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The serials' web

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#### What is the ISSN?

\_ISSN stands for International Standard Serial Number.

\_ISSN is the international identifier for serials and other continuing resources in the electronic and print worlds.

\_An ISSN can be assigned to any serial or continuing resource whether past, present or to be published in the foreseeable future whatever the medium of production (e.g., print, online, CD-ROM, etc.). Examples: journals, magazines, newspapers and annual reports (print and electronic), databases, websites...

\_An ISSN is always composed of the prefix ISSN followed by 2 groups of 4 numbers separated by a central hyphen. The last character is used as a check digit and can be a numeral or the upper case letter X. Example: ISSN 1819-1819 or ISSN 0003-180X

\_The ISSN is defined by an international standard: ISO 3297.

# How to obtain an ISSN for a publication?

ISSN are assigned either by an ISSN National Centre or the ISSN International Centre (if the country of publication is not covered by a National Centre or if the publication is issued by an international organization).

The procedure is fast, simple (web forms are available on the International Centre website or directly on National Centres' websites) and free of charge.

See www.issn.org (the ISSN International Centre website) for further information.

Note: each separate edition in a given medium should have its own ISSN, even if the title and content are identical.

# ISSN and GS1-EAN13 barcoding

GS1-EAN13 is the major barcoding symbology used in commercial distribution in the world. The ISSN can be embedded in GS1-EAN13 barcodes, preceded by the prefix 977 which is allocated to serial publications. To get their barcodes, publishers should contact their local GS1 office once they have obtained their ISSN number. For more information, see the GS1 website (http://www.gs1.org).

# Is ISSN assignment mandatory?

In certain countries, obtaining an ISSN for a publication is mandatory. Please contact the appropriate ISSN National Centre for more information.

# Is the title of a publication copyrighted if it has been assigned an ISSN?

No, the assignment of an ISSN does not imply any exclusive rights to a title or any legal evidence with regard to ownership of rights. However, ISSN is used by reproduction rights agencies in some countries for the management of their system of copyright fees and royalties levied, for example, for the photocopying of articles.

# When should a new ISSN be assigned?

When the title of the publication undergoes a major change, a new ISSN is assigned because each ISSN is inseparably linked to a unique form of the title called the key title and when that key title changes a new ISSN must be assigned. All other changes (change of publisher, place of publication, frequency, etc.) do not affect the assigned ISSN, it remains the same. However, if the medium of a publication changes, e.g., from print to online, a new ISSN is assigned. Likewise, when a new medium version is published, that version needs its own ISSN. Do not hesitate to contact the relevant ISSN National Centre which will assess whether a new ISSN is needed for the publication.

# What is a Linking ISSN (ISSN-L) and how is it distributed?

The ISSN-L enables the grouping of all the different media versions of a continuing resource (e.g. print, electronic, etc.). It facilitates retrieval of the content of a resource without regard to its medium of publication.

The ISSN-L is available in several different ways:

\_Via a table which lists the ISSN-L and the corresponding ISSN numbers. This table is available free of charge on the ISSN International Centre web site www.issn.org;

\_Via the ISSN Register http://portal.issn.org: each record in the ISSN Register includes the medium-specific ISSN assigned to the resource described in the record and the appropriate Linking ISSN, as separate data elements;

\_Via the ISSN International Centre and National Centres which can communicate to publishers the ISSN-L that has been designated for newly assigned ISSN;

\_Via the resources themselves, provided that publishers print or display the Linking ISSN according to the recommendations of the ISSN standard.

#### What is the ISSN used for?

The ISSN, the unique identifier for serials, is used by many different types of organizations and interest groups to fulfill a wide range of purposes:

\_Publishers and subscription agencies: The ISSN is essential for identifying publications. It enables disambiguation between titles that are the same or similar to each other. The ISSN is also a key data element for successful OpenURL implementation.

\_Press distributors: Faster and easier distribution thanks to the embedding of ISSN in EAN 13 bar codes.

