

BIC LIBRARY API POLICY 2018 – Library Web Services Task & Finish Working Group

Version 1.2

Monday 9th July 2018**1. Introduction**

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 specifications of web service Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) for use in the library community. The BIC Library Web Services project specifically addresses 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 also 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 the agreements in place with: libraries; systems vendors and suppliers of eBooks, physical books and data; all participants in the BIC Library Web Services Task & Finish Working Group.

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

In summary, the APIs to be 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 demand and BIC runs a follow-up project for additional APIs in 2019 these will be covered by a new policy document.

2. Libraries commit to expect the following:

- a) 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.
- b) 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.
- c) The provision of and interoperability with APIs compatible with the BIC Library Web Services are likely to be qualifying criteria on future contracts.

- 3. Systems vendors and suppliers of eBooks, physical books and data commit to the following:**
 - a) We fully support the aims of the BIC Library Web Services project in creating a simple set of API standards.
 - b) 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.

- 4. All BIC Library Web Services Task & Finish Working Group members commit to the following:**

We will engage with the meetings of the BIC Library Technical Implementation Clinic, which will provide ongoing support and governance of the BIC Library APIs as they are published.