

ISSN INTERNATIONAL CENTRE ACTIVITY REPORT FOR 2024



INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD
SERIAL
NUMBER
INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

Introduction

Once again in 2024, the ISSN International Centre and its network have proved their dynamism and attractiveness by welcoming new member countries, namely the United Arab Emirates, Mongolia and the Sultanate of Oman, which will open their National Centres in 2025. With our 96 members, we value multilateral cooperation and the exchange of best practice in the management of bibliographic metadata in order to produce our common database, the ISSN Portal, and to provide publishers and libraries with the best identification and information services for serial publications.

For several months, the International Centre has been piloting a complete update of the ISSN Manual, which guides the identification activities of the National Centres. This manual will be published in 2025 as a wiki accessible to our network and as a downloadable document for our partners. In particular, we have clarified the issue of title changes, which may or may not justify assigning a new ISSN, a mechanism that has a major impact on the traceability of documentary resources. We have created new guidelines for managing titles in dispute between publishers and for titles published in conflict areas. In the future, this manual will be updated on an ongoing basis to adapt to changes in the publishing landscape and bibliographic practices.

The International Centre continues to invest in improving the centralised cataloguing tool available to its network: 45 National Centres used it in 2024 to create 15,182 records for new publications and 62 centres modified records. The adoption of this tool by the network is confirmed and is supported by a strong investment from the team in terms of training and IT support. This metadata creation tool, adapted to the specific needs of our activity, will serve as the basis for the new portal currently under development.

At the end of 2024, the ISSN portal contained 2,398,100 confirmed ISSNs, an increase of 2% compared with 2023, representing approximately 53,000 new ISSNs assigned. The number of corrections made by the International Centre to data received from National Centres has continued to grow, reinforcing the overall quality of the portal. At the same time, many publishers turned to the International Centre to obtain identifiers for their publications, which represents a significant financial contribution for the organisation. We are continuing our specific cooperation with Springer Nature, with whom the International Centre signed an agreement in 2024 to centrally process the assignment of identifiers for all their publications. This good cooperation with the publishers and the reliability of the portal have enabled us this year to meet our objectives in terms of subscriptions after two lacklustre years.

The International Centre's second strategic plan came to an end in 2024, and the overall results are positive. The expansion of the network, the improvement of metadata and the development of the Keepers Registry are clear successes. However, there are still steps to be taken to enable the systematic use of identifiers for publishers and publishing organisations, and we will continue to work on this in the coming years. The same applies to the implementation of a URL management service for online resources, which is dependent on the development of the new portal, with the data being available in the ISSN+ tool.

1. The ISSN Network

1.1 Coverage and extension of the ISSN network

As of 1 January 2025, the ISSN network had 96 member states.

1.2 ISSN network activities

1.2.1 Governance

The 25th meeting of the General Assembly of the International Centre was held remotely on Wednesday 26 June 2024. It was devoted to voting on resolutions concerning, in particular, the annual contributions of member countries, the approval of the 2025-2029 Strategy and the election of members of the Governing Board for the period 2025-2026. 72 member countries were represented at the meeting. The member countries' contributions for 2025 and 2026 and the 2025-2029 strategy were approved by a very large majority.

This plenary session was preceded by four remote preparatory meetings held on 14 May (in English), 16 May (in French), 22 May (in English) and 24 May (in Spanish). These four preparatory meetings provided an opportunity to discuss the items on the agenda with the representatives of the member countries.

At its 25th plenary session, the General Assembly elected the member countries' representatives to the Governing Board. The following countries and their representatives were elected to serve until the next General Assembly session in 2026:

Belgium: Ms Sophie Vandepontseele
 Bosnia-Herzegovina: Ms Anja Mastilović
 Brazil: Ms Taina Batista de Assis
 Croatia: Ms Danijela Getliher
 Egypt : Ms Rabab Rashwan
 Germany: Ms Ulrike Junger
 Italy: Ms Flavia Cancedda
 Mauritius: Ms Belinda Ramnauth
 Sweden: Philippa Andreasson
 United States of America: Ms Caroline Saccucci

Ms Batista de Assis and Ms Vandepontseele were respectively elected Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Governing Board on 9 July 2024.

Four Governing Board meetings were held in 2024:

- 5 March 2024 (remote),
- 23 and 24 April 2024 (in person),
- 9 July 2024 (remote),
- 20 November 2024 (remote).

1.2.2 ISSN National Centres

The 49th Meeting of Directors of National Centres was held in Tunis, Tunisia, from 21 to 24 October 2024, at the kind invitation of the **National Library of Tunisia**, home of the Tunisian ISSN Centre. The International Centre and its network are grateful to the National Library of Tunisia for the excellent organisation of this meeting. Four travel and subsistence grants were assigned to colleagues from National Centres. The awardees were representatives of ISSN Benin, ISSN Burkina Faso, ISSN Hungary and ISSN India. They were invited to present their respective centres to network colleagues on 21 October 2024.

All sessions were held in English with simultaneous interpretation into Arabic. Attendance in person and online was good, with **43 representatives** from National Centres present in Tunis and a further **30 logging on to the online sessions**. Five representatives of the International Centre travelled to Tunis, in particular to lead workshops demonstrating the ISSN+ data production tool. During the meeting, the Director of the International Centre and representatives of the Sultanate of Oman finalised the country's membership process by signing a working agreement.

In 2024, **74 National Centres** submitted their annual report (compared with 69 in 2023) and **18 centres** did not send it to the International Centre. The submission of an annual report is an obligation under the agreement between the International Centre and the National Centres.

By the end of 2024, **56 National Centres** had signed the new working agreement.

1.3 Review of the 2020-2024 strategic plan

The International Centre's Strategic Plan 2020-2024 was approved by its Governing Board and member countries in April and May 2020. This plan has guided the activities of the International Centre team over the past five years. The successes and challenges over this period are detailed below. The achievement of each objective is measured by the Key Performance Indicator.

OBJECTIVE 1: To develop the overall interoperability of the ISSN portal by improving the management of ISNIs (ISO 27727) within the ISSN portal.

The International Centre would like the ISSN to be interconnected with other identifiers and thus form part of the web-based identification ecosystem. The International Centre has been a member of ISNI-IA since 2015 and has access to the ISNI professional database.

The International Centre works with National Centres that already use ISNIs as identifiers for natural and legal persons in their own local databases. These ISNIs are retrieved by the International Centre when the ISSN centres' metadata is imported into the ISSN portal.

The International Centre wishes to use ISNI to create standardised access points for publishers and organisations in the ISSN portal in order to improve search results. The International Centre will also request the creation of ISNIs for entities that do not yet have one.

Key performance indicator: All organisations and publishers on the ISSN portal are identified by ISNIs by 2024.

The International Centre has focused on identifying commercial publishers. It has set up a wiki to identify approximately 300 multinational publishers, their affiliated publishers and associated trade marks that are present in the ISSN portal. This wiki is managed by the International Centre with contributions from a number of National Centres responsible for identifying and describing the publications of these multinational publishers.

From this list, which is available on Zenodo, the International Centre has extracted data for 50 publishers, each associated with three ISSNs and associated key titles. This data was submitted to OCLC, which manages the ISNI database, in 2021 and, after a few corrections, OCLC was able to process it. However, before the metadata for all the publishers on the ISSN portal could be loaded, work had to be done on the ISNI data model for this type of organisation. A brief report was drawn up by the International Centre to initiate discussions on the structure of the ISNI database metadata and the method for updating it. A specific committee has been set up by the ISNI Library Sector Steering Group in 2022 to carry out this work.

Following the successful trial of the batch upload of ISSN data to the ISNI database in 2021, the International Centre has worked with the ISNI Library Sector Steering Group to produce a report on issues relating to the identification of publishing entities in the ISNI database. The following issues have been identified:

- The relationship between a publisher and a diachronic work, i.e. a journal, does not exist in the current ISNI data schema;
- The date of transfer of a journal title between two publishers cannot currently be specified in the ISNI database data schema;
- The duration of a relationship between two publishers cannot be expressed in the same diagram;
- The different names of a publisher are not currently recorded in separate fields in this schema.

In 2023, the ISNI quality team committed to reviewing the existing technical documentation in order to adapt the data model. However, no significant progress has been made on this front in recent months.

Therefore, from 2025 onwards, the International Centre envisages a new approach based on the extraction of metadata from open databases such as OpenAlex and publishers' catalogues to provide unique access points for publisher names linked to existing identifiers such as those managed by IDRef, ISNI and Wikipedia. In addition, the International Centre continues to participate in the work of the Libraries and Publishers groups led by the ISNI International Agency.

By the end of 2024, ISNI identifiers will be present in around 20,000 records in the ISSN portal. These ISNIs will continue to be retrieved and integrated by the ISSN network.

Final key performance indicator: 5%.

OBJECTIVE 2: To encourage the creation of new National Centres in order to extend the ISSN network worldwide.

UNESCO has 195 Member States and 11 Associate Members. Our recurring strategic objective is to ensure that all countries have a centre where this seems viable, and to encourage centres with fewer resources to comply with standards and good practice. To achieve this, we will need to step up training and awareness-raising. Our aim is to open at least five new National Centres between 2020 and 2024, to revise and then implement the initial training programme, and to create several tools to monitor the activities of the centres and the agreements that the International Centre has signed with them.

Key performance indicator: Five new ISSN National Centres are opened by 2024.

2021 was an exceptional year, with the opening of three National Centres, partly to make up for the delays caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. On 11 March 2021, Ukraine opened its centre, hosted by the state scientific institution "Ivan Fedorov Book Chamber of Ukraine". On 1st April, Austria opened its centre, hosted by the Austrian Book Trade Association. On 24 August, Peru opened its centre hosted by the Biblioteca Nacional del Perú.

Although no new ISSN centres have been created in 2022 and 2023, numerous exchanges have taken place with colleagues in the United Arab Emirates, Mongolia and the Sultanate of Oman. The procedure for acceding to the statutes of the International Centre is complex and based on a diplomatic process managed by UNESCO. This stage often takes several

months before membership is officially confirmed. The United Arab Emirates signed the working agreement with the International Centre on 29 May 2024 and the Sultanate of Oman on 22 October 2024. Mongolia's membership was accepted by UNESCO in November 2024. The regularised accession of Slovakia was accepted by UNESCO in July 2024.

