BIC IN PRACTICE

Digital Supply Chain

Unlocking Digital Efficiency

Practical advice for book industry professionals on how BIC can help to create and maintain a consistent, efficient, yet adaptable and responsive digital supply chain.
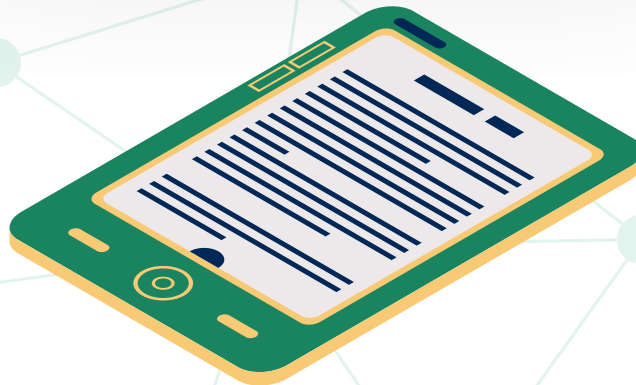
DID YOU KNOW

72 million eBooks were sold in the UK in 2022.

This represents 20% of the total UK market.

*SOURCE: PUBLISHING PERSPECTIVES*

Digital Supply Chain

Whilst the physical supply chain has had a long evolution in the history of the book industry, the digital supply chain is a relative newcomer. Its development and adoption curves have been steep and it continues to evolve at pace alongside our increasingly digital world.

To this end, **effective standards and best practices are critical** to ensure that organisations across the industry have the tools required to create and maintain a consistent, efficient, yet adaptable and responsive digital supply chain.

We'll explore a core range of BIC projects, standards, best practices, training courses, accreditation and more in the sections listed below.
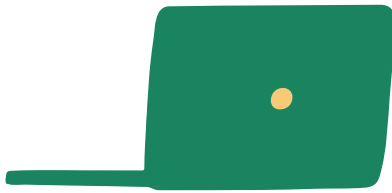
Projects, Standards and Best Practices

This section captures a small selection of BIC's core projects, standards and best practices in the book industry's digital supply chain. Signposting to more in-depth information can be found below and also within **Section 4: Access and Recognition**.

DIGITAL AUDIOBOOK SUPPLY CHAIN BEST PRACTICES

The purpose of the Digital Audiobook Supply Chain Project was to **streamline processes and improve efficiencies** by developing, maintaining and enhancing industry standards and best practice.

The project reflected the diverse nature and roles of the BIC membership with regards to the **production**, **management** and **distribution** of digital audiobooks and related processes and has now published a set of authoritative best practice documents, reflecting the original project aims.

The project's outputs include:

The Workflow Diagram	A **high-level view** of the current digital audiobook supply chain
The Glossary	Includes definitions of **key words**, **abbreviations** and **acronyms**, **audio organisations** and related roles and responsibilities
Metadata Requirements	How to create a **viable audio product** record in ONIX 3.1
Good File Management	How publishers can ensure **compliance** with the submission requirements of their audiobook partners

FAQs	Across three areas including **Content Creation and Management**; **Pre and Post Publication Metadata**; and **Content Delivery and Consumer Experience**
EDItX Business Case	The solution to **automating** the status of digital audio assets and metadata at resellers
Digital Supply Chain Sustainability	Points of **consideration and reflection** for for improving digital supply chain sustainability
Accessibility in Digital Audio	A **description of the role** of accessibility in digital audio

OPEN ACCESS

In October 2022 BIC held a fully subscribed and well received Open Access (OA) Workshop exclusively for its members.

As a result, our 21-page comprehensive **"Open Access in the Book Industry"** report was published in December 2022 and is now freely available to members and non-members alike on request, via a **registration link**.

Areas covered include:

⭐ Background
⭐ OA business models
⭐ OA licences
⭐ Metadata
⭐ Workflow considerations (including hybrid books)
⭐ Reading list for more information

ACQUISITIONS AND DIVESTMENTS FOR DIGITAL PRODUCTS

BIC has compiled documentation designed to offer guidance and advice on **Best Practice** with regards to the communication of changes of ownership via acquisition, divestment or merger. The documentation covers:

- An introduction to the role of your legal team
- Infographic for Digital and/or Physical Acquisitions and Divestments
- Best Practice Guidelines for Digital Products

DIGITAL SUPPLY CHAIN STANDARDS

Our **Digital Supply Chain page** lists a number of standards, publications and seminar presentations across the topic area for organisations across the industry.

