Questionnaire on UN/CEFACT Library Items

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Administrative Information:

Name:

Domain:

Delegation:

Background Information

This questionnaire is part of the UN/CEFACT Library Review Project. The purpose of this project is to ensure the long-term sustainability of UN/CEFACT's libraries of business process and information models and associated technical artifacts. This questionnaire should help to identify the needs of the domains with respect to a library of artifacts. An identification of these needs is an indispensable input for a subsequent process analysis. An identification of these needs sets the target for a library maintenance process to be effective, whereas the subsequent process analysis has to guarantee that the library maintenance process is going to be efficient.

The questions in this questionnaire are the result of the input received from spokes(wo)men from different domains that have been identified in the beginning of the library review project. All the input from these spokes(wo)men has been considered best to our understanding and we did our best in order not to eliminate any of the issues raised by these spokes(wo)men. In the light of the input received from the spokes(wo)men some additional questions have been identified during the project team meeting at the 24th UN/CEFACT Forum in New Delhi in order to get a full picture of the needs of the domains.

Instructions

"No preference" is often used as an option to answer a question in this questionnaire. In order to avoid misunderstandings, we want to demonstrate the meaning of his option by means of an example. Let us consider item "5.4 UN/CEFACT should provide a library of XML messages (XSDs)" for illustration purposes (we could have considered any other item as well). Evidently, the answer should be "yes" in case a domain wants to use UN/CEFACT XSDs. If a domain does not need UN/CEFACT XSDs, the answer will not necessarily be "no", because "no" means UN/CEFACT should not produce any XSDS, not even for other domains. "No preference" would also indicate that the domain does not need any XSDs, but has no problem, if XSDs will be created for other domains.

It should be noted that the current set of UN/CEFACT specifications would mandate a "yes" or a "no" to some of the questions. However, this questionnaire should help to identify the needs on the library and its artifacts independent of currently existing constraints in the specifications. Please keep this in mind when answering the questions.

An example of something that does not currently exist is the concept of a "domain-specific core component" - it would even be a contradiction to the current definition of a core component which is characterized by being domain independent. Let us consider a fictitious example. The health care sector needs the concept of "medication" to be included in a document. In order to use "medication" as a BIE, this BIE must be based on a corresponding CC. When we assume that "medication" is so specific to health care that is not re-used in any other domain, one may abstain from harmonization, but will still need a CC to serve as a basis for a BIE "medication". In a similar line, one could imagine that a cross-domain ACC Person exists. Health care may add the BCC "Blood type" to the ACC Person. When we assume that "Blood Type" is not of use for a person in any other domain, one may allow for a domain-specific extension of Person, instead of adding another cross-domain BCC that is useless for all other domains. However, it should explicitly be mentioned that this questionnaire should not introduce new concepts by the backdoor, i.e. by just raising a question. As for all other questions, a definite "no" by all respondents, should also avoid further discussions on certain topics.

1. Core Components (ACCs and BCCs)

1.1. UN/CEFACT should standardize core components 　　　yes　　　　　　no　　　　　　　no preference
1.2. (a) UN/CEFACT should harmonize all core components leading to a single library package of core components (b) UN/CEFACT should harmonize a core set of core components and allow for domain-specific core components leading to multiple library packages of core components (c) No preference
1.3. Answer ONLY if 1.2 (b) was selected: 　(a) Domain specific library packages should include only new core component 　(b) Domain specific library packages should include new core components and extensions of core components of the core set 　(c) No preference
1.4. Answer ONLY if 1.2 (b) was selected: 　(a) UN/CEFACT must be the owner of the domain specific core components and takes control including quality assurance of the domain specific core components 　(b) UN/CEFACT should allow also for domain specific core components packages that are controlled by other bodies (based on a collaboration agreement) 　(c) UN/CEFACT should allow for pointers in its library to core component packages maintained elsewhere by other bodies 　(d) No preference
1.5. Answer ONLY if 1.4 (a) was selected: 　(a) Control including quality assurance is carried out by the library management team 　(b) Control including quality assurance is carried out by the respective UN/CEFACT PDA/Domain 　(c) No preference
1.6. UN/CEFACT should remove the association core components from its library 　　　yes　　　　　　no　　　　　　　no preference
1.7. I expect a request for a new core component or an update of an existing one to be completed in ___ Months
1.8. Comments (Free Text):

2. Business Information Entities (ABIEs and BBIEs)

2.1 UN/CEFACT should provide a library of BIEs   yes   no   no preference

2.2 Multiple Choices:
    (a) The UN/CEFACT BIE library should include packages with BIEs that are under control (including quality assurance) by UN/CEFACT
    (b) The UN/CEFACT BIE library should include packages with BIEs that are under control by other bodies (based on a collaboration agreement) (y / n / dc)
    (c) The UN/CEFACT BIE library should allow for pointers in its library to packages with BIEs maintained elsewhere by other bodies
    (d) No preference

2.3 Answer ONLY if 2.2 (a) was selected:
    (a) Control including quality assurance is carried out by the library management team
    (b) Control including quality assurance should be carried out by the respective UN/CEFACT PDA/domain leading to domain-specific library packages
    (c) No preference