Six new countries have therefore joined the ISSN network during the 2020-2024 period. However, for reasons specific to the host organisations, the actual opening of the National Centres may have been delayed.

Final key performance indicator: 100%.

OBJECTIVE 3: Implement the latest version of the ISO 3297 standard by creating new cluster ISSN

The first cluster ISSN, created in 2008, is the ISSN-L or linking ISSN, which brings together the different versions of a continuing resource on several media. Following the recommendations of a survey carried out in 2019 with a view to revising ISO 3297, the new version of the standard will allow new cluster ISSN to be created. The 2019 survey also revealed an interest in a cluster ISSN, which associates titles identified by ISSN and representing the same "family". Tracking the changes that a serial publication undergoes over time has long been a challenge, and the relationship between past and current titles is recorded in MARC bibliographic formats in specific fields. A cluster ISSN identifying these families has been found useful for libraries and publishers.

Key performance indicator: Creation of specific fields for cluster ISSN in metadata encoding schemes

A discussion paper submitted in May 2021 to the MARC Advisory Committee (MAC) was followed by a proposal for the creation of a new repeatable field 023 for cluster ISSN. The discussion paper used the example of ISSN-H, the Historical ISSN, an identifier that will group together successive titles of a publication over time. Following initial reactions from the Library of Congress, the MAC requested that further research be carried out into the needs of suppliers of integrated library systems and the impact of a new identifier. Discussions with industry leaders took place in the fall of 2022, and the proposal was resubmitted to the MAC. Initial internal testing of ISSN+, the ISSN Network's metadata creation tool, showed that automated ISSN-H creation would work, but that a unique and repeatable MARC 21 field was needed for effective and widespread adoption.

The creation of field 023 in the MARC21 format for ISSN groups was validated in December 2023 (<https://www.loc.gov/marc/bibliographic/bd023.html>). The creation of the corresponding field in UNIMARC became effective in 2024. ISSN-H, which groups consecutive titles, has been implemented in the International ISSN Centre's internal production tool and made available to National Centres. The existing cluster ISSN are now recorded in field 023 of the production tool and will soon be available on the ISSN portal.

Final key performance indicator: 100%.

OBJECTIVE 4: To implement the latest version of ISO 3297 by assigning ISSN to different types of continuing resources

Significant changes in the publishing landscape could affect ISSN and traditional continuing resources in the coming years. The ISSN will need to better identify and integrate resources such as academic repositories and databases, and make the necessary investments to consolidate its position in the identifier ecosystem. The ISSN network seeks to raise awareness among producers of all types of serial publications so that an ISSN is assigned to their publications to ensure full implementation of the standard.

Key performance indicator: Publication of updated definitions of continuing resources and new data encoding values

A proposal was approved by the MARC Advisory Committee (MAC) in January 2021 to include additional types of continuing resources defined for the control area (tag 008 position 21) to reflect the full range of continuing resources covered by ISO 3297. Three

code definitions have been revised and six new codes have been added. A request to modify the corresponding codes for UNIMARC followed in April, and the new codes were officially published in both systems in autumn 2021. Official network-wide adoption of the codes took place with the launch of ISSN+ in June 2022. The ISSN revision group circulated a draft of the revised ISSN manual chapter on this topic to the network in December 2022, to explain in more detail how to use the new codes.

Final key performance indicator: 100%.

OBJECTIVE 5: Develop the interoperability of the ISSN portal by managing persistent identifiers and URLs for ongoing digital resources.

The International Centre manages the metadata of digital serial publications in the ISSN portal. According to the ISSN manual, it is mandatory to include the URLs of electronic publications in field 856 of the MARC 21 record. In the ISSN portal, the URLs in the 856 fields are used to establish a link with the resource itself. Like all bibliographic databases that manage the URLs of information resources hosted on external servers, such as those of issuing bodies and commercial publishers, the ISSN portal is faced with URL obsolescence as online publications cease to be updated, disappear or change hosting server. The ISSN International Centre does not constantly and systematically index the Web, as search engines do, to retrieve current URLs.

The International Centre believes that only the archived digital resource is stable because it has a persistent URL managed by an archiving agency. Only a minority of digitised or digital titles are currently archived, but digital preservation is a growing activity. On the ISSN portal, a specific actionable identifier will be used to bring together the URLs of the resource as it was originally published, the URLs of successive publishers where applicable, and the URLs of the archived version managed by the archiving agencies. This new service will add value to the ISSN portal by bringing together in one place the URLs provided by publishers and archiving agencies for a given resource.

Key Performance Indicator: The ISSN International Centre will manage an operational resolver handling different types of URL by 2024.

The International Centre has created an URN:ISSN resolver (<https://urn.issn.org/>) that integrates the URLs available in the ISSN portal. A discussion paper entitled Enriching Web Archive Information in MARC 21 Formats Zone 856 has been submitted to the MARC Advisory Committee in December 2021, with the aim of redefining some of the subfields to track archive information and persistent identifiers (PIDs), and finding a solution to link obsolescence and content drift.

The January 2022 discussion paper resulted in two documents submitted to the June 2022 MAC meeting: a proposal to update zone 856 and a second discussion paper on the creation of a new zone 857. The requested changes to zone 856 were approved and included in update no. 35 in December 2022. There is now a separate 856 subfield to store PIDs and another to track non-functional URIs.

The proposal for a new 857 zone was submitted in November 2022 and approved at the MAC meeting in January 2023. Zone 857 - Location and Access to Electronic Records became official in June 2023. Following this official adoption, the International Centre tested the retrieval of archival status data and URLs (current, past and archival) to populate MARC21 fields 856 and 857. Data from the Keepers Registry was transferred to the new MARC 21 857 - Electronic Archive Location and Access field in June 2024. Data in fields 856 and 857 are now stored in ISSN+ and visible on the ISSN portal. As part of the redesign of the ISSN portal, the URN:ISSN resolver will be updated to take account of the different URLs registered, and will redirect users sequentially to the current location of the resource, to the resource's archiving location, and finally to the ISSN portal page.

Final key performance indicator: 80%.

OBJECTIVE 6: Promote and develop Keepers Registry in order to involve new agencies and increase the number of archived resources identified.

The Keepers Registry (<https://keepers.issn.org>) is a free service aiming to inform the library and publishing community of the measures taken by various archiving bodies to preserve the titles of digitised publications and digital serials identified by ISSNs, in order to promote long-term access to these resources and stabilise scientific references for the research sector.

For the International Centre, the takeover of the Keepers Registry service in December 2019 was a strategic decision that led to the expansion of the ISSN portal offering. Together, the International Centre and the ISSN network produce an indispensable source of information on serial publications at all stages of their existence, from their identification and description by the ISSN network to their preservation by partner archiving organisations.

Key Performance Indicator: The number of archiving agencies participating in Keepers Registry will reach 20 by 2024.

Three agencies have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Centre in 2021: the National library of France for Gallica data, the California Digital Library for Merritt Repository data and the Internet Archive for Fatcat data. Two agencies have been approved to join Keepers Registry in 2022: the ZBW-Leibniz-Informationszentrum Wirtschaft (ZBW), Germany, and the National Library of Spain (BNE), which signed its Memorandum of Understanding in 2024. In 2023, the Technische Informationsbibliothek (TIB), Germany, joined the service. In 2024, Persée (France) signed the memorandum of understanding. In January 2025, eighteen active agencies and two inactive agencies, the British Library and the Swiss National Library, are participating in Keepers Registry. The full list is available here: <https://keepers.issn.org/keepers>.

Keepers Registry is also a partner in the JASPER project (<https://doaj.org/preservation/>) with DOAJ, CLOCKSS, the Internet Archive and the Public Knowledge Project. The first phase of the JASPER project was a scoping exercise aimed at finding a solution to reduce the number of non-archived Open Access journals. Based on a list of DOAJ Diamond Open Access (i.e. non-paying) journals, the five partners worked together to develop a technical process for archiving the journals.

Final key performance indicator: 100%.

OBJECTIVE 7: Promote the ISSN portal as a professional tool for ISSN National Centres to improve the ISSN assignment process.

Launched in 2018, the ISSN Portal provided enhanced functionality that enabled the International Centre to standardise the metadata provided by publishers requesting ISSN assignment. The International Centre wanted to offer this tool to National Centres when processing ISSN assignment requests from their national publishers. The ISSN Portal is a web-based platform that is now available to National Centres wishing to use the system to manage requests from their national publishers. New National Centres are particularly encouraged to use this turnkey system.

Key performance indicator: Two new National Centres adopt the ISSN portal service to process ISSN requests from publishers by 2024.

In 2020 and the first quarter of 2021, the request management system was presented to colleagues from the Ukrainian Book Chamber, the Austrian Publishers Association and the Peruvian National Library. As of March 2022, no agreement has been reached with the national ISSN centres on the use of the system. The Board of the International Centre has been informed of the difficulties encountered in achieving this objective, as the National Centres have not shown any interest in this tool. The International Centre, with the agreement of its Governing Board, has decided to abandon this objective in 2022, as the ISSN portal needs to be improved and its functionalities reviewed.

Objective abandoned in 2022

1.4 2025-2029 action plan

The 2025-2029 action plan was drawn up in 2024 with the assistance of Maurits van der Graaf, Pleiade company. He organised four workshops with the International Centre team and four group interviews. He conducted interviews with 16 external experts. He received additional reports from two experts specialising in artificial intelligence and marketing. He also used the recommendations written by Peter Burnhill on the development of the Keepers Registry.

The aim of this action plan is to make our vision of the International Centre and its network for 2030 a reality:

- By 2030, the ISSN network will include around one hundred National Centres and the International Centre, all of which will work together to produce high-quality data for the ISSN database.
- By 2030, the International Centre will have consolidated the status of the ISSN database as the leading comprehensive authority database for periodicals and continuing resources, and will offer innovative services to a wider customer base.
- Keepers Registry will be a metadata dissemination tool used for archiving efforts worldwide.
- As a result, by 2030, ISSN will have strengthened its role as the world's leading identification system for periodicals and continuing resources, both in print and digital form. It will be connected to other relevant identification systems to facilitate navigation, discovery and information management.

The full action plan is available on the International Centre's institutional website. Implementation will begin in the first half of 2025.

2. Activities of the ISSN International Centre

2.1 Metadata and Technical Coordination of the ISSN Network Department (MTCIN)

2.1.1 Metadata production

At the end of 2024, the ISSN portal contained **2,398,100 confirmed ISSN**s.