<u>Libraries and union-catalogues</u>: Records can be downloaded in order to update a local catalogue or database. Valuable for file matching and de-duplication; for document delivery and inter-library loan; for transactions with subscription agencies (ordering, claiming, paying invoices, etc.).

\_Scholars, Researchers, Scientists: The ISSN Portal is an important source of information for worldwide bibliographic queries. The ISSN is also a basic requirement for all scholarly serials and publications: it is taken into account in the evaluation process of scholarly publications.

\_Postal services: In some countries, specific postal rates are applied to publications with an ISSN.

\_Tax authorities: In some countries, publishers can benefit from lower VAT rates if an ISSN is assigned to the publication.

\_Electronic resources management and access: The ISSN is the major key for the building of knowledge bases for the management and access to electronic resources, and for the accurate building and processing of OpenURLs.

# What is the ISSN Register?

The ISSN Register is the official ISSN database that contains records for all ISSN assigned by the ISSN Network. It is the major source for identification of serials and other continuing resources. The ISSN Register can be considered the world catalogue of serials.

For more information, please contact the Sales Department: email: sales@issn.org.





#### What is the ISSN Network?

The ISSN Network is made up of ISSN National Centres whose work is coordinated by the ISSN International Centre situated in Paris. The ISSN National Centres assign ISSN and maintain their national ISSN databases. The ISSN International Centre assigns ISSN to titles published by international organizations an titles published in countries without an ISSN centre and maintains the ISSN international Register that identifies the world's serials and other continuing resources. The ISSN International Centre is the registration authority for the ISO ISSN standard (ISO 3297).

#### What is the status of the ISSN Network?

The ISSN International Centre is an intergovernmental organization governed by statutes and by its governing bodies (General Assembly of Member States, Governing Board elected by the Member States).

# When was the ISSN system created?

The ISSN system was created in 1975 by an agreement between UNESCO and the French Government. It also relies on the ISO 3297 standard (International Organization for Standardization) which establishes a "standard code for the identification of serials and other continuing resources". This standard has been updated regularly since its first publication.

# What are the main roles and responsibilities of the ISSN National Centres?

The ISSN Network is composed of the ISSN National Centres, whose functions are:

- \_To assign ISSN to national publications;
- \_To maintain the national ISSN database and to contribute their records to the International ISSN Register;
- \_To provide ISSN services to publishers and other ISSN users;
- To promote the ISSN system.

As of 2010, the network includes 87 countries and it continues to grow each year.

#### What are the main functions of the ISSN International Centre?

- To maintain the ISSN Register and to make it available via products and services:
- \_To establish agreements for the creation of new ISSN National Centres;
- \_To assign ISSN to resources issued by international organizations and to resources issued in countries where no ISSN National Centre exists;
- To coordinate the ISSN Network;
- To promote the ISSN system.





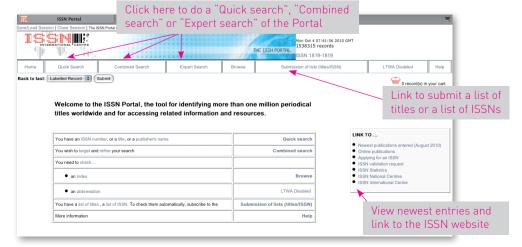
#### All ISSN assigned are registered in the ISSN Portal: http://portal.issn.org

- \_1.5 million ISSN registered in the ISSN Portal
- Real time update of the Database
- \_Annual growth: between 60 000 and 70 000 new ISSN and records
- \_Records viewable in labeled and MARC 21 formats
- \_"Quick search", "Combined search" or "Expert search" interfaces
- Submission of lists of titles or of lists of ISSN (optional)
- \_Browsing of indexes (titles, issuing bodies...)
- Filtering of indexes
- \_External links to national databases, Google, Yahoo or OpenURL
- \_"Save to cart" option, allowing for emailing or saving of selected records in MARC 21 or UNIMARC

