



IFLA Review Group  
**Metadata**  
**Technical Standards**

# METATECH

## The Next Step in Publishing IFLA Standards

By Joseph Hafner, Chair, METATEC

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# IFLA Namespaces: IFLA Standards as linked data

<https://iflastandards.info/>

Open  
access



ISBD



FRBR



LRM



LIDATEC

The IFLA Linked Data Technical Sub-Committee of the Committee on Standards supports the linked data and namespaces activities of IFLA professional units by assisting in the publishing of standards as open access resources, and in providing training and support to these activities.

MulDiCat



UniMARC



links

The RDA Toolkit links to the LRM & it is possible to link your project to the IFLA Namespaces

IFLA Committees are working to update and add standards



Launched  
July 2020



International Federation  
of Library Associations  
and Institutions

# IFLA Namespaces

1. **FRBR Vocabularies:** These vocabularies define relationships between bibliographic entities, such as works, expressions, manifestations, and items, enabling richer and more precise cataloguing.
2. **ISBD Vocabularies:** The International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD) vocabularies help standardise bibliographic descriptions across different libraries and systems.
3. **UNIMARC Vocabularies:** UNIMARC is a format for bibliographic and authority data exchange. The linked data version enhances interoperability and sharing.
4. **MulDiCat:** A multilingual subject vocabulary, MulDiCat facilitates consistent subject indexing and retrieval.
5. **LRM (Library Reference Model):** A high-level conceptual reference model developed within an entity-relationship modelling framework which builds upon FRBR's approach and methodologies.



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Linked Data Technical Review Group (LIDATEC)  
*is becoming*  
**Metadata Technical Standards Review Group  
(METATEC)**


# WHERE ARE WE GOING?

- Vision for the future of IFLA Standards
- Creation of an interactive online environment working with the Namespaces infrastructure




# HOW DID WE GET HERE?

- Struggles with getting the information for Namespaces in right format



Each Review Group  
starting to think about  
the future



Started considering  
options that would work  
across the standards  
with our work done for  
Linked Data so far



# THE “AH HA” MOMENT?

- What if we put the standards into the Namespaces environment?



Developing a wiki-like environment



Leveraging the Namespaces technical team's knowledge



# IFLA WIKI NEXT STEPS

- Creation of a document by our technical team: Jon Phipps and Diane Hillman



GitHub provides a stable, low-cost editorial environment that can be used for online and offline, group-based editorial work with a sophisticated editorial authorization scheme.



GitHub Actions provides an on-demand development environment to facilitate the final publishing of the documents, can trigger the generation of new static web pages and can provide triggers to the Namespace server to generate and serve each released version.



# IFLA WIKI NEXT STEPS

- Challenges to overcome
  - Keeping the structured metadata aligned with the unstructured and semi-structured related documentation.
  - It has been our experience that it is far simpler to incorporate structured data into semi-structured documentation than to try to extract that data from unstructured pages.
  - This strategy also invites complex and error-prone editorial reviews to catch changes made to the structured data during the creation of the documentation.

# IFLA WIKI NEXT STEPS

- Review process considerations
  - It's also highly desirable to be able to generate intermediate versions of the documentation for review and comment — already baked into the IFLA review process but likely rarely formalized in software.

# IFLA WIKI NEXT STEPS

- Proposal
  - A set of **GitHub page templates** as ISBD has required: *“The draft ISBDM must have one page per entity and element.”* But rather than *“manually extract the element namespace data from the element set spreadsheet and format it for both the Word and interactive versions”*, we propose to pre-populate these page templates directly from the spreadsheet data, along with additional structured data added to the current spreadsheets, including usage notes, additional instructions, relationships to other vocabularies, etc.