A total of **53,860 new ISSN**s were added in 2024.

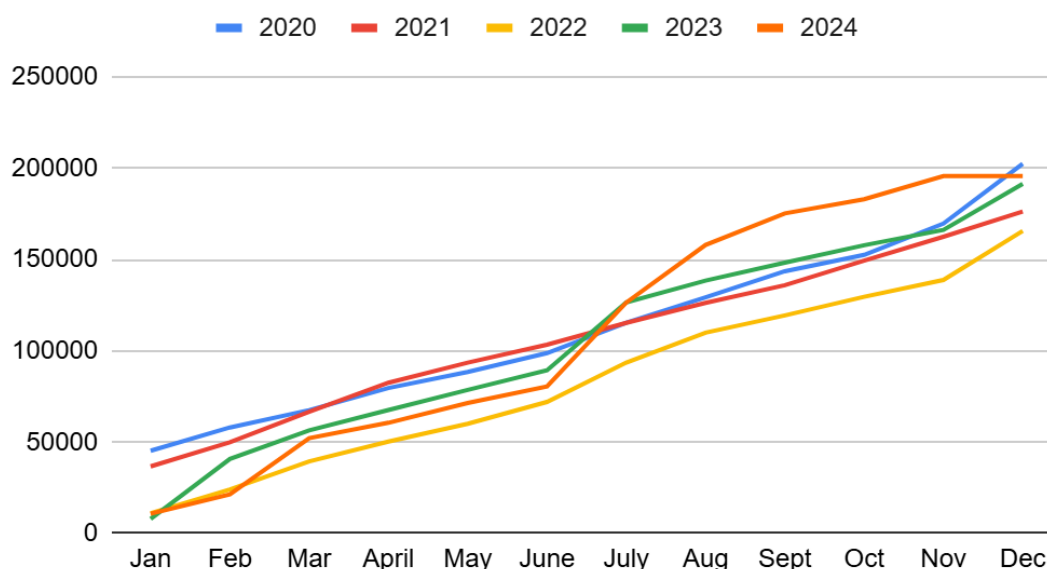
51 National Centres sent **195,677 new and updated records**, which were integrated into the portal in 2024 (compared with 191,447 records in 2023 and 165,747 records in 2022).

15,182 records were created directly in ISSN+ by 45 National Centres, i.e. approximately one third of the records. **123,113** records were modified directly in ISSN+ by 62 centres. We can therefore conclude that the adoption of ISSN+ as a shared production tool has been a success.

44,607 errors were corrected by the team before importing the records received from the National Centres, representing a 13% increase in the number of errors corrected compared with 2023. This increase is due to the implementation of ISSN+, whose validation rules have been better aligned with standard bibliographic practices. The records produced by the network have been loaded daily into the ISSN portal in order to improve the availability of data for free and paying access.

Figure 1 - Number of new and updated records imported into the ISSN portal, 2020-2024

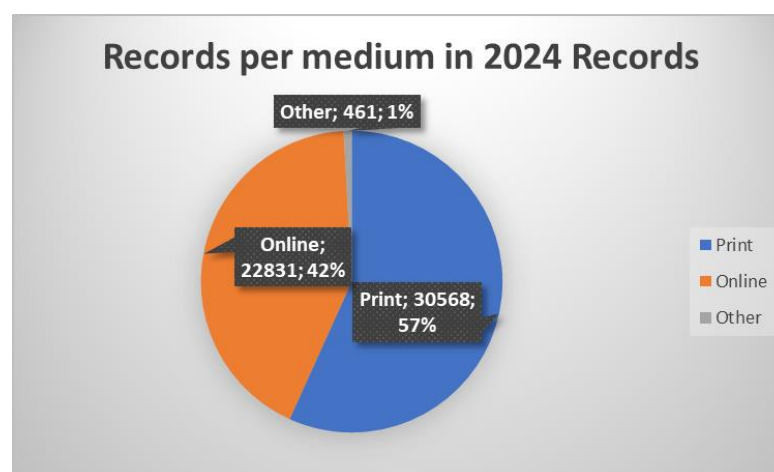
Records per month 2020-2024



22,831 new online resources have been identified in 2024 (compared with 25,494 in 2023), marking a slight decrease. These new online resources represent **42%** of the assignments in 2024.

In total, in January 2025, **395,206 online resources** (compared with **372,404** at the end of 2023) were identified in the ISSN portal, representing 16% of the portal's total records

Figure 2 - Breakdown of ISSN records by medium



2.1.2 Serving publishers

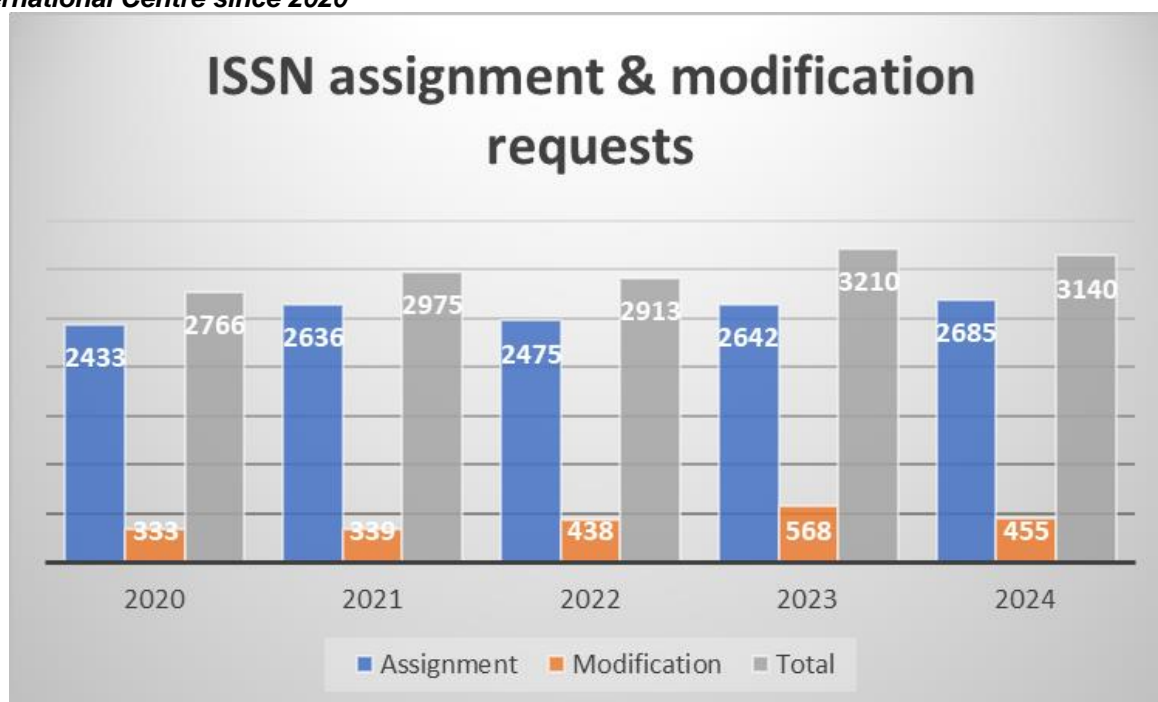
In 2024, **3,140 ISSN assignment requests from publishers within its scope** were processed by the International Centre, compared with 3,210 in 2023 and 2,913 in 2022.

Table 1: Breakdown by type of request and status of ISSN requests processed by the International Centre in 2024 (Source: ISSN portal)

ISSN assignment & modification requests in 2024	Accepted	Provisional	Sub-total	Others: incomplete, rejected, in process, pending	Total requests processed
Assignment	1857	351	2208	477	2685
Modification	272	0	272	183	455
Total	2129	351	2480	660	3140

Note: in general, one request will result in two ISSN's being assigned (print/online).

Figure 3: Growth in requests for assignments and modifications processed by the International Centre since 2020



On 2 January 2025, **6692 publishers** were registered on the ISSN portal as ISSN applicants since 2018 (instead of 5722 publishers in 2023). The breakdown of requests by country is fairly stable compared with the previous year. Hong Kong publishers are the most active, followed by Pakistani publishers and international organisations.

Table 2: Top 10 countries of publication under the responsibility of the International Centre ranked by assigned ISSN (cumulative from 2018 to 2 January 2025 - Source: ISSN portal)

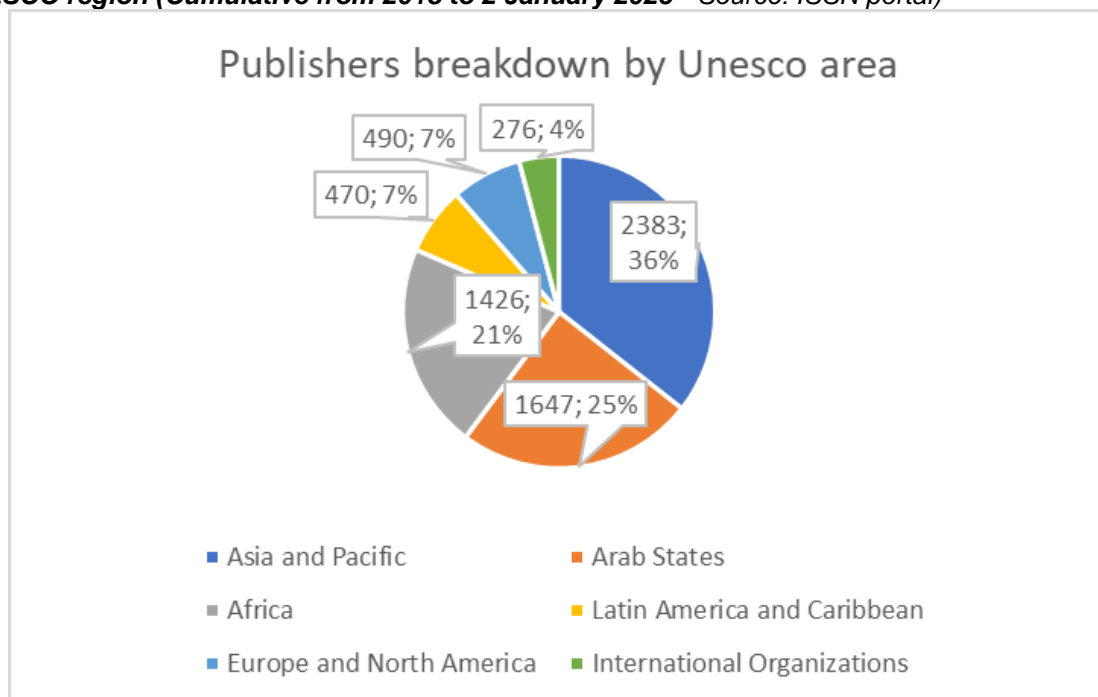
Country	UNESCO aera	Nb of publishers	Nb of ISSN assigned	Nb of requests processed	Nb of provisional ISSN records
Hong Kong S.A.R., China	Asia and Pacific	428	3401	2945	97
Pakistan	Asia and Pacific	1087	2493	1881	52
International		276	1901	1387	79
Bangladesh	Asia and Pacific	485	909	726	38
South Africa	Africa	277	852	762	59
Iraq	Arabic States	762	798	871	47
Kenya	Africa	188	682	594	15
Taiwan, Province of China	Asia and Pacific	393	609	528	34
Kazakhstan	Asia and Pacific	276	531	465	26
United Arab Emirates	Arabic States	137	339	282	40

