



BOOK INDUSTRY COMMUNICATION

THE BOOK INDUSTRY'S SUPPLY CHAIN ORGANISATION

2009

www.bic.org.uk



BIC is an independent organisation set up and sponsored by the Publishers Association, the Booksellers Association, the British Library and the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals to promote supply chain efficiency in all sectors of the book world through e-commerce and the application of standard processes and procedures.

Supply chain

BIC is committed to creating an efficient supply chain for both physical and digital products in the trade and library sectors, working with all the relevant stakeholders to eliminate wasteful and time-consuming practices and implement solutions acceptable to all. BIC's unique position of trust with all parties in the supply chain makes it possible to reach agreement on dependable standards.

Digital content

BIC works to create and promote standards for the trading and discovery of digital content; and has taken a leadership role in bringing together all sides of the industry to discuss and resolve issues in this fast-moving area of activity.

Technical standards

BIC develops, maintains and promotes technical standards for the electronic communication of bibliographic information and supply chain transactions for both the trade and library markets. It provides its members with specially-tailored standard implementation guidelines for the use of Tradacoms and EDIFACT messages as well as for XML messages and web services. Its regular implementation clinics are the indispensable forum where members meet to support the maintenance of BIC's standards.

E-commerce

The efficient use of e-commerce is at the heart of all BIC's activity. BIC is the organisation behind the e4books project which promotes the objective of a fully electronic supply chain in the book industry; and has now launched e4libraries, a similar campaign to modernise and automate the library supply chain.



Industry Returns Initiative

BIC managed the development of the industry returns initiative and retains responsibility for policy issues. This ambitious scheme to automate and standardise returns authorisation and processing within industry-agreed guidelines is now accepted as the standard basis for returns handling in the UK industry.

Product information

BIC created and maintains the BIC Basic standards for the supply of product information, the BIC Standard Subject Categories and BIC discount codes; and promotes the adoption of ONIX as the book trade's standard for the transmission of rich product data. It is responsible for UK input to the governance of ONIX internationally.

Product identification

BIC maintains bar coding standards for the industry and is working on standards for the structure and content of radio frequency ID tags in library and trade applications. It manages the BSI Identifiers and Metadata Committee, giving it a voice in the maintenance and development of an array of identifiers on which the supply chain runs.

Accreditation schemes

BIC manages industry accreditation schemes which recognise excellence in the supply of product information and in the use of e-commerce to automate routine business transactions.

How BIC membership can help you and your business

- ✓ BIC promotes standard processes and procedures which can save your company time and money and supplies the technical support to maintain them.
- ✓ BIC is independent of any individual trade sector or vested interest, and supports the common interest of all in the book trade: publishers, booksellers, librarians and service providers.
- ✓ BIC provides excellent networking opportunities and information for those with an interest in creating a more efficient supply chain – at meetings, seminars and through email discussion groups and newsletters.
- ✓ BIC's membership of EDItEUR, the international book industry standards organisation, and its close relationship with other national standards bodies ensure that the UK's voice is heard in the global standards arena and that members are kept informed of developments elsewhere in the world.
- ✓ BIC keeps the industry in touch with technical developments affecting its business and monitors emerging technologies.
- ✓ BIC gives your organisation a voice in the development of standards and helps you to gain early benefits from new opportunities.

BIC's governance and resources

BIC is governed by a board primarily comprising representatives of its sponsoring organisations (The Publishers Association, the Booksellers Association, the British Library and CILIP) and chaired by Michael Holdsworth, formerly of Cambridge University Press.

Technical support is provided by a team of internationally respected expert consultants as well as many other individuals in the publishing, retailing, distribution, IT and library communities who provide support and technical assistance from within their own member organisations.

BIC encourages participation in the many working parties and groups which oversee individual aspects of its work and guide its forward strategy.

Membership

Membership of BIC is open to all organisations operating in any part of the publishing, bookselling or library communities and is divided into categories according to the nature of a member's business, each of which has its own fee structure. Details of current rates are to be found on the web site.

There is also an associate membership for libraries, small companies and other interested individuals.





For further information contact

Peter Kilborn, Executive Director
Book Industry Communication
39/41 North Road, London N7 9DP

Telephone 020 7607 9021 Fax 020 7607 0415
e-mail: info@bic.org.uk Web site: <http://www.bic.org.uk>

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