Random House, 1983). What an incredibly moving story of a son’s personal voyage to find his mother’s murderers during the savage Greek Civil War in the late 1940s.

Tom Leonardt emails his greetings from the University of Oklahoma. He has been reading publishers’ catalogs and trading agreement is to “renew till forbid,” the only transactions sent from library to publisher are “non-renewals” or order changes. Most order changes can be handled as orders by simply increasing or decreasing the number ordered. If the renewal agreement requires verification of each line item, or if the library changes the LSID from year to year or subscription to subscription, a new order transaction will need to be created for each line item. In either case, the ILS sends the order with the new or old LSID along with the ASID received in previous invoices.

3. The agent system matches each incoming renewal (order) LSID against its existing subscriptions based on the ASID. If the ILS is sending a new LSID, this process should replace old LSIDs with the new for any future processing. The invoice is sent back with both LSID and ASID and matches the subscription information in the ILS based on the LSID. Here again, the agent may change the ASID from year-to-year as long as it sends LSIDs to match up in the ILS. The ILS would then be responsible to replace old ASIDs with new.

4. The claiming and claim response cycle works as described under New Orders.

Although the SISAC X12 implementation provides a place for these match points, trading partners must obviously provide the data in order to make the match. If the ILS provides an order or renewal list with a many-subscription PO number instead of the LSID, or if the agent is unable to store an LSID, the agent can easily fill the order. When it sends back invoice information, however, the library system requires manual intervention to match up newly received invoice information with its order or renewal line items. A similar problem occurs if the agent is unable to provide a subscription-specific ASID or if the library system is incapable of storing the ASID. When the electronic claim is generated and sent to the agent, it must either carry much more information than necessary in order to make the match (library number, title information, etc.), or the agent must match up the claim manually. Either way, cost is increased and EDI advantages reduced.

Conclusion

The acceptance of the full EDI model dictates the storage of match points in both the agent and library systems. Specifically, the ILS needs to store the ACAT (PCAT) and LSID (PSID). The agent or publisher system needs to store LSIDs and LCNs. We recognize that for many library and agent systems, this necessitates changes to the specifications for their internal data management. Some have already seen the train coming down the tracks and have changed their systems to accommodate EDI. Others will need to modify their systems to play the EDI game. Both libraries and agents cannot expect EDI to change the way we do business unless we first change our business procedures to do EDI.

Additional information about BISAC and SISAC is available from the Book Industry Study Group, 160 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010, 212-929-1393, fax 212-989-7542.