Publishers' countries of publication may be associated with UNESCO regions (excluding international organisations). The distribution of publishers by region has changed significantly over the years, in particular there has been an increase in requests from publishers operating in Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Table 3: Number of publishers by UNESCO region under the responsibility of the ISSN International Centre (Cumulative from 2018 to 2 January 2025 - Source: ISSN portal)

UNESCO Regions	Nb of publishers	Nb of ISSN assigned	Nb of requests processed	Nb of provisional ISSN records
Asia and Pacific	2383	4858	3832	175
Arab States	1647	2195	2265	119
Africa	1426	2698	2401	153
Latin America and Caribbean	470	713	687	6
Europe and North America	490	742	761	16
International Organizations	276	1901	1387	79
Total	6692	13107	11333	548

Figure 4: Distribution of publishers under the responsibility of the International Centre by UNESCO region (Cumulative from 2018 to 2 January 2025 - Source: ISSN portal)



ISSN assignments by the International Centre

In 2024, the department assigned **2,960 new ISSN**s (compared with 2,865 in 2023), including **2,517 confirmed** ISSN^s and 443 provisional ISSN^s. The number of assignments rose slightly **(+3%)** compared with 2023.

The figures below do not take into account changes made to existing notices.

Table 4: Number of ISSN^s assigned by the International Centre from 2020 to 2024, classified by status and media type (Source: ISSN+)

	ISSN confirmed				ISSN provisional			Total	
	Print	On line	Other	Total confirmed records	Print	On line	Other	Total provisional records	All categories of notices
2020	1638	1396	20	3054	160	112	4	276	3330
2021	1129	1190	23	2342	153	90	3	246	2588
2022	1381	1210	14	2605	123	83	4	210	2815
2023	1325	1320	13	2658	97	110	0	207	2865
2024	1192	1312	13	2517	203	233	7	443	2960

* Any other type of media: CDs, DVDs, USB sticks, etc.

The International Centre serves publishers operating in countries that do not have a National Centre. Publishers in Hong Kong, S.A.R., Pakistan and international organisations submitted the majority of ISSN applications in 2024 and therefore received the majority of ISSN^s assigned.

Table 5: Confirmed ISSN assignments for resources from major countries within the scope of the International Centre from 2020 to 2024 (Source: ISSN+)

Country	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Hong Kong, S.A.R.	347	398	368	653	656
Pakistan	287	379	433	444	516
International organizations	300	236	378	378	166
Iraq	101	109	114	141	137
Kazakhstan	65	91	69	105	77
Bangladesh	129	112	125	98	89
Taiwan, P.O.C.	101	112	81	83	51
Kenya	92	147	185	82	45
South Africa	162	135	172	65	66
Libya	22	24	21	56	20

The process of assigning ISSNs to Springer-Nature publications

Since 2017, the International Centre has centralised the assignment of provisional ISSNs to Springer-Nature publications one year to six months prior to their actual publication, regardless of the place of publication and including all Springer-Nature Group trade marks.

These records remain in the provisional category in the ISSN portal until Springer-Nature informs the International Centre that these resources have been published. The International Centre coordinates the completion and validation of the records in the confirmed category, with the support of the National Centres concerned. Provisional ISSNs are confirmed when the resource is actually published, which can be between one and three years after Springer-Nature began planning the publication project.

During 2024, **405 ISSNs were provisionally assigned** to publications scheduled by Springer-Nature. 401 ISSNs were confirmed in 2024, of which 57 were assigned in 2024, by ISSN Switzerland, ISSN Germany, ISSN UK and ISSN Singapore.

Overall, of the **21,993 records** describing resources published by Springer-Nature in the ISSN portal, **18,551** have been confirmed. The ISSN validation rate is 85%.

This year, Springer-Nature has improved the table shared with the International Centre, making communication more fluid. A campaign to encourage the validation of records based on the metadata provided by the publisher has been launched for the National Centres concerned, with the aim of improving the rate of confirmation of provisional ISSNs.

In addition, on 10 June 2024, the International Centre signed a memorandum of understanding with Springer-Nature, which agreed to compensate the International Centre for setting up this specific identification process.

Table 6 - ISSNs assigned to Springer Nature publications and confirmed in 2024 by the ISSN network

2024	ISSN provisoires attribués	ISSN confirmés	ISSN confirmés (créés en 2024)
Revue	110	322	24
Série	295	79	33
Total	405	401	57

2.1.3 Relations with National Centres

The team trained two ISSN National Centres for a total of 36 hours in 2024. Bibliographic practice workshops were run by members of the team at the meeting of national centre directors in Tunis in October 2024. ISSN+ online help pages written in four languages are updated on the International Centre's wiki to guide National Centres in using this tool.

In addition to the training sessions, the bibliographic expertise provided by the team to the National Centres is delivered on a daily basis. The number of messages exchanged between the National Centres and the International Centre is down compared with 2023 (-20%). The team dealt with **2,509** questions or requests for action relating in particular to the assignment of ISSN blocks (79), ISSN assignment criteria (75), title changes (37), transfers of responsibility between National Centres (349) and requests for corrections (182).

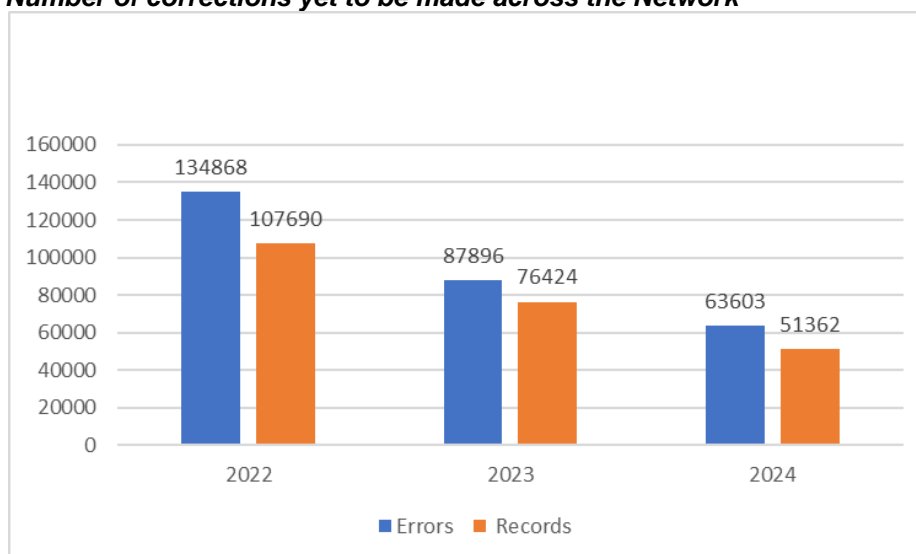
The National Centres in Central Asia and Latin America are regularly monitored.

2.1.4 Quality projects for ISSN data

The quality of ISSN data is key to increasing future use of the ISSN portal, attracting new customers and establishing partnerships with database providers, aggregators and other information providers. The plan focuses on the accuracy of bibliographic data, coverage of ISSN identification, improved processes and workflows, and interoperability with partner data. Corrections made when importing records from the National Centres are also part of the quality plan.

Across the network, **24,293 erroneous records** were corrected collaboratively and often en masse by the team. **2674 titles were deduplicated**. **Resource types** were added to **3,867 records**.

Figure 5: Number of corrections yet to be made across the Network

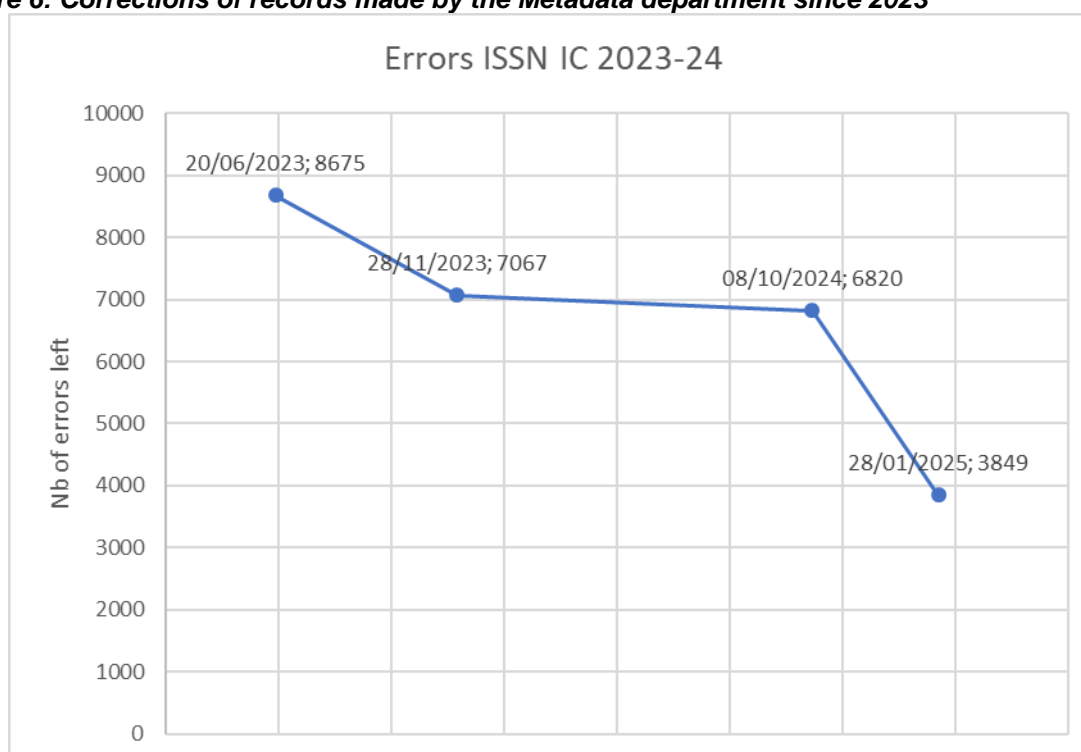


Within the scope of the International Centre, duplicate key titles (240) and various problems with key titles (80) have been resolved. Similarly, all types of resources are now identified, in application of the resolution taken at the 2022 meeting of Directors of National Centres, aiming to provide greater granularity in the types of publications.

