Rfc3188bis: namespace registration request for NBN

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NBN: general

• National Bibliography Number is not a standard, but a set of identification systems used (primarily) by the national libraries, following the local practices and needs
• They used to be local identifiers, but using them as URNs renders them globally unique
• The namespace has been in production use about a decade; tens of millions of identifiers have been assigned in several countries primarily in Europe
  – Digitized contents, harvested Web documents, e-deposit; generally materials that a) do not qualify for a true standard identifier, and b) is preserved long-term
NBN: General (2)

• Following the introduction of URN:NBN, the national libraries have started either to assign sub-namespaces to their close partners, such as universities, or to allow others to generate URN:NBNs for their content
  – Every German doctoral dissertation gets an NBN via a system administered by the German National Library
  – Theses and other e-publications of Finnish polytechnics and several universities get NBNs from the national library

• The NBN scope is in practice unlimited; we will never run out of NBNs
  – Marked difference between NBN and some other identifier systems such as ISBN
NBN syntax & semantics

• Every NBN string has some embedded meaning
• URN:NBN consists of
  – ISO 3166-1 two letter country code
    • URN:NBN:FI = Finland
  – Sub-division element (voluntary); the National Library must maintain a registry of these
    • URN:NBN:FI:STAT = Statistics Finland
  – Publication element
    • Beyond the requirements of URI/URN syntax specifications, there are no additional requirements for this section
Resolving URN:NBNs

• There is no single source in which every UR in NBN namespace could be resolved (and there will never be)
• An interconnected network of resolvers is needed
• Every NBN contains a hint of where to find the resolver
  – urn:nbn:fi-> Finland
• Things may get a bit complicated...
  – In theory, there can be a network of national resolvers; there can be a top level resolver which harvests all the data from local resolvers
• RFC 3188 gives a number of examples
• Actual production use is wide-spread
  – Nordic countries, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands...
URN:NBN and fragments

• NBN could be used to identify a fragment of a publication (section, chapter) largely depending on whether it makes sense
• A strong recommendation has been to postpone any actions until URN syntax has been revised
• Fragment may be specified using RFC 3986 practices or by other means
URN:NBN and fragments (2)

• Manifestations of whatever is identified with NBNs can be diverse
  – A resource (thesis, web site) may consist of 1-n files; for instance, there can be one for each fragment
  – One file may contain 1-n resources
  – Since the same applies to many identifier systems,
    • Fragment usage in the identifier does not imply actual fragments in the physical manifestation
    • The existence of physical fragments in the manifestation does not necessitate fragment usage in the identifier
rfc3187bis: status and plans

• The I-D has been in the making since 2010, first as a private contribution, then as the WG deliverable

• The text is relatively mature, but once the syntax has been approved, there will be some additional things to do
  – There are clear indications that fragments will be used within this namespace; sticking to the requirements of URI syntax should be easy

• More examples on usage?