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Alan Bryden
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Organisation internationale de normalisation
International Organization for Standardization
Международная Организация по Стандартизации

TO THE ISO MEMBER BODIES AND CORRESPONDENT MEMBERS

Your ref.
Our ref. Council 2006

Date 2006-07-24

Availability on a number of ISO/IEC JTC 1 standards free of charge on the Web

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am pleased to inform you of the following resolution recently adopted by Council by correspondence:

> *Council,*
>
> *recalling its Resolution 6/2004 approving the criteria for making ISO/IEC JTC 1 standards available free of charge on the Web,*
>
> *noting that ISO/IEC JTC 1 has requested the publication of a number of its standards that do not meet the above criteria allowing automatic release free of charge on the Web,*
>
> *further noting that the IEC Council Board has approved this ISO/IEC JTC 1 request,*
>
> *approves the publication free of charge on the Web of the series of ISO/IEC JTC 1 standards contained in Annex 2 to document Council vote 06/2006.*
>
> (Council Resolution 24/2006)

NOTE – Annex 2 to document Council vote 06/2006, mentioned in the above resolution, is attached.

Yours faithfully,

Alan Bryden

cc. President
President-elect
Vice-President (policy)
Vice-President (technical management)
Treasurer
IEC General Secretary

LIST OF ISO/IEC JTC 1 PUBLICATIONS ON WHICH APPROVAL IS REQUESTED FOR RELEASE ON THE WWW FREE OF CHARGE

JTC 1, in accordance with the criteria for making ISO/IEC Standards freely available (Council Resolution 6/2004), invites the ISO Council (and the IEC Council Board) to consider making the following ISO/IEC Standards free of charge.

ISO/IEC 5218:2004(E) *Information technology — Codes for the representation of human sexes*

Rationale:

ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 32 Resolution 25: Request to make the codes and Annex of ISO/IEC 5218:2004, 2nd edition freely available

Recognizing that

1. this International Standard specifies a uniform representation of human sexes as codes for the interchange of information;
2. ISO has made available the codes of other code-based standards, such as ISO 3166-1 Country Codes;
3. the essential aspects of the ISO/IEC 5218 standard have not changed between its 1977 1st edition and this 2004 2nd edition, with these basic aspects i.e. its normative clauses, being covered in two pages ;
4. that the key added value to this 2nd edition for ISO/IEC 5218 is the addition of an "Informative Annex" translating the codes into the languages of 14 countries, supporting JTC1's strategic direction regarding cultural adaptability requirements.

For the above and other reasons, SC 32 secretariat requests JTC1 and ISO Council and IEC Council Board to make available the code sets and supporting text of ISO/IEC 5218:2004 2nd edition, including the informative Annex, either as a "freely available standard", or via extraction of the relevant text. In the latter case, it is requested that the ISO CS consult with SC32 to assure the proper excerpting or reproduction of the text.

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ISO/IEC 14977:1996(E) *Information technology - Syntactic metalanguage - Extended BNF*
ISO/IEC 13568:2002(E) *Information technology — Z formal specification notation — Syntax, type system and semantic*

Rationale:

ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 22 Resolution 03-08: JTC 1/SC 22 instructs its Secretariat to send to JTC 1 and ISO Council and IEC Council Board for approval the request to make the following standards freely available:

- ISO/IEC 14977 - Syntactic Metalanguage - Extended BNF
- ISO/IEC 13568 - Z Notation

The EBNF standard is a formal and precise metasyntax. Many standards and specifications need to specify syntax, but many standards practitioners prefer to use several internet RFCs as a reference definition of BNF notation. If the ISO/IEC 14977 EBNF were freely available, it would have increasing use in references in standards and specifications. Just as ISO/IEC 11404, Language Independent Datatypes, ISO/IEC 13886, Language Independent Procedure Calling, and ISO/IEC 14369 Language Independent Service Specifications documents have been fundamental for other standards, EBNF could also be fundamental, too — and more widely used by industry.

To make it easier for SC 32 to reference major portions of Z in its “Common Logic” CL project, it would be better to have Z freely available. A side benefit of Z's free availability is that it might improve harmonization of OMG's OCL (object constraint language) with other non-procedural languages that SC 32 (and others) need to incorporate and integrate.

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ISO/IEC 11179(E) *Information technology — Metadata registries (MDR)*
ISO/IEC TR 20943(E) *Information technology — Procedures for achieving metadata registry (MDR) content consistency*
ISO/IEC 20944(E) *Information technology -- Metadata Registries Interoperability and Bindings (MDR-IB)*

Rationale:

At the ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 32 meeting in Seoul, Rep. of Korea, SC 32 passed a resolution, number 23, requesting that ISO/IEC JTC 1 approve the ISO/IEC 11179 Metadata Registry family of standards for inclusion into the set of publicly available standards. The rationale for making this work publicly available is that the ISO/IEC 11179 family of standards is primarily used in making other standards documents or standard metadata and data.

