

## **ISSN ACTIVITY REPORT FOR 2013**

### **0. Introduction**

Three main projects were carried out during this period. ROAD and the PRESSoo model are a direct outcome of the strategic discussion which took place in April 2013 during the Governing Board meeting. The board mentioned two priorities for the ISSN IC:

- the development of the ROAD website that was launched as a beta version on December 16th, 2013, with the support of UNESCO,
- the elaboration of the PRESSoo model (FRBR for serials), in co-operation with the Bibliothèque nationale de France.

Both were carried out in a very efficient and professional way, within the time limits initially set, with a great involvement of all participants. We are convinced that both projects strongly contribute to the demonstration of the positive and useful role of the ISSN system in the modern technological environment, as well as the capacity of the ISSN network as a whole to contribute to produce new tools and standards.

At the same time, the ISSN IC enhanced its communication strategy with a new logo, a brand new website, a new brochure, and globally a new public image.

### **1. The ISSN Network**

#### **1.1. Coverage and extension of the Network**

One Working Agreement was signed with Luxembourg. At the end of 2013, the ISSN network comprised 88 Member Countries.

#### **1.2. Activities of the ISSN Network**

##### **1.2.1. ISSN meetings**

The Governing Board meeting took place at the ISSN International Centre in April 2013. It was preceded by a meeting of the Consultative Committee of the International Centre.

The meeting of the Directors of ISSN National Centres was hosted by the National Library of Romania in Bucharest in October 2013.

The Directors' meeting was preceded by a meeting of the Virtua client users' Group and by a meeting of the ISSN review Group, both hosted by the National Library of Romania.

In November 2013, the panel for the recruitment of the new director of the International Centre met in Paris with the candidates. Mrs Gaëlle Béquet was chosen and will take office on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014.

### 1.2.2. Activities of the ISSN International Centre

Among the many activities currently led by the International Centre, some aspects deserve to be underlined.

- Bibliographic work: 2013 was a very productive year with the extension of the FRBR model for serial resources, known as “PRESSoo”, which was conducted very efficiently and with excellent cooperation with the Bibliothèque nationale de France.  
The ISSN International Centre continued to be involved in EURIG as well as in the harmonization work with ISBD and RDA. It also took part in the Permanent Unimarc Committee.  
It should be noted that in 2013, the ISSN International Centre became liaison member in the FRBR Review Group.  
Furthermore, the ISSN Network is now represented in the MARC 21 Advisory Committee (MAC). For practical reasons (all the meetings of the MAC are held in the United States), Regina Romano Reynolds, head of the U.S.A. ISSN Centre, will represent the Network within this committee.  
The ISSN Manual is now continuously revised, thanks to the very helpful support of the ISSN Review Group established in 2012. The next edition of the ISSN Manual will be released during the first semester of 2014.
- Communication: The ISSN Newsletter is more and more broadly distributed (2,000 subscribers in 2013) and gets very positive feedback. The new ISSN website was developed and successfully implemented. It went online in December 2013.
- IT system: A significant part of the activity of the IT section was devoted to supporting the implementation of the new ISSN IC website and of ROAD website. The department also processed customers’ requests in the framework of the “ISSN Premium” offer. Important actions regarding the improvement of IT system security were also carried out (particularly, improvement of the back-up and restore systems).
- Sales: Income derived from sales was stable in spite of the poor economic situation.

## **2. ISSN database – Management and development**

### 2.1. ISSN Register

#### 2.1.1. Statistics

61,696 new records were created in the ISSN Register in 2013. There were 1,749,000 records in the database at the end of 2013.

The identification of electronic resources continue to make good progress both in quantity and quality: at the end of 2013, 132,806 electronic titles had been assigned an ISSN.

The number of National Centres from which little or no records are received is diminishing from 22 in 2009 to 12 in 2013. During this period, the Bibliographic data section has enhanced its support to the network through individual contacts, training sessions and requests follow-ups.

#### 2.1.2. Data input - Activity of the International Centre

The cataloguing activity of the International Centre remained stable in 2013 with 4553 ISSN assignments and 3802 records created. The ISSN IC responded to 5652 requests for ISSN assignments.

### 2.1.3. New actions and projects

Four areas for future work were identified after the discussion on the new ISSN Strategic Plan in April 2012. The main decision was to develop and implement the ROAD website with the financial support of UNESCO. Another decision was to focus on the PRESSoo model.

- ROAD: the Directory of Open Access scholarly Resources was successfully developed and implemented (as a beta version) in a very short timeframe. It went online on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013. It encountered the interest of a number of actors and partners, and received very positive comments. See <http://road.issn.org/>. This project was supported by UNESCO – Information and Communication sector.
- PRESSoo: the FRBR model for serial resources was elaborated by a group including staff from the BnF and from the ISSN International Centre. Various presentations were given, particularly to the IFLA FRBR Review group during its last meeting in Singapore, and during the meeting of the Directors of ISSN national Centres in Bucharest. It was also presented to colleagues involved in the Bibframe project, and in CIDOC-CRM. All presentations encountered great interest and positive comments. The version 0.2 of PRESSoo will be formally presented to both the IFLA FRBR Review Group and to the CIDOC-CRM (co-responsible of the FRBRoo model) in April 2014 so as to be officially approved as a compatible extension of FRBRoo.
- The permanent ISSN Review Group, in charge of dealing with bibliographic standardization issues and ISSN assignment policy, was established last year and works on a regular basis.
- “Fake” publications or “predatory Open Access publishers”: the criteria enabling centres to sort out requests were defined.
- The KEEPERS is now a web-based service and looks for new partners. The Library of Congress will join the project shortly.
- SAIISA: the Semi-automatic Assignment of ISSN to Italian Serials is a project which started to be discussed in 2011 with CNR, the organization hosting the ISSN National centre for Italy and ACNP, an Italian Union List of serials. It is similar to the program carried out a few years ago in France. The formal agreement was signed at the end of 2012 and the work actually started in 2013.
- The ISSN International Centre participated in the project regarding the improvement of the ABES requests workflow. ABES decided to postpone the project, which is therefore on hold.

## 2.2. IT system

In 2013, the main activities were centered upon the improvement of the computers backup system and the preliminary work regarding the future IT system of the ISSN IC. The ISSN IC started drafting the technical specifications for the system upgrade.

## 3. International cooperation and promotion

### 3.1. Standardization

In 2013, the International Centre was particularly active in the standardization area, and participated in various standardization groups and meetings, at the international and national levels. Among other activities, the ISO / TC 46 annual plenary session was held in Paris in May and the ISSN IC took part in its organization.

### 3.2. Communication and promotion

The International Centre implemented its new website with a public and a private section. Staff training was scheduled that helped people understanding new technical features. For the first time, the ISSN IC was present at Frankfurt Book Fair.

### 3.3. ISSN Award

The “ISSN Award” created in 2007 by the ISSN Governing board was granted for the sixth time in 2013. Mauritius was selected by the panel for a training session that took place in Paris.

## 4. Conclusion

It should be stressed that the ISSN Register continued to increase significantly in 2013. The ISSN IC enjoys a sound financial situation which will enable it to face the necessary upcoming investments, especially those related to the IT system.