# IFLA WIKI NEXT STEPS

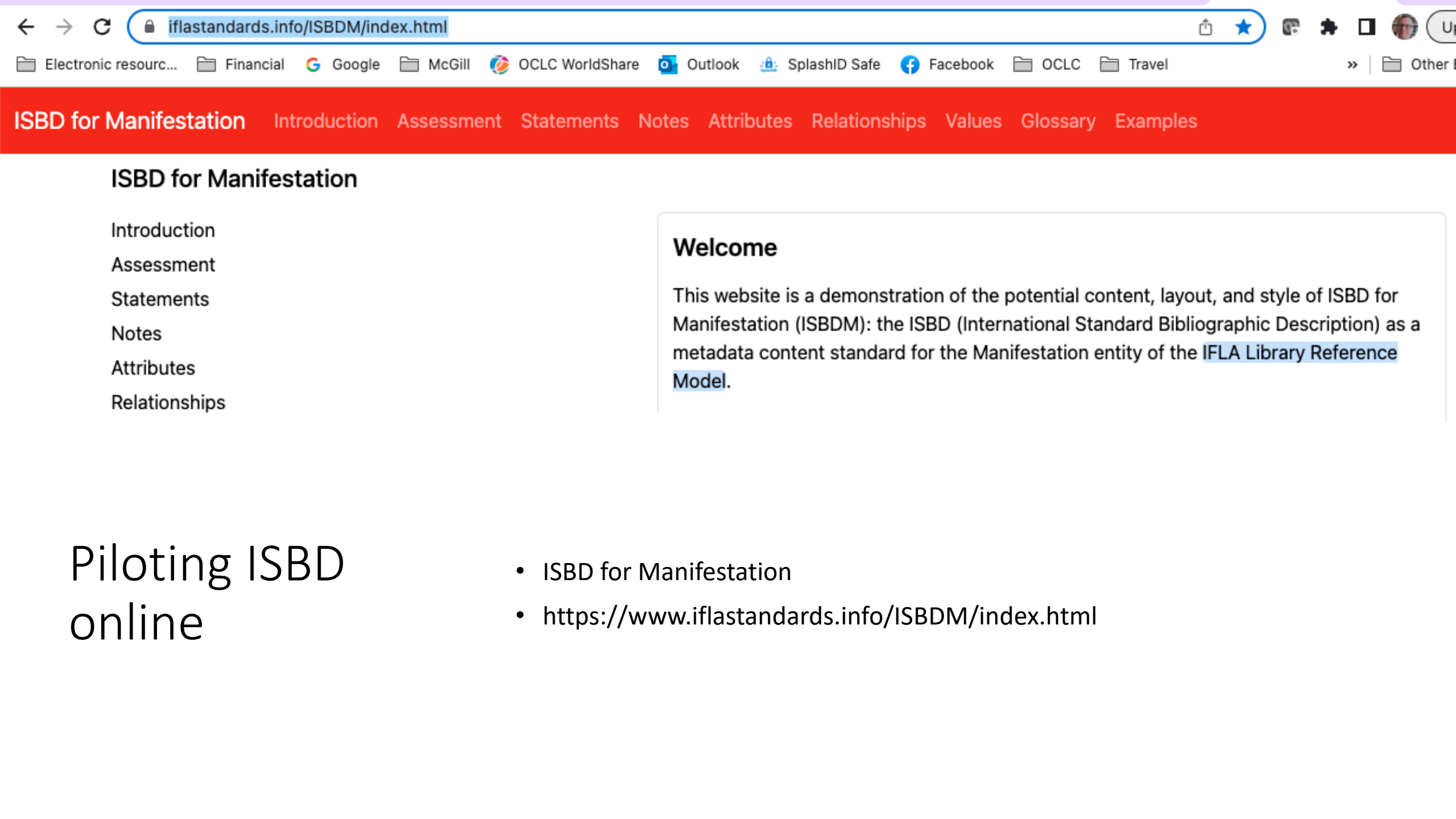
- Proposal
  - The **other requirements for menu navigation, active links, diagram display, and responsive design** are also easily accommodated by a GitHub Pages approach as already demonstrated (in a limited way) in the current Namespace documentation.
  - The **highly refined git-based workflows that GitHub Pages enables** have many years of professional practice behind them and effectively address these needs.

# IFLA WIKI NEXT STEPS

- Description and workflow options
  - Consider options for workflows using CSV files, Jason-ld, Jeckyll templates, Google Docs, etc.
  - Mapping interface
  - Review subdomains for vocabularies
  - GitHub workflows
  - Versioning

# IFLA WIKI NEXT STEPS

- Reviewed these with ISBD and the Advisory Committee on Standards
  - Discussed the proposals and ideas
  - Mapped out options to use the IFLA Namespaces Technical Team (Jon and Diane)
  - Offered the option to pilot a version of the ISBD-M using the Namespaces infrastructure and GitHub



iflastandards.info/ISBDM/index.html

Electronic resourc... Financial Google McGill OCLC WorldShare Outlook SplashID Safe Facebook OCLC Travel

ISBD for Manifestation Introduction Assessment Statements Notes Attributes Relationships Values Glossary Examples

## ISBD for Manifestation

- Introduction
- Assessment
- Statements
- Notes
- Attributes
- Relationships

### Welcome

This website is a demonstration of the potential content, layout, and style of ISBD for Manifestation (ISBDM): the ISBD (International Standard Bibliographic Description) as a metadata content standard for the Manifestation entity of the IFLA Library Reference Model.

