

# **JISC PALS2 PROJECT: ONIX for Licensing Terms Phase 1 (OLT1)**

## **ONIX Publisher License Terms**

### ***Functional Requirements for a License Terms Editing Tool***

**DRAFT v0.9.1**

#### **1. Introduction**

This document specifies the functional requirements for a tool for creating and editing machine-readable license terms that conform to the Publisher License Terms format developed as an application of ONIX for Licensing Terms (OLT).

While it is anticipated that the principal users of such a tool would be the originators of licenses, i.e. licensor publishers and their agents, the tool may also be used by licensees (e.g. libraries and intermediaries) to construct OLT-conformant expressions of non-OLT-conformant license terms such as paper licenses.

The OLT Publisher License Terms format is an XML format that enables the terms of a license to be expressed in a manner that is not only machine-readable but, when interpreted by capable systems, including as Digital Rights Management systems, may also be actionable. The format is XML-based in order to be both

- *extensible*, to cope with all actionable license terms, and
- *highly-formalised*, to minimise ambiguity and to maximum machine-interpretability.

The formalism is defined fundamentally by the OLT ontology, which has been developed in this project. A license terms editing tool must be capable of producing license term expressions that conform to this ontology, either by directly implementing the ontology itself or by implementing an XML schema that specifies as fully as possible the syntax and grammar of the OLT Publisher License Terms format, as defined in the OLT ontology. An XML schema for the OLT Publisher License Terms format has been prepared as an aid to implementation of these functional requirements.

While the OLT Publisher License Terms format is XML-based and therefore text-based, it is primarily designed to be machine-processible and is not intended to be read directly by the human reader. The typical human author or recipient of license terms is unlikely to have any experience of working with XML-tagged text and should not be expected to acquire such experience either prior to or while using a license terms editing tool. Basic skills in the use of office tools – such as word processing, data entry or web browsing tools –

should be a sufficient pre-requisite for learning to use a license terms editing tool.

Such a tool will need to be installed in whatever system environment its users are to be found, which may range from stand-alone PCs to large networks, and so should not involve unreasonable system requirements and constraints for its installation and use.

## **2. Required functions**

The primary functions of a license terms editing tool that would be required in all cases are:

- To provide a suitable user interface for the creation of new license terms expressions and for the review and revision of existing expressions. A "suitable user interface" is likely to involve a combination of standard graphical user interface functions such as menu and toolbar options, interactive forms and styled text editing.
- To output license terms expressions as XML documents that conform to the ONIX Publisher License Terms format as defined in the OLT ontology.
- To store and retrieve complete license terms expressions for revision of existing expressions or for use as templates in the creation of new expressions.
- To store and retrieve fragments of license terms expressions for use as templates in the creation of new expressions.

While the last of these may not in principle be a requirement in all cases, in practice there are likely to be very few if any cases where it is not a requirement.

## **3. Additional functions likely to be required in some cases**

The following additional functions of a license terms editing tool are expected to be required in some usage cases and desirable in many if not most other cases:

### *Importing*

To enable the import of existing license terms expressions that conform to the OLT Publisher License Terms format, for review and revision purposes, or for use as templates. In some cases it may also be desirable or even a requirement to be able to import existing license terms expressions in other formats, although this is unlikely to be a fully-automated process and would be expected to produce incomplete expressions that will require further (manual) editing.

### *Exporting*

To enable the export of license terms expressions in formats that may be viewed directly using commonly available tools such as word processing software and web browsers.

#### *Management of controlled terms*

To enable the management of locally defined terms for use in creating license terms expressions, as well as to enable the import of updates to lists of controlled terms defined in the OLT ontology. This function may be provided in a variety of ways, varying in their sophistication: at its simplest, the tool would maintain lists of locally defined values; at its most complex, the tool might maintain a complete ontology for locally-defined terms, defined in terms of the existing OLT ontology.

#### *License name, status and identifier management and version control*

To manage the naming, status and systematic identification of license terms expressions and revised versions of expressions. While these could be managed manually as part of the license creating and editing process, it is unlikely to be practice to do so except in the simplest of cases.

### **4. Other desirable functions**

The following additional functions are expected to be desirable in some or even many usage cases:

#### *Linking / association*

To provide aids to the association of license terms expressions with external documents and document fragments referred to within those expressions. While links from license terms expressions to external sources, such as in original license documents, could be inserted manually as part of the license terms creation and editing process, there is likely to be considerable value in tools for assisting this process, such as a "point-and-click" tool that automatically generates a link according to a selection made by the user in a target document.

#### *Searching*

To provide aids to searching stored license terms expressions (complete licenses and fragments) for terms that match a given set of search criteria. Complete licenses would be searchable by criteria such as status, name, identifier and version and related agents. Both complete licenses and fragments would also be searchable by criteria such as specific controlled terms, the names or identifiers of defined entities (agents, resources, services, time-points, periods, places, events, states or usages), and references to specified external documents.