

Integration of Editorial and Pre-print Stages for the Production of Nautical Books

The use of incompatible IT tools in the editorial (MS-Word) and the pre-print (Adobe InDesign) stages did not allow to maintain digital manuscripts of nautical books up to date without considerable delays. To meet quality requirements in this environment, verification and correction of manuscripts required several iterations including format conversions which were very time consuming and manpower intensive.

To overcome these shortcomings the BSH investigated the possibilities to integrate both stages of the production process. Staff involved in editorial and pre-print work should use compatible IT tools allowing to maintain digital manuscripts up to date with minimal delay (2 weeks), to produce new editions of nautical books at short notice, and to reduce the quality assurance workload. Furthermore the system should also cater for multichannel publishing and the use of XML.

After comprehensive research and tests the BSH decided to introduce Adobe's Creative Suite (CS); InDesign CS for pre-print work and InCopy CS for the editorial part. Both programmes are using the same files and are co-operating via a workflow called Live-Edit-Workflow. To meet quality management requirements, the system allows to track changes indicating who did what and when and to attach notes for comments and source references. The relevant part of the BSH Nachrichten für Seefahrer (Notices to Mariners) will be made available to editors in a file format which is compatible with InCopy and can be directly added therefore

The data making up the nautical books are stored on a central server together with Version Cue, a tool for file versioning and recovery, backup and restore of data, and user administration.

This system is adequate for the full BSH portfolio of nautical books. Routine production of the first publication was started in February 2008. An explanation of the workflow in more detail will be given at the meeting.