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BIC REALTIME FOR LIBRARIES API POLICY 2018
Version 1.7
Friday 19th July 2019

Document History / Changes Log
Changes made since Version 1.6, which was dated 12th October 2018:
Rebranding of "BIC Library Web Services" to "*BIC Realtime for Libraries*".

Introduction
The *BIC Realtime for Libraries* Governance Group (formerly the BIC Library Web Services project) is working with the BIC Library Communication Framework (LCF) and NISO FASTEN projects to create a set of standard Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) for use in the library community. The BIC Library Web Services project specifically addressed use cases between libraries and their suppliers of physical books, eBooks and metadata. In order for this project to be a success and reach the agreed deadlines, to ensure that we are making the best use of BIC's limited resources and to ensure adoption of the resultant APIs, this document sets out how libraries; systems vendors and suppliers of eBooks, physical books and data will collaborate. These organisations were all participants in the original BIC Library Web Services Task & Finish Working Group.

The list of APIs developed by this project is detailed in the Project Addendum which can be found here: http://www.bic.org.uk/files/pdfs/Library%20Web%20Services%20Project%20Scope%20Addendum%20v.1.0.pdf

In summary, the APIs developed are:
a) Price & Availability (P&A)
b) Quotes
c) Orders
d) Order Status Enquiry
e) Order List
f) Order Cancellation
g) Retrieve Metadata – MARC for a specified quality level (e.g. Skeleton, Best)

If there is both sufficient industry adoption of the above APIs and subsequent demand for others, BIC will consider running a follow-up project for additional APIs in 2020, these will be covered by a new policy document.

The BIC member organisations that participated in the original BIC Library Web Services Task and Finish Working Group were asked to sign up to one of the two following levels of commitment and to agree to their commitment level being publicised by BIC:

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1. **SILVER LEVEL:**

   a) **Libraries will collaborate on this initiative as follows:**
   - We will encourage systems vendors and suppliers to engage with BIC to develop and promote standard APIs to support all the major workflows between Library Management Systems and the systems of suppliers of physical and digital books, and metadata.
   - As these standards are published we will encourage systems vendors and suppliers to adopt the *BIC Realtime for Libraries* APIs as soon as is practicable.

   b) **Systems vendors and suppliers of eBooks, physical books and data will collaborate on this initiative as follows:**
   - We fully support the aims of the BIC Library Web Services project in creating a simple set of API standards.
   - We will work with BIC to develop these standards-based APIs and bring them to market as soon as is practicable.

   c) **All BIC Library Web Services Task & Finish Working Group members commit to the following:**
   - We will engage with the meetings of the *BIC Realtime for Libraries* Governance Group, which will provide ongoing support and governance of the APIs as they are published.
   - We agree to be industry advocates of these standards and best practice in this area wherever possible. In so doing, we will also be aiding and promoting the work BIC does in its key role of encouraging the book industry to use beneficial technology and standards in reducing costs and improving efficiency.

2. **GOLD LEVEL:**

   a) **Libraries commit to expect the following:**
   - We expect systems vendors and suppliers to engage with BIC to develop standard APIs to support all the major workflows between Library Management Systems and the systems of suppliers of physical and digital books, and metadata.
   - As these standards are published we expect systems vendors and suppliers to commit to implementing the BIC Library Web Services within 18 months of publication.
   - The provision of and interoperability with APIs compatible with the *BIC Realtime for Libraries* APIs are likely to be qualifying criteria on future contracts.

   b) **Systems vendors and suppliers of eBooks, physical books and data commit to the following:**
   - We fully support the aims of the BIC Library Web Services project in creating a simple set of API standards.
   - We will work with BIC to develop these standards-based APIs with the aim of bringing them to market within 18 months of the standard being published.

   c) **All BIC Library Web Services Task & Finish Working Group members commit to the following:**

- We will engage with the meetings of the *BIC Realtime for Libraries* Governance Group, which will provide ongoing support and governance of the APIs as they are published.
- We agree to be industry advocates of these standards and best practice in this area wherever possible. In so doing, we will also be aiding and promoting the work BIC does in its key role of encouraging the book industry to use beneficial technology and standards in reducing costs and improving efficiency.