

BIC Library Communication Framework (LCF) and Compliance

19th May 2020

Book Industry Communication Ltd (BIC), the book industry's independent supply chain organisation, is delighted to report that the library sector continues to engage with the BIC Library Communication Framework (LCF) standard and is seeing increased implementations across the UK and other regions.

In particular, BIC has become aware that libraries are now asking for LCF compliance as a mandatory requirement when tendering. Although we are delighted about this development, BIC would like to note the following:

- At present, the criteria for LCF compliance have not been concluded.
- The criteria for LCF compliance are currently under discussion by both the BIC LCF Review Group and LCF Technical Panel, and will be established in the coming months and subsequently published.

Advice for libraries:

We would like to note the following for consideration by libraries and other organisations which are currently entering the tendering process:

- At present, the criteria for LCF compliance have not been concluded – as such, any organisation which currently states that it is LCF compliant on its website / in marketing materials is, in fact, an implementer of LCF.
- Knowing that a systems / solutions provider is supporting the BIC Library Communication Framework (LCF) is the best that any library can expect at this time however libraries are advised to ask all organisations throughout the tendering process which LCF profiles they are implementing at this time and to get in touch with BIC (via info@bic.org.uk), if you are uncertain about the validity of the information provided by your prospective trading partner(s) and/or their implementations.

Advice for systems/solutions providers:

We would like to note the following for consideration by organisations that are currently offering LCF as part of their profile / services, or are looking to do so in the coming months:

- At present, the criteria for LCF compliance have not been concluded – as such, if your organisation currently states that it is “LCF compliant” (or words to that effect) on its website / in marketing materials, these should be amended immediately to state that your organisation “supports LCF” at this time. Feel free to refer libraries / tendering organisations to this statement on the BIC website ([here](#)), if they require further information.
- Once the LCF compliance criteria has been published in due course, all organisations with LCF implementations will be invited to test their developments against our test server / scripts and should your testing prove compliance, your organisation will then be awarded a BIC LCF Compliance logo which can then be displayed on your website for all to see.
- To facilitate the tendering process at this time, BIC recommends that your organisation should establish which LCF profile(s) it is currently implementing, and prepare this information for circulation (to tendering organisations) if needs be. Information about the BIC LCF Implementation Profiles can be found on GitHub, here:

<https://github.com/bic-org-uk/bic-lcf/blob/develop/docs/LCF-ImplementationProfiles.md>

continued overleaf



- You are also advised to join either BIC (as a member organisation) or the LCF Consortium, to remain fully informed about future LCF developments and to help develop and drive the criteria for LCF compliance as part of the BIC LCF Review Group and/or LCF Technical Panel.

For more information about LCF, please visit: <https://www.bic.org.uk/145/Information-about-LCF/>
The BIC LCF GitHub webpage can be found, here: <https://github.com/bic-org-uk/bic-lcf/>

For any questions, please contact: info@bic.org.uk

For more information about BIC, visit the BIC website, here: <https://www.bic.org.uk/58/About-BIC/>