1. ISO/IEC 11179 family of standards is primarily used in preparing standards documents or standard metadata and data by a number of Technical Committees. Examples are:

   a. ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 36, *Information technology for learning, education and training*
   b. ISO/TC 37, *Terminology and language and content resources*
   c. ISO/TC 154, *Processes, data elements and documents in commerce, industry and administration*
   d. ISO/TC 204, *Intelligent transport systems*
   e. ISO/TC 211, *Geographic information/Geomatics*
   f. ISO/TC 215, *Health informatics*

2. The standard is being used by national and international standards Technical Committees to standardize, manage and make available metadata. Examples are:

   a. ISO/TC 154 -- Basic Semantics Register
   b. ISO/TC 204 -- Intelligent Transportation Systems Data Registry
   c. ASTM, HL7, X12, and other United States healthcare Standards Development Organizations – United States Health Information Knowledgebase (USHIK)
   d. Dublin Core Metadata Initiative
   e. OASIS ebXML Registry

3. Governments are utilizing this family of standards to standardize metadata that describes data elements and the components of data elements. The goal is to expose standard semantic and syntactic information. Examples are:

   a. Australia – The Knowledgebase from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
   b. United States – Environmental Data Registry from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
   c. United Stated – Federal Aviation Administration Data Registry

The ISO/IEC 11179 family of standards includes:

1. Multi-part Standard ISO/IEC 11179 Information Technology -- Metadata Registries (MDR)
2. Multi-part Technical report ISO/IEC 20943 Information technology - Achieving Metadata Registry Content Consistency
3. Multi-part Standard ISO/IEC 20944 Information technology - Metadata Registry - Interoperability & bindings

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ISO/IEC 10646:2003(E) *Information technology -- Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set (UCS)*

Rationale:

SC 2 believes that ISO/IEC 10646 (UCS) virtually falls into the ISO/IEC criteria for free availability of JTC 1 standards since the Unicode consortium publishes almost identical standard and makes it freely available in electronic forms via download from Internet. The differences between ISO/IEC 10646 (UCS) and the Unicode standard are that they use different style of writing, e.g., terminologies, wordings, document organization, etc, and that the Unicode standard provides more information (hints) for implementers.

ISO/IEC 10646 (UCS) is being widely accepted in various areas, including Internet applications. It is also implemented in many open source software that are usually developed by groups of volunteers. The number of UCS-based programs is growing. This is good for a standard. However, the community supporting such activities often prefer free specifications. Some specifications refer to the Unicode standard not the International Standard, solely because the Unicode standard is free. It is unfortunate that the adoption of an International Standard is obstructed by such reason.

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ISO/IEC 14651:2001(E) *Information technology -- International string ordering and comparison -- Method for comparing character strings and description of the common template tailorable ordering*

Rationale:

ISO/IEC 14651 is an essential companion of ISO/IEC 10646. Most of the description of its technology is also available in practice from the Unicode consortium for free using the following reference (although only in English while the ISO/IEC source is also available in French and also maintained in both languages):

Unicode Technical Report no. 10, Unicode Collation Algorithm, The Unicode Consortium, URL: http://www.unicode.org/unicode/reports/tr10

Not making this ISO Standard freely-available would generate a high risk that the developing community might ignore the fine cultural and linguistic adaptability features of ISO/IEC 14651 (in particular its mandatory adaptation of the sorting process to peculiarities of all the languages of the world, their dialects, and their varying usages even within a single country).

Furthermore, one of the first full implementations of ISO/IEC 14651 was made in open-source systems, developed by communities worldwide used to expect unlimited accessibility to strategic standards such as this one. Other more commercial products have referred mainly to the Unicode reference quoted above and by consequence, indirectly, to the ISO/IEC standard, because the Unicode implementation is already conformant to the ISO/IEC standard 14651, provided that the correct conformance declarations are made. Therefore it is believed that this International Standard is an obvious candidate for free availability, like ISO/IEC 10646.

These two International Standards are also widely used by communities of developing countries as well as widely industrialized countries, which is another rationale for making availability free, easy and as wide as possible.

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ISO/IEC 24824-1(E) *Information technology - Generic applications of ASN.1: Fast Infoset – Part 1*
ISO/IEC 24824-2(E) *Information Technology - Generic Applications of ASN.1 - Fast Web Services - Part 2*

Rationale:

These ISO/IEC Standards provide a binary encoding for XML documents (Part 1), a binary encoding for Web services messages (Part 2).

There is work in progress in the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) to define equivalent binary encodings, potentially competing with the above standards. Consideration of the above ISO/IEC Standards in the W3C work will be seriously prejudiced if they do not have free availability, as is the case with W3C standards and with some of the competing standards for binary XML and binary Web Services. Wide adoption of the above ISO/IEC Standards is unlikely to occur if they are not free while the competing standards are available free.

In order to maximize the take-up of these ISO/IEC Standards, ISO Council and IEC Council Board are asked to approve the free availability of the above ISO/IEC Standards.