

Advancing scholarly publishing: the strategic impact of ONIX 3.1

Graham Bell
EDItEUR

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About me



- 25+ years experience at the intersection of book publishing and technology
- formerly senior manager in IT department for HarperCollins UK
 - led development of bibliographic, editorial and digital asset management systems
- joined EDItEUR in mid-2010, primarily to guide ONIX development, now responsible for overall development of EDItEUR's range of standards for the book, e-book, and audio supply chains

About EDItEUR

- a not-for-profit membership organisation
- develops, supports and promotes metadata and identification standards for the global book, e-book, audio and serials supply chains – best known for ONIX, *Thema* and EDItX, but also manages ISNI International Agency
- acknowledged centre of expertise on standards and metadata for the industry
- based in London, but a global membership of publishers, distributors, wholesalers, retailers, subscription agents, libraries, system vendors, rights organizations and trade associations

ONIX 3.1 is not new...

- it is a continuation of more than a decade of incremental development of ONIX 3.0, which led up to version 3.0.8
- in most respects, ONIX 3.1 could have been called ONIX 3.0.9
- new numbering reflects *removal* of a handful of data fields, and consequent loss of a little backwards compatibility
- EDItEUR standards are frequently updated to meet new requirements
 - the latest revision is now 3.1.2 – prompted by EU legislation
 - EDItEUR and its members monitor the supply chain for new issues, or additional metadata that can improve discoverability and sales, which can be incorporated into *future* revisions

ONIX provides...

- a robust, standardised, widely-accepted data file format for describing books of all types, including e-books and digital audiobooks
 - bibliographic details
 - marketing collateral
 - commercial arrangements
- with global applicability – not just Europe and North America
 - multi-language, multi-currency *etc*
 - a shared lexicon for clear international communication
- and independent governance, freely usable by all

- ONIX is built into an ecosystem of data management applications available to publishers (some specialised for scholarly publishing)
- used by the commercial book trade (Amazon *etc*)
 - because it simplifies the automated delivery of rich metadata by publishers to intermediaries and retailers, and reduces supply chain costs
 - because rich metadata boosts discoverability and sales
- also used to drive 'internal' data exchanges, *eg* to publisher websites
- and clearly mappable to RDA and MARC standards used by libraries
 - used by LoC, OCLC
- if you're not clear on what ONIX is, <https://tinyurl.com/3eyy3a9f>
 - 15 minute pre-recorded executive briefing (with Spanish subtitles)

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equally
applicable to
scholarly
publishing

What has been added recently?

- support for Open Access publishing
 - at a *per-chapter* level, if necessary
 - licenses, funders, links to repositories *etc* – <https://tinyurl.com/2vn8yr83>
- support for persistent identifiers for scholars, educational and research institutions
 - most particularly ORCID, ISNI, ROR to ensure correct academic credit
- support for responsible declarations of AI use in content creation
 - AI voices in audiobooks, AI translations, AI illustration assistance
- ‘block 8’ – product setup for print-on-demand
 - manufacturing details

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generative AI

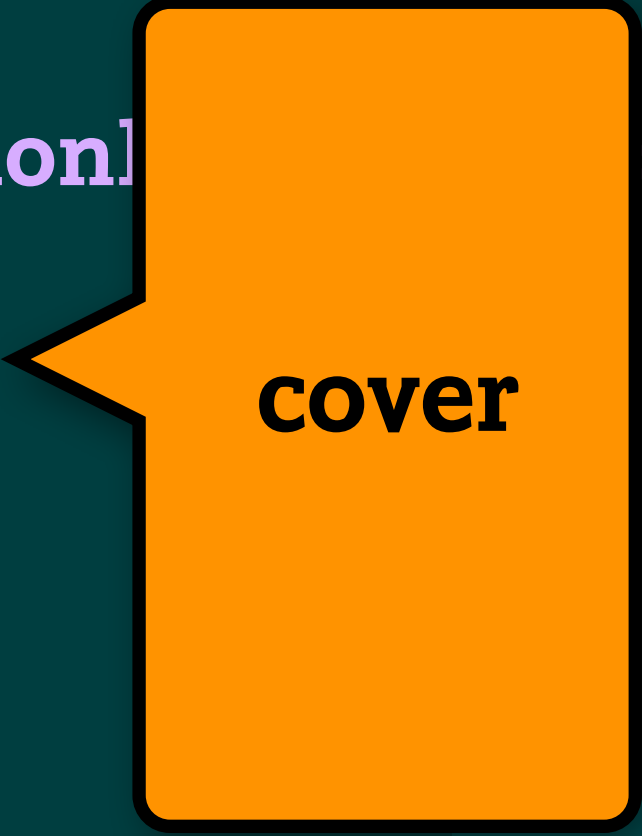
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- **scholarly presses are part of a global supply chain for books – and an equally global metadata supply chain**
 - the ‘language’ of that metadata supply chain is ONIX
 - the international nature of the standard is critical
 - the standard levels the field for smaller presses, smaller languages and smaller markets, increasing the visibility of your books around the world
- **ONIX supports the business needs of a wide range of publishing, including scholarly publishers. It encourages consistency in internal workflows, and can help broaden a publisher’s customer base and grow revenues**

EDITEUR

