

Work items: problem  
statement and goal of work

URNBIS BOF

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# General goals and non-goals

- URNBIS WG would
  - Evaluate the existing URN-related RFCs in the light of changes in relevant Internet standards (such as URI General Syntax), new digital library applications and existing URN implementations
  - Revise the RFCs if and when needed
    - Phased approach: start from syntax, proceed to services and namespace registrations, and finally discuss resolution
  - Put the key RFCs on the standards track
- URNBIS WG would not
  - Change the basis of the URN system
  - Make the existing implementations non-compliant

# Core URN documents

- RFC 2141 URN syntax
  - The RFC is from 1997 and is not compliant with / does not refer to RFC 3986
  - the new I-D fixes this problem
  - Use of Query and Fragment?
- RFC 2483 Resolution services
  - Need for new services (such as URN list)
- RFC 3406 namespace registration
  - No major changes anticipated; currently there are 40 formal and 7 informal namespaces

# URN namespaces for bibliographic identifiers

- Three key namespaces: ISBN for books, ISSN for serials and National Bibliography Number for anything else in National Libraries' collections
  - RFC 3044 (ISSN namespace) revision has been discussed with the ISSN Int. Center; no decision yet to proceed (ISSN has been updated in 2007)
  - RFC 3187 (ISBN namespace) has been revised to make it compliant with the ISBN of 2006 & RFC 3406
  - RFC 3188 (NBN namespace) revision takes into account the implementation experiences of the last 10 years & RFC 3406 and URN syntax I-D

# Other URN namespaces

- There can be various reasons for updating the namespace registration:
  - Revision of the identifier standard
    - ISSN & Linking ISSN (ISSN-L)
  - Amendment of the base URN standards
    - Possible use of query / fragment in URN syntax
  - Implementation experiences & changes in the technical environment
- It is not clear if further updates are needed

# Staging of work: proposal

- Three levels of urgency:
  - Revision of RFCs which are not in synch with standards (from IETF and elsewhere)
    - E. g. RFCs 2141, 3044, 3187 and 3188
  - Review and possible extension of RFCs which are not in synch with existing implementations of URNs & recent development of digital library applications
    - E. g. RFCs 2483 may require more sophisticated handling of descriptive and administrative metadata
  - Review of other URN related RFCs
    - Evaluation of persistent identifier systems?