Using a dashboard to detect missing or faulty URLs, corrective action has been taken. As a result, the balance of missing URLs fell by 20% in January 2025 compared with January 2024. Similarly, the balance of broken URLs has fallen by 9% over the same period.

At the meeting of the directors of the National Centres in 2024, the Metadata department presented to all the participants the tools available to the entire network and the methodology to be applied to eliminate errors in records, based on the same priorities.

Figure 6: Corrections of records made by the Metadata department since 2023



The team also took part in one-off projects run by ISSN France, in particular the project to identify digital reproductions of titles from colonial Algeria. This project is still underway, with 193 records created in 2024. At the initiative of the department, **11,562 French records** were corrected in order to move the URL links in the Internet Archive to the new 857 field created in MARC21. **4,555 French records** containing links indicated as broken were moved to the new 856\$h subfield in MARC21. These specific changes particularly concern ISSN France because it is the only major centre in terms of volume to submit its data in UNIMARC to the International Centre.

Projects with partners also provided opportunities to detect and correct errors in ISSN records in our mutual databases, and to improve the coverage of the database.

CIDEMIS is the automated system managed since 2015 by ABES (Agence bibliographique de l'enseignement supérieur) in cooperation with BnF (National library of France) and the International Centre. CIDEMIS is used to manage ISSN assignment requests and record modifications for continuing resources described in the SUDOC (<http://www.sudoc.abes.fr>), the Union Catalogue of French Higher Education. In the course of their work, SUDOC cataloguers may identify continuing resources that do not have an ISSN or whose ISSN data needs updating.

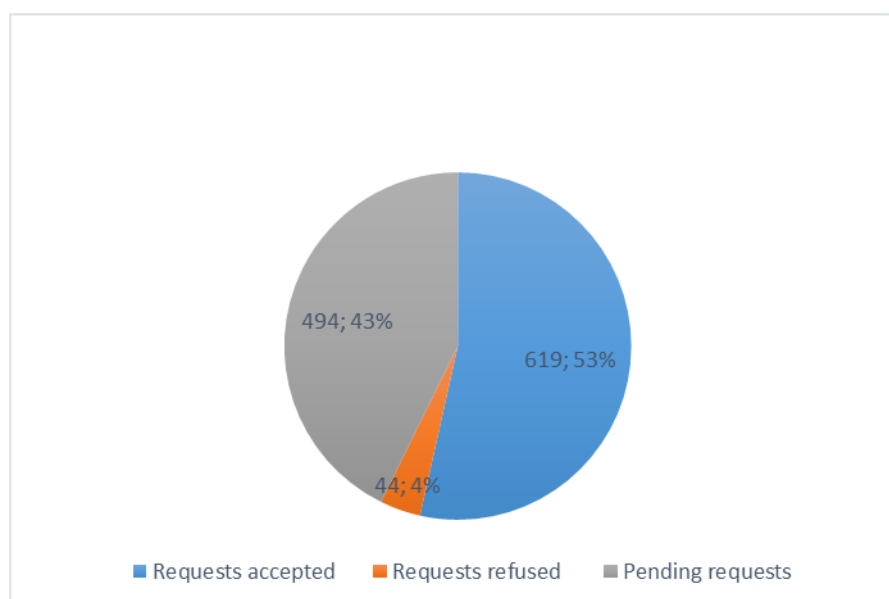
In 2024, **519 requests** were created in CIDEMIS and transmitted to the International Centre and its network, excluding ISSN France which has a specific workflow in CIDEMIS. These requests included 394 assignment requests and 125 update requests.

53% of the requests submitted to CIDEMIS in 2024 were processed by the National Centres, i.e. **275 requests**. The National Centres also processed **388 requests submitted before 2024**.

The International Centre processed **192 requests** created in 2024, assigning 140 ISSNs and updating 52 records. It also validated 275 old requests from all countries, incorrectly recorded in the CIDEMIS system.

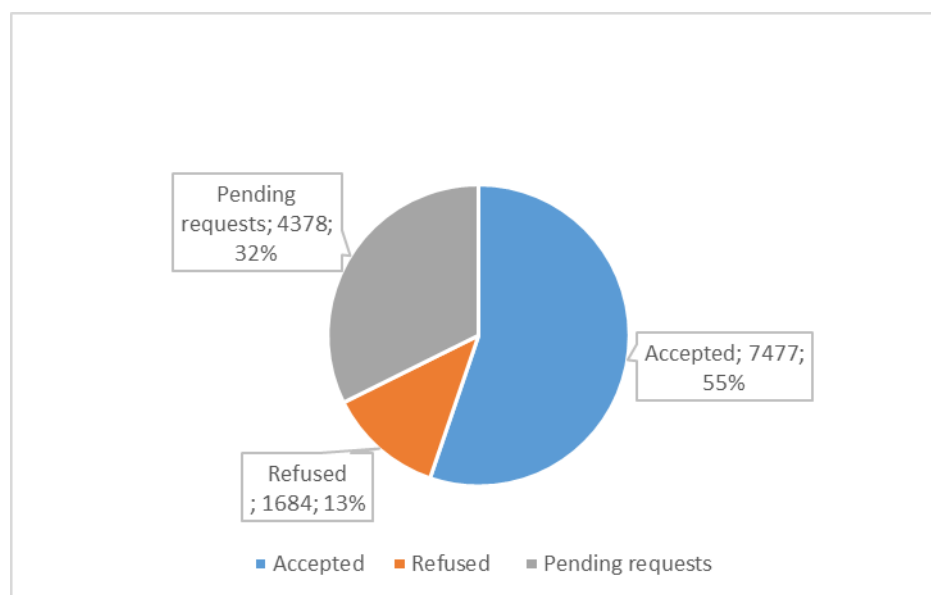
In total, in 2024, **803 ISSNs** were assigned and 329 records were updated. 364 requests were refused, including 28 created in 2024.

Figure 7: Requests processed in 2024 by the ISSN Network



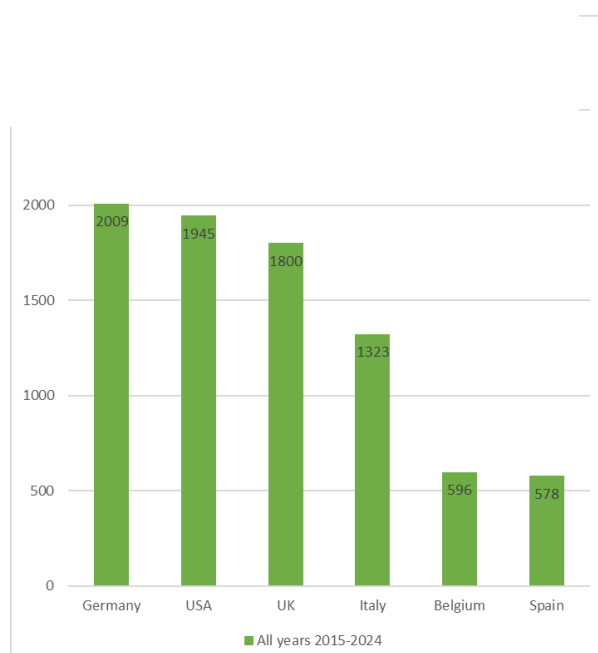
Overall, out of 14,692 requests submitted between 2015 and 2024, **13,539 were processed**. Of all the requests processed, 55% were accepted, including **6,250 ISSN assignments** and **1,217 records updated** by the ISSN network at the request of SUDOC libraries. 68% of requests submitted since 2015 have been processed, marking an increase of 8% compared with 2023.

Figure 8: Cumulated status of requests submitted between 2015 and 2024



The efforts of the National Centres that have contributed to the assignment of ISSNs within the framework of CIDEMIS, in particular ISSN Germany, ISSN USA and ISSN Great Britain, are to be commended. These centres are also the most committed to processing retrospective assignments.

Figure 9: Accepted ABES requests by the most solicited ISSN Centres



Mir@bel

A partnership was signed with the Mir@bel network in July 2023, with the aim of mutually enriching the databases. The team uses Mir@bel tools to monitor a selective corpus of publications from international publishers and to correct inconsistencies between the ISSN database and those of our partners, namely Mir@bel, ABES (SUDOC) and DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals).

89 publications listed by Mir@bel are monitored by the International Centre. Most are published by OECD. Others (less than ten) are also part of the requests transmitted by the CIDEMIS network. A specific task is to be launched with OECD on their online publications, the URLs of which will be modified following the migration of data between their different sites.

Ex Libris reports ROAD records with faulty URLs, as well as titles that are no longer open access. As a result, **400 ROAD records** were corrected in 2024.

Similarly, since the end of 2023, a specific workflow outside CIDEMIS and Mir@bel has been set up between **ABES** and the International Centre in order to correct ISSN-L errors.

Since 2018, **ISNIs** (International Standard Name Identifiers) have gradually been added to ISSN records. These ISNIs identify publishing entities and international publishers. In March 2025, **52,500 records** containing ISNIs were registered in the ISSN database. The Metadata team also contributes to enriching the ISNI database by reporting duplicates and enriching ISNI records with mentions in the original alphabet and links to the institutional websites of the issuing bodies. Since 2021, the International Centre has been part of the ISNI Library Sector Working Group.