#### A major source of serials information for different types of organizations:

- \_Publishers and subscription agencies: Essential identification for serial publications, enabling disambiguation between same and similar titles. The ISSN is also a key data element for successful OpenURL implementation.
- \_Press distributors: Faster and easier distribution thanks to ISSN embedded in EAN 13 bar codes.
- <u>Libraries and union-catalogues</u>: Records can be downloaded in order to update a local catalogue or database. Valuable for file matching and de-duplication; for document delivery and inter-library loan; for transactions with subscription agencies (ordering, claiming, paying invoices, etc.).
- \_Scholars, Researchers, Scientists: The ISSN Portal is an important source of information for worldwide bibliographic queries and for identification of cited serials. The ISSN is also a basic requirement for publishing scholarly journals and other serial publications. The ISSN is also, in many cases, taken into account in the evaluation process of scientific publications.
- \_Postal services: In some countries, specific postal rates are applied to publications with an ISSN.
- \_Tax authorities: In some countries, publishers can benefit from lower VAT rates if an ISSN is assigned to the publication.
- \_Electronic resources management and access: The ISSN is the major key for the building of knowledge bases for the management and access to electronic resources, and for the accurate building and processing of OpenURLs.

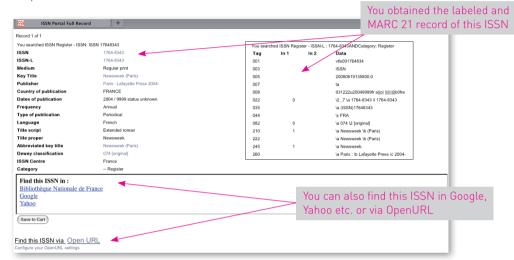
The screenshot below shows the different options for searching and navigation of the ISSN Portal:



#### Sample Search Results:

	ISSN-L	ISSN	Key Title / Variant titles	Dates	Country	Language	Frequency
1	1119-8699	1119-8699	Abuja Newsweek	1999 -9999	NIGERIA	English	Monthly
ww.							
2	1930-3564	1930-3564	America's hottest colleges	2005 -9999	UNITED STATES	English	Annual
www.			Kaplan-Newsweek college guide Newsweek-Kaplan college guide				
			How to get into college				
3	1021-6170	1021-6170	Băixìng xīnwén zhōukān	1993 -9999	HONG KONG	Chinese	Unknown
•	1021-0170		Pai shing newsweek	1993 -9999	HONG KONG	Cililese	Olikilowii
4	1496-208X	1496-208X	Blue line news week	1997 -2001	CANADA	English	Weekly
₩,	2		Blue line newsweek				
5	0116-2195	0116-2195	Bohol newsweek	1975 -9999	PHILIPPINES	Multiple languages	Weekly
₩	₹						
6	1440-7485	1440-7485	Bulletin with Newsweek	1984 -9999	AUSTRALIA	English	Weekly
www)							
7	1055-9019	1055-9019	Buyers of new compact trucks. Bar charts of individual vehicle owner groups	198u -9999	UNITED STATES	English	Unknown
am)			Bar charts of individual vehicle owner groups National survey of new compact truck buyers				
			Newsweek national survey of new compact truck buyers				

Example of an ISSN record in both labeled and MARC formats:



### How to access the ISSN Portal?

\_Annual or quarterly subscriptions.

\_Identification by Login and Password or by IP (optional: Submission of Lists and Titles).

\_ISSN Data also available via downloading of data files in different formats (MARC 21, UNIMARC or tabular), or via the Z39.50 protocol in MARC 21.

#### CONTACT:

ISSN International Centre Sales Department 45 rue de Turbigo 75003 PARIS - FRANCE Phone: +33-1 44 88 22 20

Fax: +33- 40 26 32 43 Mail: sales@issn.org

> FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE ISSN INTERNATIONAL CENTRE www.issn.org / issnic@issn.org





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