

Title: MRG Recommendations on JTC 1 N 6087

Submitted by: Marketing Rapporteur on behalf of the RG-M

Date: 2000-05-25

re: JTC 1 N 6087 SC 32 Resolution 25: Facilitating Standards

## **MRG recommendations on the JTC 1 N 6087**

MRG supports the goals identified in the SC32 Resolution and respectfully suggests that alternative approaches will be more effective in the longer term. The following five recommendations are based on a desire for simplicity in ease of use and scalability of any measures taken to meet the stated goals. We recommend that these be considered and evaluated by JTC 1 and a decision taken at the November 2000 JTC 1 Plenary on the way forward.

1a. All individual JTC 1 SCs should be encouraged to make available on their web pages a Standing Document listing and providing a summary of the Standards under their responsibility. This approach has been adopted already and has the advantage of being entirely under the control of individual SCs and their Secretariats. For example see SC27 Standing Document SD7 which provides a detailed summary and catalogue of SC27 Projects and Standards. This document is available for download via the JTC 1 web site or directly from <http://www.din.de/ni/sc27/doc7.html>. For SC32 this would mean the compilation of user oriented information as determined by their own experts on its circa 31 published standards. The information to be provided can readily be drawn from the introduction/Scope of the standards and any additional text that the SC or its designated responsible officer feels should be provided. Keywords can be added by SCs via metadata tags to provide additional access points for web based retrieval.

1b. MRG is conscious that not all JTC 1 standards are in equal demand and suggests that the standards to be included in any such standing document be entirely at the discretion of the relevant SC. For example MRG notes that in the case of SC6 which is responsible for 220 standards the Business Plan provided to the JTC 1 Seoul Plenary identifies about 20 standards which are considered key. This will make the task of compiling such a Standing Document much easier and at the same time achieve strategic returns in keeping with the investment of effort.

2. ISO/CS are at present adding an Abstract field to the central standards database on foot of a previous Resolution from JTC 1. Adoption of this approach across JTC 1 and across all ISO/IEC will provide a user friendly and scalable access to information on all ISO/IEC standards. MRG recommends that JTC 1 determine the status of this development through ITTF and that it encourages the earliest adoption of this feature in the public catalogues and its fullest support by timely provision of any needed information by JTC 1 and JTC 1/SCs. It notes that any information compiled to satisfy item 1. above can be reused for this abstract field.

3. Knowledge of what standards and other documents are normatively or informatively referenced in other standards would be a valuable indicator of inter-relationships and cross-dependencies between standards. Placing separate extracts from standards documents, containing references and citations to other standards, on the web would be a limited way to address this opportunity. An alternative suggestion is based on the fact that this form of citation access is well established by the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) within academic research literature (<http://www.isinet.com/>) and patents <http://www.isinet.com/products/derwent.html> Considering the need for ease of access and scalability, MRG recommends that this proven type of structured approach be further investigated with a view to its adoption

by JTC 1. In particular, **MRG recommends that consideration be given to implementing a pilot implementation in conjunction with commercial publishers such as ISI.** The total number of JTC 1 standards is less than 1000 and the number added per year is approximately 100 on average. These volumes would not be a significant load on the commercial systems which already cater for annual article volumes of the order of millions. This systematic approach is scalable to standards and specifications available from other organizations. It would provide an access point for standards within the existing scientific and business citation services. In addition there is certainly scope for a concerted effort across all of ISO/IEC/ITU and consortia in liaison with the formal standards organizations.

4. MRG considers access to IT terminology to be a significant opportunity for JTC 1 and its SCs. MRG considers that the optimal provision of information is via an integrated index of all terms and not through a set of isolated documents loaded onto the web.

Since the closure of SC1 responsibility for and interest in a desire for easier access to terminology has grown in JTC 1. At the Seoul Plenary (November 1999) a new initiative was adopted. The existing JTC 1 terminology available in electronic form is being compiled by the UK National Body and will be available in advance of the next JTC 1 Plenary in November, 2000. MRG encourages JTC 1 National Bodies and its SCs as part of their review of this vocabulary work to consider how it can be extended to include all normative terms in published standards in English and in French. The data entry associated with this is not vast and it should be possible with limited resources to easily capture the data and make it available via the same system. Any discrepancies and multiple definitions can be more easily identified and corrected. Armed with this more expansive and sanitised data JTC 1 will be better equipped to establish and join co-operative efforts for sharing data in cross disciplinary areas. As recognition of the importance of this area to its work and users, JTC 1 should consider establishing a Vocabulary Rapporteur to oversee the implementation.

## Conclusions

MRG support the goals identified in SC32 Resolution 25 and appreciates the viewpoint and rationale for the SC32 recommendations. Starting with a requirement that improvements be scalable (beyond an individual SC, beyond JTC 1, and even beyond ISO/IEC) and easy to use (relative to the end goals), MRG suggests a rationale and different set of recommended actions to meet the same goals. In summary these are:

1. SC32 compile a Standing Document on its Published Standards and make it available on their web site. Other SCs should do likewise at least for those standards considered most significant by the SC.
2. Provision for Abstracts are being added to the ISO/CS central database on standards. JTC 1 to determine current status and expected implementation date and ensure that information on its most important standards is made available for inclusion in the launch.
2. JTC 1 investigate compiling a citation database (on its own or preferably in co-operation with a commercial publisher like ISI) and implement within the next year using the normative references contained in published JTC 1 standards for the initial implementation.
3. JTC 1 to consider appointing a Vocabulary Rapporteur and extending the current electronic vocabulary work by the addition of all normative terms in published JTC 1 standards. If adopted, all normative definitions available in French and/or in English should be included and made available on CD and via the web. Cooperation with other agencies on a joint venture should also be considered.