2.4 Answer ONLY if 2.3 (a) was selected:
    BIEs of different domains should be harmonized as part of the quality assurance
 	
      yes   no   no preference

Comments (Free Text):

3. Business Document Assembly (documented as part of an RSM)

3.1 The UN/CEFACT library should also include business document assemblies   yes   no   no preference
3.2 The UN/CEFACT library should provide information on which business document assembly (project / submission) uses which BIEs   yes   no   no preference
3.3 The UN/CEFACT library should provide information on which BIE is used by which business document assembly (project / submission)   yes   no   no preference
3.4 Multiple Choices: (a) The UN/CEFACT library should include business document assemblies that are under control (including quality assurance) by UN/CEFACT (b) The UN/CEFACT library should include business document assemblies that are under control by other bodies (based on a collaboration agreement) (y / n / dc) (c) The UN/CEFACT library should allow for pointers business document assemblies maintained elsewhere by other bodies (d) No preference
3.5 Answer ONLY if 3.4 (a) was selected: (a) Control including quality assurance is carried out by the library management team (b) Control including quality assurance should be carried out by the respective UN/CEFACT PDA/domain leading to domain-specific library packages (c) No preference
3.6 Comments (Free Text):

4. Data Types

4.1 UN/CEFACT should continue to publish a data type library.   yes   no   no preference
4.2 UN/CEFACT should continue to have semantic data types (e.g. Amount) in contrary to limit itself to primarily syntactic types (e.g. W3C data types).   yes   no   no preference
4.3 Comments (Free Text):

5. EDIFACT/XML Messages

5.1 UN/CEFACT should create new and maintain existing UN/EDIFACT messages (and parts thereof) which are included in the CEFACT library.   yes   no   no preference
5.2 The UN/CEFACT library should include compliant message implementation guidelines developed by other parties.   yes   no   no preference
5.3 The UN/CEFACT library should allow for pointers to message implementation guidelines developed by other parties   yes   no   no preference
5.4 UN/CEFACT should provide a library of XML messages (XSDs)   yes   no   no preference
5.5 Multiple Choices: (a) UN/CEFACT should create its own XSDs that are part of the library (b) The UN/CEFACT library should include XSDs that are under control by other bodies (based on a collaboration agreement) (c) The UN/CEFACT library should allow for pointers in its library to XSDs maintained elsewhere by other bodies (d) No preference
5.6 Answer ONLY if 5.5 (a) was selected: (a) UN/CEFACT should define XSDs for all business document assemblies (projects / submissions) (b) UN/CEFACT should define XSDs only for selected business document assemblies (projects /submissions) (c) No preference
5.7 The UN/CEFACT library should provide information on which business document assembly (project / submission) is implemented by which consistent / compliant /conformant XSDs   yes   no   no preference
5.8 The UN/CEFACT library should provide information on which XSD is consistent / compliant / conformant to which business document assembly (project / submission)   yes   no   no preference
5.9 UN/CEFACT created XSDs should include XSD enumerations for code lists, i.e. changes to code lists lead to changes of XSDs   yes   no   no preference
5.10   Comments (Free Text):

6. Library Publication Issues

6.1 UN/CEFACT maintained code lists should be accessible by a Web Service   yes   no   no preference
6.2 The publication of code lists (independent of format) should contain all entries, i.e. also the ones expired   yes   no   no preference
6.3 UN/CEFACT should publish a BRS library (including links to BIEs, BDA, XSDs, etc.)   yes   no   no preference
6.4 UN/CEFACT should update the BRS and RSM with every revision of the BIE/BDA library   yes   no   no preference
6.5 UN/CEFACT should publish a library of business processes (with links to BDA)   yes   no   no preference

6.6 Please Select
    (a) All UN/CEFACT libraries should continue to be published twice a year
    (b) All UN/CEFACT libraries should be published on demand
    (c) The UN/CEFACT libraries should have another periodic publishing scheme (see 6.7)
    (d) No preference

6.7 In case 6.6 (c)was selected, please specify the periodic cycle for each library

(a) EDIFACT libraries:	___ Months	On-Demand	No preference
(b) CC library:	___ Months	On-Demand	No preference
(c) BIE library:	___ Months	On-Demand	No preference
(d) BDA library:	___ Months	On-Demand	No preference
(e) XSD library:	___ Months	On-Demand	No preference
(f) BRS library:	___ Months	On-Demand	No preference
(g) Process library:	___ Months	On-Demand	No preference

6.8 The library items should be accessible in the following formats:
    (a) Excel
    (b) Hyperlinked Documents (e.g. HTML)
    (c) XML (e.g. XML4CCTS)
    (d) UML (i.e. XMI)
    (e) OWL
    (f) RDF
    (g) Other, please specify: _____
    (h) No preference

6.9 Comments (Free Text):

7. Supplemental Material

7.1 The following additional material should be interlinked with items in the CEFACT library where appropriate:

(a) Guidelines for Setting up Web Services or other transport channels (email, ftp, …)

(b) Best practices, technical instructions and configuration specifications for set up, test and deployment of Web Services

(c) Reference Implementations

(d) Background material,

(e) Schematron (or other rule language)

(f) Samples (for one or two popular languages)

(g) Guides describing business value, technical difficulties in implementation, etc

(h) good definitions, explanatory notes

7.2 Comments (Free Text):