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2010 Highlights

- The IFD Management Group met in Boston in June and Washington, DC in December.
 - The Boston meeting began in the headquarters of Shepley, Bullfinch, Richardson and Abbott, a leading international design firm, where in addition to meetings, the group made a presentation on IFD and other buildingSMART standards and activities to SBRA staff. A second day of meetings was held at the offices of Autodesk, a leading design software company and new IFD Observer, where the MG was joined by members of the Autodesk product management and technical development groups to discuss how IFD could be of use to Autodesk. Plans for a pilot project were outlined for follow-up. Notes from the meeting are available for Partners, Affiliates and Observers from the [IFD portal](#). For questions getting connected contact Roger Grant at rogerjgrant@gmail.com. In continuation of a practice begun last year, a copy of the Agenda, Objectives and Resolutions from the meeting is posted on the portal as well as on the [IFD website](#).
 - The Washington, DC meeting was held in conjunction with the buildingSMART Alliance annual meetings. Several conference presentations over the week included IFD and its relationship to other bSI standards. During the conference, CSI and CSC held the first meeting of the OmniClass Technology Sponsor Group, a user/implementer group for OmniClass and IFD in North America. For information about the OTSG, contact Roger Grant. Notes from the meeting are posted on the [IFD portal](#) and Resolutions on the [IFD website](#).
- Both the MG and Technical Group held regular monthly skype meetings throughout 2010 to add continuity and increase progress on objectives and resolutions between meetings. TG meetings are open to all Affiliates and Observers. For a meeting schedule contact Roger Grant or TG Chair Radboud Baayen rbaayen@stabu.nl.
- Participation in the IFD Library Group is at an all time high. At the end of 2010, IFD counted the following members and prospects:

Partners	Construction Specifications Canada	Canada
	Construction Specifications Institute	USA
	STABU Foundation	Netherlands
	Standards Norway	Norway
Affiliates	EPM Technology	Norway
	Catenda (applied)	Norway
	Fraunhofer/Holte Byggsafe (applied)	Germany/Norway

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Observers	AEC3	UK/Germany
	ARCOM	USA
	Autodesk, Inc.	USA
	Building Systems Design (BSD)	USA
	buildingSMART Finland	Finland
	buildingSMART South Korea	South Korea
	Digicon	Canada
	NatSpec	Australia
	RIBA Enterprises	UK

In addition, an Observer application has been received from buildingSMART Sweden and there is strong interest from the Danish chapter as well as the French building product conglomerate Sant Gobain. These organizations are interested in IFD as an extension to the buildingSMART IFC model as well as an open, shared resource for terminology mapping and language translation. With the addition of a part-time Acting Secretary, the MG is focused on improving communications with member organizations, industry and prospective implementers with the goal of expanding involvement and establishing commercial utilization of IFD.

- Involvement with buildingSMART International has increased over the course of 2011. Coming out of a presentation by the IFD MG to the buildingSMART ExCom in December 2009, a three year plan identifying the steps required and investment needed to make IFD fully operational was developed and delivered at the September 2010 bSI meeting in Copenhagen. The plan, which is available to Affiliates and Observers on the portal, was well received and is in the process of being carried out by the MG and fully integrated into bSI operations. In addition, IFD is an active participant in the newly forming bSI User Group which is working on expanding usage of open standard based BIM in all bSI countries. An outgrowth of this movement is the rebranding of the bSI standards to *buildingSMART Model*, *buildingSMART Dictionary* and *buildingSMART Process*. IFD MG welcomed this move though we requested to have our name modified to *buildingSMART Data Dictionary*.
- At the end of 2010 an update of the IFD API to version 3.0 was being readied for final release. The new API will add improved functionality for duplicate checking; addition of a classification relationship; user management; performance improvements; and alignment with platform changes by the API host EPM Technology. The IFD .Net Toolkit, available to all Affiliates and Observers will also be brought into compliance with the new API. These changes will help Partners and Affiliates adding content to and connecting applications to do so more easily and with faster returns on searches.
- Expansion of content, the heart of IFD, was also advanced in 2010. The Dutch Lexicon content has been introduced to the IFD database and is in final stages of checking before being made available. Norway continued to add building product content completing most categories of architectural/structural building products complementing their focus on using IFD to allow product databases to provide content to IFC based models. The US and Canada continued work on HVAC domain content identifying terms used in design and finalizing procedures for entry to IFD.

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2011 Focus

Looking ahead to 2011, the focus will be on continuing to integrate into buildingSMART International, expanding participation in IFD Group and gaining use of IFD in pilot projects and commercial applications. Some of the projects anticipated are:

- Support for product discovery in Norway where a major effort to deliver applications that rely on openBIM is underway.
- Integration of reference documents with models for accessing supporting information for Electrical trades in Norway.
- A system for evaluating life cycle cost and performance of systems for sustainability with a consortium of seventeen organizations from seven countries across the EU.
- Expansion of the CSI/CSC HVAC project to add manufacturer, software companies and industry organizations to expand on the term library to support IFC model exchanges.
- Review and adaptation of the Norwegian product terms for usage in North America.
- Use of IFD to support government agencies in the US and Norway in defining equipment types and key properties for maintenance management.
- Documentation of processes and procedures for using IFD and for communicating about its uses and benefits.

The Bottom Line

For IFD, or now the buildingSMART Dictionary, to be useful it needs two things, relevant content and applications that access and use that content. We are now beginning to add relevant, useful, purpose-driven content (objects with definitions and properties) in multiple languages. Today you can go to www.ifd-library.org and download a browser from the site and look up terms and their relationships. You will find many terms defined. (You will also find many incomplete terms that have been introduced over the years and that we are currently in the process of removing.)

But to really be useful, IFD needs to be embedded in applications that access and exchange building information. We have yet to achieve that anywhere but are making steady progress and believe that we will have applications using IFD in production by this time next year. These applications could be international or local. As the projects identified above indicate, we are working on both fronts to embed IFD in databases and applications. Norway has gone furthest with this as they are the most actively engaged with the user community, content providers and application developers. They have a major program underway this year to have a portfolio of openBIM tools available in their national market. One way to make IFD more useful for any market is to fully engage the users, information providers and application developers in buildingSMART adoption and use. That is what is needed on a country by country basis for IFD take off. That is what we are trying to make happen in our member countries, what the new members that are joining see as opportunity in theirs and what we are also trying to accomplish internationally with involvement with the bSI User Groups.

The infrastructure for IFD is available now and will be even better with the API 3.0 release. The existing content will be cleaned and continue to be expanded for all to use. Procedures for using IFD are being documented so that others can get involved with adding or adapting existing content.

The IFD Partners appreciate the support of our Affiliate and Observer members and look forward to working with you to apply IFD and the other buildingSMART standards to utilize openBIM to make your organizations more efficient and effective in 2011.

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