2.1.5 The development of the Directory of Open Access scholarly Resources (ROAD)

2,696 records describing Open Access (OA) scientific resources were added to ROAD in 2024. Overall, in December 2024, ROAD contained **61,316 OA titles**. OA scientific publications represent 17% of the online publications described in the ISSN portal. The partnership with Ex Libris has led to the removal of **5,872 records** containing broken URLs from ROAD. The National Centres concerned have been asked to reintegrate these resources into ROAD after adding a functional URL where appropriate.

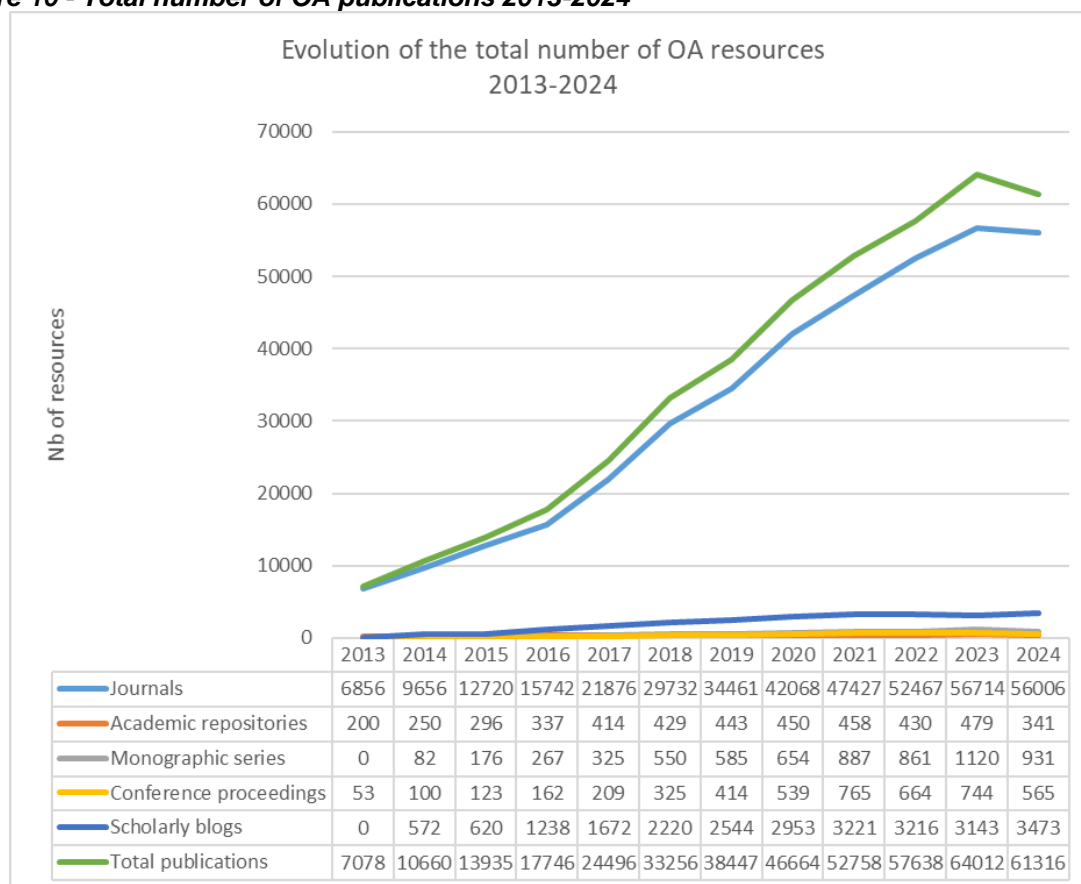
Table 7 - Evolution of the number of resources in ROAD (cumulative)

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Magazines	42068	47427	52 467	56714	56006
Academic deposits	450	458	430	479	341
Monographic series	654	887	861	1120	931
Conference proceedings	539	765	664	744	565
Science blogs	2953	3221	3 216	3143	3473
Total publications	46664	52 758	57 638	64 012	61316

Source : ISSN+

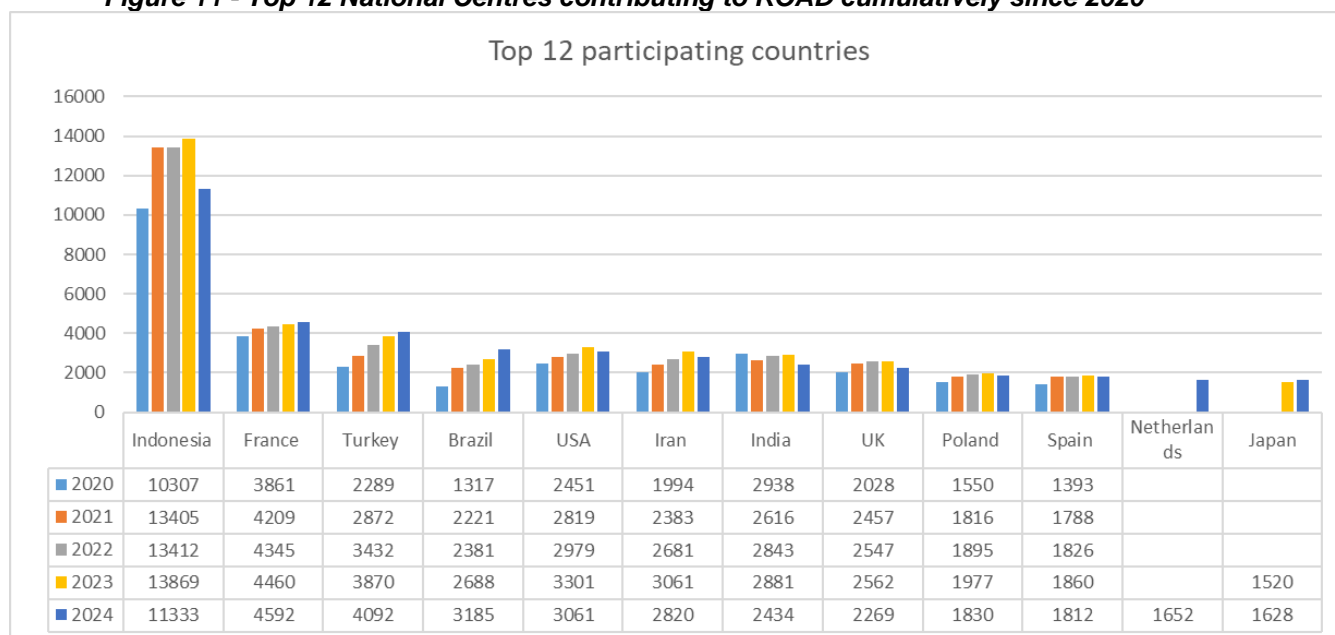
The two main types of publication in ROAD remain scientific journals and blogs, although there was a marked increase in monographic series in 2024.

Figure 10 - Total number of OA publications 2013-2024



The **breakdown by contributing country** has changed significantly compared with 2023, following the clean-up of the database mentioned above. While **Indonesia** remains in the lead with 11,333 open-access resources, followed by France and Turkey, **Brazil is better placed in the ranking**. Iran maintains its lead over the UK and India. The Netherlands join the ranking in 2024. In total, the top 12 contributing countries account for almost **68%** of all open access titles in ROAD.

Figure 11 - Top 12 National Centres contributing to ROAD cumulatively since 2020

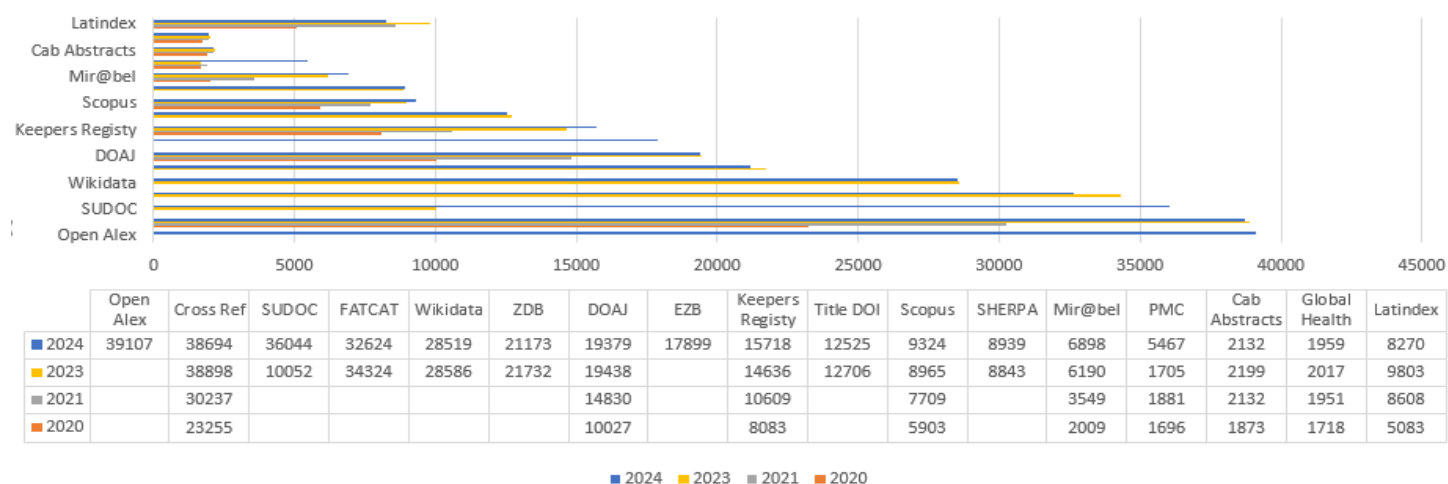


Source : ISSN+

Of all the titles in ROAD:

- 64% are indexed by Open Alex,
- 63% are identified by Crossref for their content, and 20% have DOIs for titles,
- 59% are referenced by the SUDOC,
- 47% are indexed by Wikidata,
- 26% are reported in the Keepers Registry,
- 22% are indexed by the Directory of Open Access Journals,
- 15% are indexed by Scopus,
- 13% are indexed by Latindex,
- 22% are indexed by both Crossref and Keepers Registry,
- 15% are indexed by Crossref, Keepers Registry and DOAJ.

ROAD resources indexed by other databases



Source: ISSN+

2.1.6 Development of the Keepers Registry

Twenty archiving agencies share their preservation data with the International Centre. The *Persée* support and research unit, affiliated to the ENS in Lyon and the *Centre national de la recherche scientifique*, is the twentieth agency to join. For the record, the British Library and the Swiss National Library have no longer updated their data since 2020.