Benefits of BIC's Projects

Collectively, the outputs of these BIC projects and collaborative initiatives help organisations and the wider industry to:

⭐ Drive discoverability and sales

⭐ Improve reliability and trust in search results

⭐ Improve the efficiency of problem resolution and resources

⭐ Maintain an efficient and effective digital supply chain, and hence enable an optimised customer experience

⭐ Gain clarity on definitions, roles and responsibilities

⭐ Automate laborious but crucial tasks such as (for example) checking the status of digital audio book assets at resellers

⭐ Define and adhere to/implement a trusted, industry recognised set of operating procedures, standards and best practices

⭐ Require that trading partners adopt the same industry recognised best practices/standards
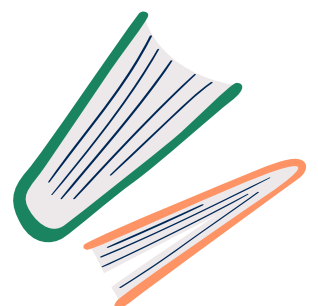
Access and Recognition

Digital Supply Chain Committee:

Composed of **expert representatives** from BIC member organisations, this committee consults across a range of digital conversations and topics helping to deliver **efficiency and accuracy** for operations through the creation and promotion of standards, best practices, training, workshops, various initiatives and accreditation schemes. Current agenda items include: Accessibility, open access, digital audio, environmental issues, EDItX digital inventory and sales reports.

(Open to BIC members only)

Supply Chain Excellence Award (SCEA) Accreditation

This scheme enables book industry organisations to demonstrate the efficiency of their supply chains for both physical and digital products.

It aims to **reward companies** large and small for their investment in automation and for **innovative solutions** to the supply chain issues they face; and to enable them to be recognised by trading partners and the book industry at large as the best in their class for business efficiency, customer service, environmental concern and innovation.

MEA Accreditation:

BIC's Metadata Excellence Award (MEA) scheme is for **both physical and digital book product records** and is designed to encourage publishers to appreciate the contribution made by **accurate and timely product data to their sales**; to enable them to demonstrate their commitment to making that data available in the supply chain; and to enable them to benchmark their performance against their competitors.

Accreditations are open to **BIC members and non-members alike**, with application deadlines spread across the year. For full information visit the Accreditation overview page.

Training

BIC offers the 'ONIX for Digital Products' and 'ONIX Essentials Plus' training courses (note that the latter is a broader, more in-depth course containing the material of the former).

Information can be found on the ONIX for Digital Products page.

BIC also offers **eBook creation courses**. To register your interest and find out more, visit the eBook Creation: Investigated and Explained course page and the eBook Creation: Advanced and Practical course page.

For full information on our wider selection of training can be found in the calendar.

Emails
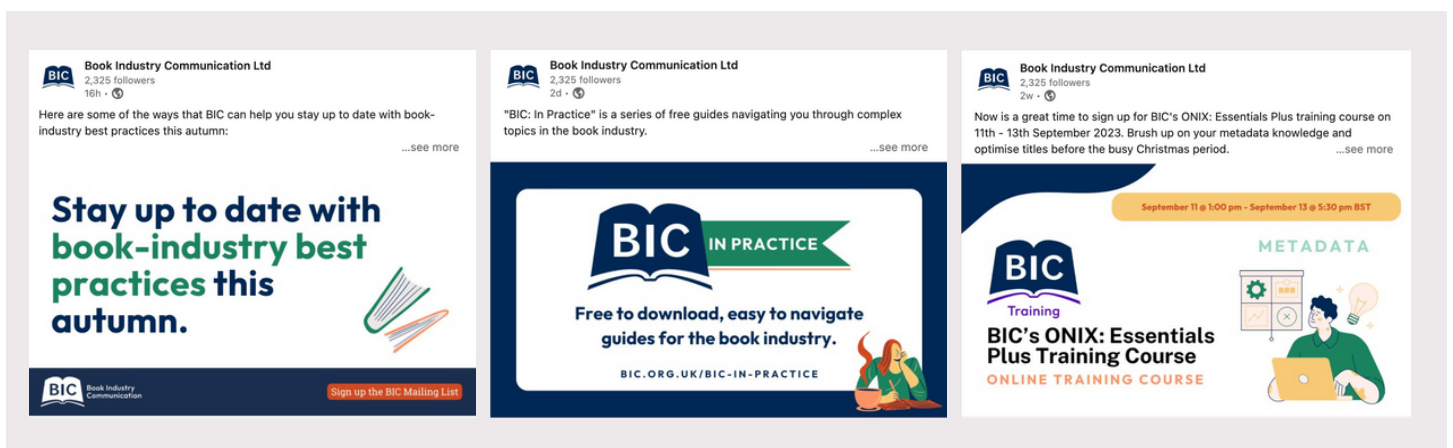
Keep up to date with BIC projects, resources, training by **joining our mailing list**.

Scan to sign up to the BIC Mailing List

Social Media

We regularly post news, reminders, support and resources via our **LinkedIn**, **Twitter/X**, **Facebook**, or **YouTube** channels.