Revising the ISSN Standard:
The challenge of change

Regina Romano Reynolds
Library of Congress Booth
ALA Midwinter, January 2016
In an ever-changing world...
Standards have everything to do with change. They hold change in check by fixing certain parts of a technology. They also allow innovation to happen in a controlled way by creating an area of certainty around which change can happen.

Karen Coyle
Winds of change
ANSI Z39.9

American National Standard Identification Number for Serial Publications (SSN)
1988: NSDP Assigns First ISSN to an Online Serial

Today is Friday, 15 January 1988.

Welcome to issue 1 of

JBH Online ISSN #896-8261) is an electronic letter produced by

John B. Harlan
Post Office Box 693
South Bend, Indiana
46624-0693
USA
Telephone: (219) 288-0693
ALANET: JBH.693 or ALA1834
BITNET: X9H7YP@IRISHMV8

Its purpose is to disseminate news and information on subjects relating to peace, not otherwise widely disseminated by American broadcast news media. It is available free of charge to interested

* * *
2007

Major revision of the ISSN International Standard ISO 3297
Contents

Foreword ............................................................................................................................... iv
Introduction ............................................................................................................................. v

1 Scope ................................................................................................................................ 1
2 Terms and definitions ........................................................................................................ 1
3 Construction of ISSN ........................................................................................................ 3
4 Assignment of ISSN ........................................................................................................... 3
5 Establishment of the key title .............................................................................................. 3
6 Linking ISSN (ISSN-L) ..................................................................................................... 4
7 Printing and display of ISSN .............................................................................................. 4
7.1 General .......................................................................................................................... 4
7.2 Display of ISSN on printed continuing resources ......................................................... 4
7.3 Display of ISSN on electronic continuing resources and on other non-print media ... 5
8 Metadata ............................................................................................................................. 5
8.1 ISSN metadata ................................................................................................................ 5
8.2 Metadata required for ISSN assignment ...................................................................... 5
9 Copyright ............................................................................................................................ 5
10 Fees .................................................................................................................................. 5
11 Administration of the ISSN system .................................................................................. 5

Annex A (normative) Check digit for ISSN ........................................................................... 6
Annex B (normative) Metadata .............................................................................................. 7
Annex C (normative) Linking ISSN (ISSN-L) ..................................................................... 9
Annex D (normative) Roles and responsibilities of the ISSN centres ................................ 10
Annex E (informative) Use of ISSN and linking ISSN (ISSN-L) with other identification and linking systems ................................................................................................................ 12

Bibliography ........................................................................................................................ 19
ISSN Today

- Over 1.8 million titles in the ISSN Portal
- 88 ISSN national centers, plus ISSN International Centre, Paris
- Over 60,000 new ISSN records/year
- Used by libraries, publishers, rights management agencies, postal services, archiving agencies, knowledge bases (OpenURL), serials supply chain, and many others
- Positioned for linked data environment
What Can ISSN Become?
Possible Revision Issues
Proposal to remove the statement that ISSN are assigned free of charge
### Bibliographic Identification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Desc</th>
<th>p</th>
<th>SrTp</th>
<th>Cont</th>
<th>DtSt</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>010</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>012</td>
<td></td>
<td>30 53</td>
<td>s t 8503</td>
<td>k 1 m 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>016</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9875777</td>
<td>t2</td>
<td>DNLM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>016</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>P80540000</td>
<td>t2</td>
<td>DNLM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>016</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>008549589</td>
<td>t2</td>
<td>Uk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>022</td>
<td></td>
<td>0000-0019</td>
<td>t2</td>
<td>0000-0019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>032</td>
<td></td>
<td>7856880</td>
<td>t2</td>
<td>USPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>042</td>
<td></td>
<td>nsdp</td>
<td>t a</td>
<td>pcc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>043</td>
<td></td>
<td>n</td>
<td>us</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>050</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Z1219</td>
<td>?b .P98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>082</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>070</td>
<td>t t 11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>090</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>b</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>049</td>
<td></td>
<td>DLCC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>210</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Publ.</td>
<td>wkly.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>222</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Publishers weekly</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>245</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>The publishers weekly.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 246  | 1 | 3 | PW | <2005->
| 260  |   | New York: | 4b | F. Leypoldt, 4c 1873- |
| 300  |   | v. | 4b | ill. ; | 4c 25-29 cm. |

### Product Identification

**MAD**

HOPES THIS ISSUE JAMS EVERY COMPUTER IN THE COUNTRY...

[Barcode Image]

...FOR FORCING US TO DEFACE OUR COVERS WITH THIS YECCHY UPC SYMBOL FROM NOW ON

**UPC Code:** 70989 33230
Granularity?

Separate ISSN for Small, Medium, Large?
Digital Formats: Separate ISSN?

- PDF
- HTML
- Epub
- Android
- Kindle
- Etc., Etc.

Note: Separate ISBN are now required for different formats of digital books currently not required for ISSN
A New ISSN for Serial Families?
Align Mandatory ISSN Metadata and Mandatory ONIX Metadata?

- Example:
  Numbering (enumeration and/or chronology) is optional for ISSN, mandatory for some ONIX messages

- Benefits for ISSN use in the “chain of trade”
Expand Information About ISSN Use with Other Identifiers?

- Already have appendices for:
  - DOI
  - ISBN
  - URN

- Add:
  - ISNI, others
Title Changes ??
Major and Minor Title Changes

- **Major** = New ISSN
- **Minor** = Retain the old ISSN
- Based on library cataloging rules
- Revised in 2000-2002 and aligned with AACR2 and ISBD CR
- Changes not always obvious to researchers, and even librarians: e.g. *Business Week* to *Bloomberg*
  *Business Week* = minor
Updating the standard to facilitate ISSN’s identification role in a linked data environment
Stages of ISO Standards Development

1. Proposal stage
2. Preparatory stage
3. Committee stage
4. Enquiry stage
5. Approval stage
6. Publication stage
Assembling a Working Group

- Should have broad community representation. E.g.,
  - Publishers
  - Libraries
  - Aggregators
  - Abstracters and indexers
  - Platform providers
  - Representatives from related standards
To become a U.S. member of the ISSN revision working group, contact NISO (www.niso.org)

Phone: +1.301.654.2512  
Fax: +1.410.685.5278

E-mail: nisohq@niso.org  
URL: www.niso.org

To become a member of another country’s working group, contact the appropriate ISO representative
What do you think should be changed?
Thank you!

rrey@loc.gov