95,697 titles (compared with 93,384 last year) are archived by partner agencies, and **22,680 titles** (compared with 22,126 last year) are archived by at least three agencies. Statistics are available at <https://keepers.issn.org/stats>.

The data supplied by the archiving agencies is compared with the ISSN data. If necessary, updates are made in the ISSN portal. In 2023, **300 provisional records** were confirmed using data from these agencies. If necessary, new eISSNs can be assigned by the International Centre and the ISSN network using the data provided by the archiving agencies.

2.1.7 The development of TRANSFER

The International Centre collaborates with the TRANSFER working group of the National Information Standards Organisation (NISO), USA, to disseminate information on changes of publishers for journal titles. The International Centre runs the Transfer Alerting Service (<https://journaltransfer.issn.org>), which publishes information on these changes free of charge. The information is made available via an RSS feed, a mailing list and an API.

9 new publishers signed the Transfer code of practice in 2024 and were registered on the ISSN portal, which they use to declare transfers of titles. In total, **113 Transfer publishers** are registered. **67 publishers** used this service in 2024 and **153 title transfers** were declared by the recipient publishers. In 2024, Sage Publishing, Taylor and Francis and Equinox Publishing were the most active recipient publishers, while Future Science Group, Equinox Publishing Ltd and Taylor & Francis were the most active transfer publishers.

2.2 Standardisation and international cooperation activities

2.2.1 ISSN Standards Review Group (ISSN RG)

This working group met **twenty times** in 2024. A written report of each meeting has been recorded on the wiki and will be made available to the network. The process of re-reading, clarifying and correcting the text and examples is a lengthy one. The opening of the manual to the ISSN network had to be postponed due to technical difficulties encountered in setting up the Single Sign-On system. This was finally made operational in March 2025. The presentation of the manual on the wiki and its functionalities will be organised in the form of webinars in May 2025. National centres will have access to this document, which will be constantly updated.

The multinational publishers wiki has been finalised. The list of multinational publishers has been published on Zenodo in PDF format (<https://zenodo.org/records/7915582>) and Excel format (<https://zenodo.org/records/8321076>). These 300 or so publishers have been

identified using data from on the ISSN portal (<https://portal.issn.org>). The International Centre is working with the National Centres on this list to determine their responsibility for assigning ISSNs to the publications of these publishers. The International Centre and its network make this list available to the community of publishers and librarians. It will be revised in 2025.

2.2.2 Activities within the framework of the International Standard Organisation

The Director of the International ISSN Centre's term of office as Chair of ISO Technical Committee 46 Information and Documentation ended in 2023. She continues to participate in the annual plenary meetings of the Technical Committee and in the work of the French national mirror committee.

2.2.3 International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA)

Within IFLA, the International ISSN Centre is represented on these committees:

- the Advisory Committee on Standards,
- the Preservation and Conservation Section (PRESCONS),
- the ISBD Revision Group,
- PRESS₀₀ Review Group.

In 2024, the annual World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) could not be held.

2.3 Sales, Marketing and Communications Department (VMC)

In 2024, the department's activities focused on the following:

- the renewal of current subscriptions in order to develop sales in line with the 2024 forecast budget;
- prospecting for new customers in Europe by publishing news and advertisements in various media;
- setting up marketing tools to optimise customer follow-up and prospecting. This work is done in collaboration with Reference DMD.

2.3.1 Sales

Total sales increased by 11%. The 2024 target was exceeded by + 5.6%.

Sales based on all portal subscriptions increased by 8.6%.

Sales of ISSN credits increased by 31.7%.

The main services billed in 2024 continue to be Portal subscriptions (60.3% of total revenues in 2024 compared with 57.72% in 2023) and the Full Data File (16.4% in 2024 compared with 17.81% in 2023).

Portal revenues increased in 2024 compared with 2023, as some customers increased the number of sessions or accesses to the ISSN portal. Subscription costs increased **by 2%** in 2024.

Sales of the complete data file have increased compared with the figures for 2023, but have fallen compared with 2022.

In 2024, sales of the OAI-PMH service increased by 20.6%.

As far as the ISSN API is concerned, 14 customers currently subscribe to the service. These customers are mainly university libraries and multinational publishers.

In 2024, customers subscribing to the International Centre's services are mainly based in North America and Europe.

The breakdown by type of customer has not changed in 2024 compared with 2023, with university libraries the most represented category.

2.3.2 Contributions from member countries

In 2024, contributions actually collected represented **95%** of the total amount called. In 2023, contributions represented **96%** of the total amount called. In 2024, the amount of contributions was increased by 2% following the decision voted by the General Assembly of member countries in 2022.

Two member countries paid their contributions for 2025 during 2024.

2.3.3 Communication and marketing activities

A consultancy mission carried out by Reference DMD began in December 2023 and continued into the first quarter of 2024. The diagnosis was carried out jointly with the department. The specialist consultant began work in September 2024.

The International Centre wanted to carry out an analysis of two aspects:

- Marketing and communication,
- Sales actions by identifying customers and prospects to convert into new customers.

This assignment aimed to improve the team's working methods, in particular by introducing monthly reporting to management, and to define a prospecting policy tailored to the organisation.

This assignment enabled us to define 4 "personas" towards which the International Centre will focus its communications:

- The publisher operating in a country without a national ISSN centre,
- The ISSN Portal client librarian,
- The inactive national centre,
- The commercial bibliographic services agency (intermediary).

The diagnosis carried out by Reference DMD highlights three main issues:

1. Target and personalise

- ⇒ **Draw up a precise action plan** for each sales target
- ⇒ **Developing offers** tailored to target groups and at the right price
- ⇒ **Define strategic KPIs** to monitor activity and the effectiveness of actions
- ⇒ **Building** and sharing management dashboards
- ⇒ **Test**

2. Convert and automate

- ⇒ **Understanding** the career paths of different target groups
- ⇒ **Improve efficiency** with tools that enable you to follow up prospects and automate these follow-ups
- ⇒ **Planning** the communication of the offer: sales pitches, promotion on the website, launch plan, etc.
- ⇒ **Capitalising** on strengths and brand awareness

3. Monitoring and steering

- ⇒ **Plan** realistically
- ⇒ **Monitor** the completion of tasks using appropriate tools
- ⇒ **Supporting** teams
- ⇒ **Set up governance** (bodies, tools, methodology, KPIs, etc.)

Until recently, the department made little use of digital tools to manage its sales, prospecting, customer care and marketing activities. In 2023, the VMC department subscribed to the Mailjet emailing tool. In 2024, the department subscribed to Swello in order to monitor the statistics of publications on social networks. At the same time, the team worked on its CRM (Customer Relationship Management) tool requirements. Brevo CRM was selected and the subscription started in January 2025. This tool will improve contact management and rationalise all communications with National Centres, partners, customers and prospects. In 2024, several emailing scenarios aimed at publishers, portal customers and prospective customers were developed. They will be tested in 2025.

The department has also decided take charge of distributing the International Centre newsletter via Mailjet in order to increase its visibility and use it as a promotional tool.

Communication actions were relatively limited this year, in order to work on planning new actions and initiating them as explained above.

Table 8: Communication actions towards ISSN customers and prospecting actions on Mailjet:

Title	Target	Date	Opening rate	Number of items	Click/open rate	No. of clicks
Prospecting for multinational publishers	Prospecting list	01/02/2024	30%	660	12%	22
Participation in the UKSG trade fair	Portal customers	26/02/2024	50%	694	19%	61
ISSN IC @ LIBER Conference	Portal customers	16/06/2024	49%	692	0%	0
Field 857 MARC21	Portal customers	01/08/2024	39%	30	10%	1
Renewals 2025	Portal customers	29/08/2024	54%	369	92%	162
ISSN IC @ Frankfurt Book Fair	Portal customers	10/10/2024	43%	140	0	0
Renewals 2025	Portal customers	22/10/2024	39%	251	41%	37
Offer for lost customers	Portal customers	22/10/2024	17%	131	76%	13
Follow-up on lost customers	Portal customers	06/11/2024	19,50%	130	62%	13
Renewals 2025	Portal customers	27/11/2024	30%	149	46%	18
Renewals 2025	Portal customers	12/12/2024	40%	173	53%	31
Greeting card	Portal customers	18/12/2024	46%	689	19%	54

In 2024, the International Centre sent 31 communications to members of the ISSN network. Here is a summary of these actions.

Table 9: Communications to the ISSN network on Mailjet

Title	Date	Opening rate	Number of items	Click/open rate	No. of clicks
Portal statistics for 2023	01/02/2024	30%	140	48%	67
Portrait CN Philippines	02/02/2024	32%	530	43%	65
ISSN Network's Regular Meetings	21/02/2024	38%	530	30%	54
Election of the Governing Board	18/04/2024	36%	556	23%	42
Candidate Argentina Governing Board	13/05/2024	32%	556	35%	57
Candidate Croatia Governing Board	14/05/2024	33%	556	31%	52
Candidate Belgium Governing Board	17/05/2024	30%	556	37%	53

Candidate China Governing Board	21/05/2024	31,6%	556	34%	53
CA 2024 photos	22/05/2024	28,6%	556	29%	54
Photos of the Board to participants	22/05/2024	60,0%	10	133%	8
Candidate Iran Governing Board	23/05/2024	31,0%	556	28%	43
Candidate Mauritius Governing Board	27/05/2024	30,7%	556	29%	45
Candidate Namibia Governing Board	29/05/2024	29,5%	556	31%	48
Candidate Philippines Governing Board	31/05/2024	26,0%	556	30%	46
Candidate Tunisia Governing board	03/06/2024	26%	556	26%	36
Candidate Italy Governing Board	05/06/2024	31%	556	31%	46
Candidate USA Governing Board	06/06/2024	31%	556	32%	46
Candidate Bosnia Herzegovina Governing Board	10/06/2024	28%	556	28%	47
Press release new CN EAU	11/06/2024	30%	556	30%	58
Candidate Brazil Governing Board	12/06/2024	28%	556	28%	47
Candidate Egypt Governing Board	14/06/2024	31%	556	31%	48
Candidate Germany Governing Board	20/06/2024	29%	556	29%	48
Candidate Sweden Governing Board	24/06/2024	31%	556	31%	50
New Governing Board elected 2024-2026	10/07/2024	65%	556	65%	147
2023 Activity Report	29/07/2024	59%	556	59%	109
Portrait CN Iran	29/10/2024	36%	556	32%	57
Press release new CN Oman	06/11/2024	36,50%	556	31%	56
Greeting card	18/12/2024	41%	583	30%	65

In 2024, **37 articles** were published on the International Centre's social networks and **23 news items** were published on the institutional website.

