

Why standardise?

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Chair, FIG Standards Network

Key questions

- What are standards?
- Why are they important?
- What value can professionals add?
- What is FIG doing about it?



The world of standards

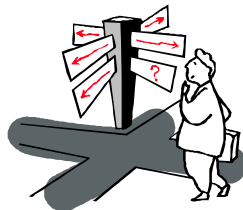
What are standards?

- 'Accepted or approved example'
- 'Level of excellence or quality'
- 'Specifications... to be used consistently as... guidelines... to ensure fitness for purpose...'



Their growing importance

- Globalisation
- Competition laws
- Consumer requirements
- Technological developments
- Intertwining of industries



Amazing facts and figures

The numbers are big



- Breadth of coverage
 - 430,608 pages in 13,544 ISO standards
 - ISO 9000 is one of many!
- Economic benefits
 - \$15 billion per annum in Germany
 - More than patents and licences

The impacts are broad

- Delphi
 - Create liquidity
 - Leverage investments
 - Foundation for long-term advances
- UK DTI (2000)
 - Encourage innovation
 - Increase competition
 - Imbalanced towards producers?



They impact company bottom lines



- Open standards project saved 26%
- Lower transaction costs
- Sometimes fail to meet expectations
- Success requires coming together of
 - Government
 - Industry
 - Standards developers

They work like public goods

- Provide interoperability
- Give minimum level of quality
- Reduce variation
- Provide information
- Correct market failure
- But the market under-provides for them



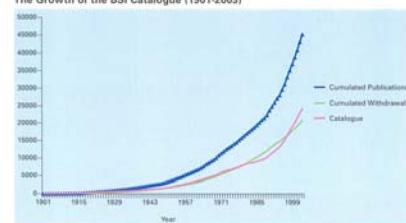
They aren't all new



'the variety of structural steel sections was reduced from 175 to 113, and the number of gauges of tramway rails was reduced from 75 to 5' (1901)

....but lots are

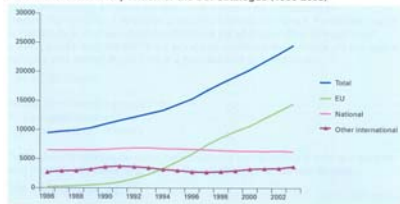
Figure 3
The Growth of the BSI Catalogue (1901-2003)



Source: BSUPERINDISP

Globalisation reigns

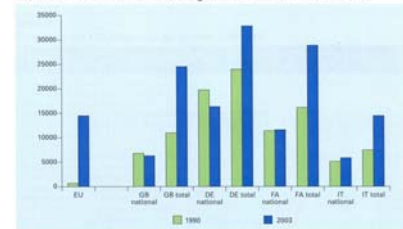
Figure 6
The International Composition of the BSI Catalogue (1986-2003)



Source: BSIPERNORM*

It's happening everywhere

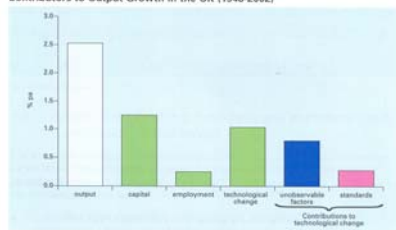
Figure 12
The Growth of the Standards Catalogue in Four Economies (1990-2003)



Source: PERINORM*

And affects national bottom lines

Figure 9
Contributors to Output Growth in the UK (1948-2002)



Source: ONS/proxy estimates

How can all this be delivered?

Standardisation bodies



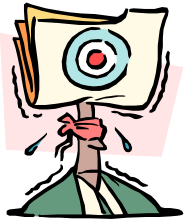
- ISO
- National bodies
- IVSC
- Governments
- Companies
- Other bodies
- WTO

ISO standards

- Official (de jure) standards
- Usage generally optional (in theory)
- Movement to
 - Model based/ method definition
 - Setting minimum parameters



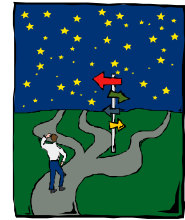
Process shortcomings



- Politics
- Time
- Ignorance

The relevance to surveyors

- TC172
 - survey instruments including GPS
- TC211 (TC287)
 - > 30 standards
 - all aspects of GI
 - many now in place
- IVS
 - the white book
 - here now



FIG's response

FIG Policy

- Assisting in the process of creating workable and timely standards
- Moving de facto standards to official standards



Roles for professionals



- Proposing material for transformation
- Assisting in the creation of workable and current standards
- Creating guidance material

FIG work to date

- Setting up a Task Force
- Ascertaining the need
- Gaining a profile
- Offering material
- Building links
- Producing a Guide



Ongoing FIG work - its Network



- Bringing Commission work together
- Strengthening links with sister societies
- Building links with ISO and IVSC
- Looking at national level activity
- TC172 - GPS
- TC211 - Outreach, qualifications, etc
- Promoting best practice
- Communications

Why should FIG be involved in standards?

- Ensuring standards developers know
 - Requirements
 - What exists
- Improved standards
 - Workability
 - Timeliness
- Improved survey practice
- Improved 'bottom line'
 - Surveyors
 - Customers
 - International community



Why should FIG be involved in the Cadastral Domain Model?

- Ensuring standards developers know
 - Requirements ✓
 - What exists ✓
- Improved standards
 - Workability ✓
 - Timeliness ✓
- Improved survey practice ?
- Improved 'bottom line'
 - Surveyors ?
 - Customers ?
 - International community ✓



Key points



- Standards are already
 - Far reaching
 - High impact at all levels
- The potential is greater still
 - Improve process
 - Embed professionals
- FIG has become a respected player