed to focus on the 3 requirements listed above (including EDI) for the initial output of this project.

- Existing APIs / web services for trade organisations

SE suggested that this Group should review the existing suite of *BIC Realtime* APIs (for the trade) to identify any additional requirements that libraries may have. HS noted that Bertram's currently supports a web service with Millennium.

- New requirements / functionality

SE and FC agreed that a use case will be needed for each new requirement that is identified by this Group in order to develop the necessary functionality. SE encouraged the Group to share information about any/all constraints they are aware of that may affect the development of the BIC library web services and to share their organisation's data openly for this purpose. He noted that this Group should not duplicate existing functionality / library web services but that it may be advantageous to turn proprietary web services into industry standards to reduce costs / manual intervention wherever possible.

The Group put forward the following suggestions for APIs: enhanced content, author content, collateral (as it is defined in ONIX), ordering via supplier websites, and number of copies available / stock held. SW noted that authentication is also of interest to his organisation, i.e. being able to log into OPAC and obtain an authorisation code. TW noted that a national project to give libraries a single sign-on for authorisations is underway by JISC; SW confirmed Bucks County Council Libraries is involved in this project. The Group suggested that its requirements in this area should be fed into the JISC project via SW and Anthony Whitford of Capita.

- **ACTION: ALL** to put forward their suggestions for requirements, issues that need a solution, or wish-lists for new functionality to JG, SE and AMB before the next meeting of this Group; the more detailed this information is, the better.
- **ACTION:** SW to document Bucks County Council Libraries' issues and send to JG, SE and AMB before the next meeting of this Group.
- **ACTION:** TW to document the requirements for library ordering on supplier websites and send it to JG, SE and AMB before the next meeting of this Group.
- **ACTION:** TW to contact Anthony Whitford of Capita and discuss his involvement in the JISC authentication project.

6. Update on UBL and EDItX

FC reported that further information about UBL and EDItX was circulated to this Group via email following the last meeting. AMB agreed to recirculate this information to the Group.

FC summarised that many organisations in the UK require standard messages / web services to carry out basic functions however the requirements of the book industry differ to those of other industries, leading to trade-specific workarounds. He noted that library messages in EDItX would be specific to library requirements whereas UBL may not be able to satisfy all the identified library requirements.

- **ACTION:** AMB to re-circulate FC's email (dated 23rd February 2017) regarding the EDItX message formats for library applications that have been published to date.

CC noted that Westminster Libraries buys from Amazon using an unautomated process but suggested that it may be possible to request a catalogue using library web services. SE noted that Amazon has its own processes and may be out of scope for this project as a result.

SE reported that EDItX now has a governance group (meeting twice a year at London Book Fair and Frankfurt Book Fair) and is therefore making progress. FC noted that the recent discussions of the EDItX International Steering Committee (ISC) are primarily trade-focused however EDItEUR is putting additional resources into updating the current EDItX documentation; this may in turn filter into further resources for library requirements going forwards. SE noted that EDItX underpins the trade APIs developed by BIC as *BIC Realtime* and agreed that the library specific messages developed in EDItX would be a good starting point for BIC's library web services. NB: KL sits on the EDItX ISC.

7. Update on the functionality that currently exists for libraries and which APIs, if any, are already in use within the library sector

SE thanked DT and TW for completing their actions from the last meeting – this information was circulated to the Group previously. DT noted that he received further information from the British Library (BL) regarding its web service which was launched in 2014; approximately 290 BL customers use this API to date however there are only 33 active applications (it's possible that this is a result of multiple people from each organisation using the API). DT noted that he has encouraged the BL to liaise directly with BIC however AMB confirmed that no communications from the BL regarding this have been received at BIC as yet.

- **ACTION CARRIED OVER:** AO to find out more about the British Library's On Demand API and report back to the Group.
- **ACTION CARRIED OVER:** MD to provide a summary for NCIP and eContent Work to help the Group understand how / if they are likely to duplicate the efforts of this project.
- **ACTION CARRIED OVER:** GM to find out more about Nielsen's available web services and report back to the Group.
- **ACTION:** TW to add more detail to his email regarding Capita's existing web services, including a description of what each does, and re-circulate to the Group.
- **ACTION: ALL** to investigate which web services are currently available / in existence within the book industry supply chain to help us identify any requirements / gaps. Please send this information to JG, SE and AMB before the next meeting of this Group including the name of the web service, the host and a brief description of what the web service does.
- **ACTION:** DT to continue to encourage the BL to contact BIC regarding its web service.

DT noted the possibility that the BL may be willing to implement BIC's library web services in due course. He reported that the BL is able to handle authentication already however, allowing customers to see the availability of a product based on their personal profiles, i.e. staff, members' loans, etc. SE noted that it would be good to receive feedback from the BL in relation to Inter-Library Loans (ILL).

8. Methodology

FC noted that both the *BIC Realtime* APIs / web services for the trade and the BIC Library Communication Framework (LCF) were developed for SOAP authentication and REST (HTTP); the strongest preference for LCF was REST. He suggested that the methodology chosen for this project should be agreed by this Group based on implementers' requirements. SE noted that more than one version of the web services could be produced, if required. FC noted that LCF is syntax neutral, however a REST binding was produced for *BIC Realtime* although a development for JSON may be produced in future. DT indicated that a JSON development would be of use to SirsiDynix.

9. A.O.B.

The Group did not have anything further to report.

10. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 8th August 2017.