Table 10: News published on the International Centre's corporate website and on social media

Social network	Number of subscribers
X	1 455
Facebook	3 600
LinkedIn	534

In 2025, one of the International Centre's objectives will be to expand its network on LinkedIn.

Table 11: Details of articles and other information published in 2024

Title	Medium	Target	Date
News on ISBD standard	website + social networks	all audiences	24/04/2024
Article in Scholarly	website + social networks	all audiences	24/04/2024
Thanks UKSG	website + social networks	all audiences	19/04/2024
Latindex evolution of services	website + social networks	all audiences	19/04/2024
Announcement of preparatory meetings for the 2024 General Meeting	website	all audiences	02/05/2024
PID Festival in Prague	website + social networks	all audiences	23/05/2024
ABES News	website + social networks	all audiences	23/05/2024
CA 2024 photos	Social networks	all audiences	22/05/2024
Newsletter	Social networks	all audiences	24/05/2024
Portrait CN Japan	Social networks	all audiences	24/05/2024
BiblioCon	website + social networks	all audiences	03/06/2024
Mirabel Day	website + social networks	all audiences	24/05/2024
Summary of the activity report for 2023	website + social networks	all audiences	15/07/2024
Portrait CN China	Social networks	all audiences	04/06/2024
New CN EAU	website + social networks	all audiences	11/06/2024
LIBER trade fair	website	all audiences	01/07/2024
LIBER trade fair	Social networks	all audiences	01/07/2024
News CN Colombia	website	all audiences	01/07/2024
News CN Colombia	Social networks	all audiences	01/07/2024
News CN Colombia video link	Social networks	all audiences	09/07/2024
News CN Colombia video link	website	all audiences	09/07/2024
ENG Activity Report	Social networks	all audiences	11/07/2024
FRE Activity Report	Social networks	all audiences	12/07/2024
RUS Activity Report	Social networks	all audiences	15/07/2024
ARA Activity Report	Social networks	all audiences	17/07/2024
CHN Activity Report	Social networks	all audiences	18/07/2024
SPA Activity Report	Social networks	all audiences	01/08/2024
Newsletter	Social networks	all audiences	23/07/2024
Full activity report	Social networks	all audiences	29/07/2024
Full activity report	website	all audiences	29/07/2024
List of members of the new Governing Board	Social networks	all audiences	19/08/2024
ISSN IC @IBICT 2024	Social networks	all audiences	03/09/2024
ISSN IC @IBICT 2024	website	all audiences	03/09/2024
ISSN IC @ Latindex	Social networks	all audiences	09/09/2024
ISSN IC @ Latindex	website	all audiences	09/09/2024

ISSN IC @ Ipres	Social networks	all audiences	16/09/2024
ISSN IC @ Ipres	website	all audiences	16/09/2024
Newsletter	Social networks	all audiences	19/09/2024
ISSN IC @ ISBN General Assembly	Social networks	all audiences	23/10/2024
ISSN IC @ ISBN General Assembly	Website	all audiences	23/10/2024
ISSN IC @ Frankfurt Book Fair	Website + social networks	all audiences	10/10/2024
Director's article in Research Info	Social networks	all audiences	15/10/2024
Director's article in Research Info	website	all audiences	15/10/2024
News Charleston Library Conference	Social networks	all audiences	06/11/2024
News Charleston Library Conference	website	all audiences	06/11/2024
New CN OMAN	Social networks	all audiences	06/11/2024
Greeting card	Social networks	subscribers	18/12/2024

▪ Newsletter

In January 2025, the International Centre newsletter had **17,396 subscribers**. The average monthly growth rate is 71 subscribers.

In 2025, the department will check the validity of existing e-mail addresses in order to retain those that are effectively operational and rationalise the distribution of the newsletter.

▪ Participation in professional events

The department took part in three professional events:

- **UKSG 46th Annual Conference and Exhibition, April 8-10, 2023, Glasgow, United Kingdom** <https://www.uksg.org/events/conference24/>
- **LIBER, 3-5 July 2024, Cyprus** (<https://libereurope.eu/event/libers-journees-2024/>): the ISSN International Centre took part in this exhibition for the first time due to the cancellation of IFLA WLIC 2024.
- **Frankfurt Book Fair, 16-17 October 2024, Frankfurt, Germany**, as delegates.

2.4 Information Systems Department

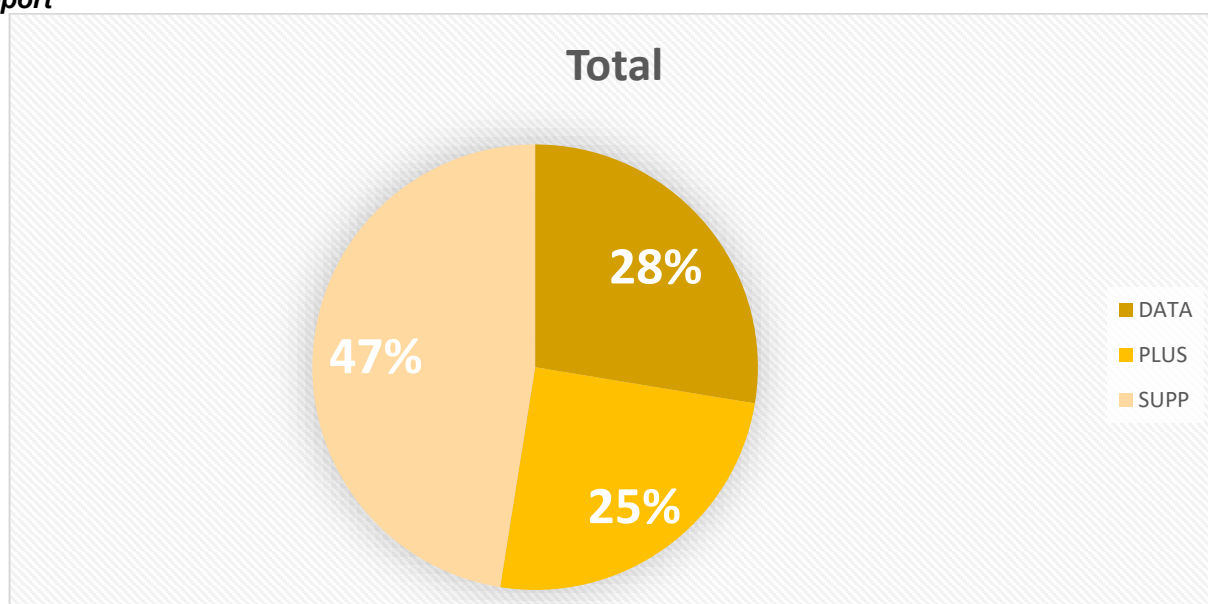
In 2024, the department continued to provide technical services to International Centre staff, the ISSN network and external customers and partners, including regular data exports.

In 2024, the IT team consists of the department manager, two junior developers, a project manager and a part-time IT consultant who reports to the director. The project manager is responsible for the practical coordination of teamwork and internal reporting activities. One junior developer is specifically responsible for the development and maintenance of scripts and processing tools, as well as coordination with the external service provider on infrastructure issues. The other junior developer is a member of the development team for ISSN+ and the new portal, which relies mainly on the contribution of our external service provider. Both developers provide ongoing support to the entire ISSN team.

For external developments (ISSN+ and the new ISSN portal), as was already the case in 2023, two senior developers from the company "Anybox", who had been working on the project since 2019, and a more recently hired junior developer, continued their work until the company went into liquidation at the end of the first half of the year. A long transition period of four months followed, until a new company "Waadoo" was able to rehire one of the two senior developers in September 2024 and offer a new contract including another developer. The new team, in a slightly different configuration to the previous one, has resumed work and is now in a position to once again meet the challenges of our project. However, these events explain why the project slowed down significantly during 2024. The "portal team" also includes the freelance web designer who was hired in 2023 to work on all the UX/UI specifications concerning the new site's logic, appearance and accessibility. She works closely with the developers.

As part of the new ISSN portal project, an independent business analyst was hired in 2023 to help redesign the public data disclosure tool and its various components; he left the organisation in early 2024 after completing most of his tasks.

Figure 12: Breakdown of IT activities between data storage, ISSN+ management and user support



2.4.1 ISSN+ and further developments

The IT department's main activity in 2024 focused on developments linked to the new portal. For this reason, there were fewer developments and improvements strictly related to ISSN Plus cataloguing than in previous years.

However, after its reorganisation, the team devoted its efforts to new developments linked to the automated management of the new "ISSN-H cluster", which are now almost complete.

In addition to this major feature, the following "strictly" ISSN+ elements were developed in 2024:

- A new validation rule has been added: if the main language code in 008 (positions 35-37) is "mul" for "several languages", there must be a field 041 with at least two distinct language codes in subfield \$a.

- The default simple searches can now extract records containing words submitted individually in different fields.
- Personalised search in Chinese has been added.
- The new automated subfields 022\$0 and 022\$1 for "Linked data URIs" have been added to ISSN records.
- New automated MARC 21 label (label 023) for ISSN groups (only for ISSN-L for the moment).
- Addition of a configurable virtual keyboard to help cataloguers with special characters, in particular for cataloguing in non-Roman characters.

In addition, numerous bugs have been fixed and small improvements made where necessary.

2.4.2 Development of the new ISSN portal

After starting work in 2023, the development of the new ISSN portal constituted the bulk of the IT department's activity in 2024.

It should be pointed out that as we are working on a unified technical stack, many developments to the portal (with the exception of those strictly linked to the design of the website itself) involve prior developments or adaptations to the ISSN Plus data management layer.

The developments linked to the new portal have now almost reached MVP (Minimum Viable Product) level as far as the basic bibliographic section is concerned. ISSN records can be searched, extracted, filtered and downloaded. It is also possible to export and display records in various formats, including Unimarc, MarcXML and Linked Data. The "search and retrieve" bibliographic module is operational, with a "full access" level reserved for logged-in users.

The authentication module (SSO) should be implemented in early 2025. It will provide transparent access to all ISSN services.

The components still to be developed are as follows:

- