



# BOOK INDUSTRY COMMUNICATION

2011

# Promoting standards and best practice in the supply chain for books and e-books.

## **INTO THE NEW WORLD ...**

As the book world faces up to the challenge of the most profound changes it has seen for centuries, it has never been more important that the industry works together to establish a trading framework which serves the interests of all industry participants: authors, agents, publishers, distributors, retailers and readers.

BIC's unique position of trust with all parties in the supply chain empowers it to do this. With almost all the major organisations and companies in membership, it is well placed to facilitate an efficient supply chain for digital as well as physical products in the trade and library sectors, working with all the relevant stakeholders to eliminate wasteful and time-consuming practices and implement solutions acceptable to all.

BIC works to create and promote standards for the trading and discovery of digital content; and has taken a leadership role in bringing together all sides of the industry to address the urgent issues confronting the industry.

## **... WITHOUT NEGLECTING THE OLD**

Much of the existing supply chain depends on BIC standards which have been developed over many years – our maintenance of EDI transaction message standards, our standard subject categories, our bar coding and product information guidelines – and while there is still a market for printed books we shall continue to develop new standards and protocols to make it more efficient. Our pioneering web services standards have brought real-time transactions to the book trade for the first time. The industry returns initiative, the first attempt by the book trade anywhere in the world to establish standard terms for the acceptance of returns, has saved time and money for the many organisations which have signed up.



## **HOW BIC MEMBERSHIP CAN HELP YOU AND YOUR BUSINESS**

- ✓ BIC promotes standard processes and procedures which save your organisation time and money and supplies the technical support to maintain them.
- ✓ BIC is independent of any individual trade sector or vested interest, and supports the common interest of all in the book trade: publishers, booksellers, librarians and service providers.
- ✓ BIC provides excellent networking opportunities and information for those with an interest in creating a more efficient supply chain – at meetings, seminars and through email discussion groups and newsletters.
- ✓ BIC accreditation is recognised throughout the book world as benchmarks for quality and efficiency.
- ✓ BIC maintains close relations with the Book Industry Study Group in the USA and with BookNet Canada, and is a member of the board of EDItEUR, the international book industry standards organisation. Its close relationship with these standards bodies ensure that the UK's voice is heard in the global standards arena and that members are kept informed of developments elsewhere in the world.
- ✓ BIC gives your organisation a powerful voice in the development of standards and helps you to gain early benefits from new opportunities.

## BIC'S GOVERNANCE AND RESOURCES

BIC is an independent organisation co-owned by the Booksellers Association, the Publishers Association, the British Library and CILIP (Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals).

Technical support is provided by a team of internationally respected expert consultants as well as many other individuals in the publishing, retailing, distribution, IT and library communities who provide support and technical assistance from within their own member organisations.

BIC encourages participation in the many working parties and groups which oversee individual aspects of its work and guide its forward strategy.

## BENCHMARKING AND CERTIFICATION

BIC doesn't just create and maintain standards. A large part of its role is promoting good practice in the industry. Our ground-breaking BIC Basic standard for product information is still the benchmark for smaller publishers seeking to raise awareness of their products – digital as well as physical – in the supply chain. We promote ONIX for Books and provide input to its international development. We work closely with Nielsen Book and other data aggregators on our **Product Data Excellence Awards** scheme for publishers who comply with these standards.

Following on from the success of our e4books project, we have now launched the **Supply Chain Excellence Awards** scheme, which rewards companies large and small for their investment in automation and for innovative solutions to the supply chain issues they face; and enables them to be recognised by trading partners and the book industry at large as the best in their class for business efficiency, customer service, environmental concern and innovation.

In the same way, the **e4libraries** project has established and promoted the technical standards which underpin an efficient library supply chain. Adoption of such technologies as full-cycle EDI and radio frequency ID enables libraries to offer outstanding service to their customers and reduce their costs. **E4libraries accreditation** is offered by BIC to libraries and their suppliers which can demonstrate their successful commitment to these technologies.

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership of BIC is open to all organisations operating in any part of the publishing, bookselling or library communities and is divided into categories according to the nature of a member's business, each of which has its own fee structure. Details of current rates are to be found on the web site.

There is also an associate membership for libraries, small companies and other interested individuals.

## **BIC'S PATRONS**

Hachette UK  
HarperCollins Publishers  
Macmillan Distribution  
Nielsen Book  
Pearson Education  
Penguin Group UK  
Random House Group  
Waterstone's Booksellers

## **BIC'S MEMBERS**

2CQR  
3M UK  
ALPSP  
Amazon.co.uk  
Atlas Products  
International  
Axicon AutoID  
Axiell  
Bertrams  
Bibliographic Data  
Services  
Bibliotheca RFID Library  
Systems  
Blackwell  
Books etc  
Booksolve Computer  
Systems  
Bowker UK  
Cambridge University  
Press  
Cengage Learning  
Civica UK  
Continuum Publishing  
Group  
Coutts Information  
Services  
Dawson Books  
D-Tech International  
Eason & Son  
Elkotob.com/The Book  
Depository  
Elsevier  
Focus IT Services  
Freeway Commerce  
Gazelle Book Services  
IBS Bookmaster  
Independent Publishers  
Guild  
Infor Library Solutions  
Ingram Content Group/  
Lightning Source  
Intelligent  
Klopotek UK  
The Little Group  
Littlejohn (Avatar  
Software)  
Marston Book Services  
Museums Libraries and  
Archives Council  
National Acquisitions  
Group  
NBN International  
Nelson Thornes  
OCLC UK  
Ordnance Survey  
Oxford University Press  
Peters Bookselling  
Services  
Plescon Security  
Products  
PSL Group  
Publishers Licensing  
Society  
Publishing Technology  
Publiship  
Sage Publications  
SBS Worldwide  
Schilling  
Scholastic  
SCONUL  
Simon & Schuster  
WH Smith  
SirsiDynix  
STL Distribution  
Sweetens Computer  
Services  
Talis Information  
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Trilogy Enterprise  
Services  
TSO  
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Services  
Virtuales  
Welsh Books Council  
John Wiley & Sons



**For further information contact  
Peter Kilborn, Executive Director  
Book Industry Communication  
39/41 North Road  
London  
N7 9DP**

**Tel/fax: 020 7607 9021  
e-mail: [info@bic.org.uk](mailto:info@bic.org.uk)  
[www.bic.org.uk](http://www.bic.org.uk)**