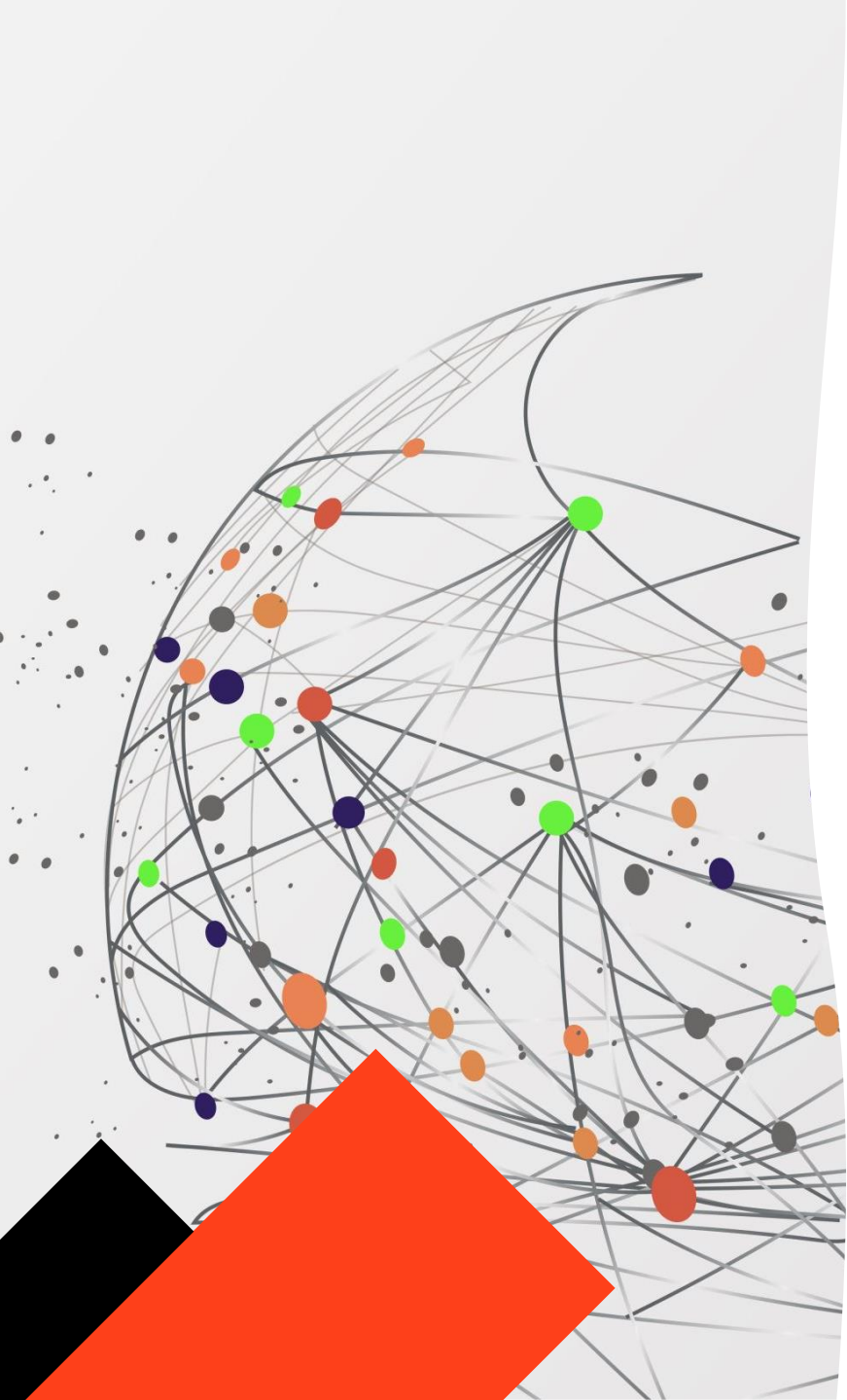
Piloting ISBD  
online

- ISBD for Manifestation
- <https://www.iflastandards.info/ISBDM/index.html>

# IFLA WIKI NEXT STEPS

- What is next?
  - Continue to pilot with ISBD-M while the ISBD group asks for a world-wide review
  - Work to partner with other standards to pilot and test their needs and workflows
  - Integrate the standards in GitHub with the existing Namespaces, so it will be easier to update both as we move ahead
  - Incorporate what is being learned into the Namespaces Guidelines documents to cover more than the linked aspects





THANKS!  
MERCII!

Joseph Hafner, Chair,  
METATEC  
[Joseph.Hafner@mcgill.ca](mailto:Joseph.Hafner@mcgill.ca)



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