2nd ISNI Summit for libraries
26-27th June 2019
Topic 3 "How to improve libraries' representation in the ISNI governance?"
Plenary feedback of breakout sessions
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On July 27th, the Summit attendees participated to two breakout sessions to discuss the opportunity to create an ISNI Consultation Group for libraries in order to improve the representation of this community which has been contributing to the ISNI database since its beginning in the ISNI governance.

1) What are the goals of this consultation group?

- Communicate to ISNI IA the specific needs of libraries
- Exchange experiences concerning the services related to ISNI developed by each institution (use cases)
- Advocate for library opinion within ISNI and promote ISNI among the library community
- Improve the transparency and the dissemination of information: more transparency on strategic and technical priorities, make decisions visible
- Liaise with the other ISNI governing bodies:
    o Other ISNI Consultation Groups such as the Music one in order to discuss the convergence of respective recommendations (good practices), actions and requested evolutions of ISNI.
    o Technical Advisory Committee in order to discuss the technical feasibility of the needs expressed by the group
    o ISNI IA / OCLC in order to discuss the implementation of the actions decided by the group
- Play a role in the governing bodies of the ISNI IA, among which the ISNI IA Board and the Technical Advisory according to ISNI general rules of governance

2) Who is involved? The idea is to start small and to grow after that

- **Various types of libraries should be represented:**
    o Libraries of different status and from different geographical areas
    o Institutions having a long experience in contributing to the ISNI database and newcomers who have just started the process to download their data in the ISNI DB.

- **What size would be the best for the group?**
  Compared with the music industry consultation group, libraries have been contributing to the ISNI database since the beginning. Moreover, libraries have had common cataloguing practices for a long time thanks to their strong involvement in standardization. For these reasons and for the benefit of effective work, it was discussed that in a first stage, it would be preferable to keep the size of the group to a reasonable number.

- **Should the composition of the group be enlarged to:**
    o A representative of IFLA: in a first stage, it was decided that the active members of the group acting as well in IFLA committees such as the cataloguing section and Committee on Standards will do the liaison.
    o Libraries who are not ISNI members or RAGs yet
    o Institutions outside libraries such as national archives and museums

o   Companies providing services to libraries

This question will be further discussed among the members of the Steering Group.

3) Organization of the ISNI Consultation Group for libraries: 2 circles to start

-   **Creation of a Steering Group to lead the kick-off**
    A steering Group has been created in order to launch the activity of this new Consultation Group. It was emphasized that this active core group should be composed of both experienced libraries and newcomers to ISNI. Representatives of the following libraries have agreed to be part of this group:
    o   British Library
    o   BnF
    o   Finnish National Library
    o   Biblioteca Nacional de España
    o   PCC subject to their approval
    o   Koninklijke Bibliotheek subject to their confirmation

-   **A broader group composed of ISNI library members and RAGs as well as the 2019 Summit participants**

-   **Agenda and schedule:**
    -   **Finalizing the terms of reference for the creation of this consultation group**
    -   **Make a first list of actions based on the issues raised during the summit:**
    A working version of these documents should be ready by early September for communication to the ISNI Summit participants. A final version is to be submitted at the ISNI IA Board (early October)

4) Examples of actions to be taken discussed during these breakout sessions:

-   **Information and communication:**
    o   Information about what it represents being an ISNI's member, a RAG, a member of the QT (practical issues, resources)
    o   Improve information regarding the process for libraries to send their data directly to the ISNI database: initial batch load; regular updates;
    o   Training for new members (how to do the initial data load? What does the data need to look like, topics to help new members before they load data)
    o   Role and use of ISNI: why is ISNI important and what kind of services can it provide? More specifically, what do the libraries do with their ISNIs?

-   **Technical needs:**
    o   Possibility for libraries to send their data directly in MARC21 such as VIAF does?

5) Other issues discussed during these breakout sessions:

-   Language: all information provided on the ISNI website are written in English which makes it more difficult for a more general involvement
-   What is the ISNI internal process to make sure that the requested evolutions respect the ISNI ISO standard? For example, the requests of evolutions of ISNI for embargoed and early assignments
-   What is the ISNI internal process to prioritize the evolutions requested by different Consultation Groups or contributors?
-   There is also a need for an ISNI national coordination. At present, any institution can become a RAG. But this may create data conflicts when 2 institutions of the same geographical area cover the same scope of identities.
-   How to measure quality in the database?

6) Widening the ISNI Quality Team to new contributors

At present, the British Library and the BnF are part of the ISNI Quality Team. Other contributors including the National Library of Korea also participate to the ISNI QT to correct their own data. Considering the growth of the ISNI DB and the variety of its contributors, the enlargement of the ISNI QT was discussed.

The Finnish National Library expressed an interest in joining the QT subject to more information are provident concerning the tasks and the amount of work requested to carry out this role.

7) Outcomes

- There is a general agreement on constituting a consultation group for libraries
- A steering group is set up, with British Library, BnF, Finnish National Library, Biblioteca Nacional de España, PCC (Michelle Durocher has given her agreement after the summit) and Koninklijke Bibliotheek (subject to their confirmation). This group is in charge of drafting terms of reference and a first action plan by early September to be circulated to libraries ISNI RAG and members and to observers (libraries having attended the summit without being an ISNI member) so as to collect feedbacks. These documents will be reported to the ISNI-IA board in early October.
- A final statement is approved.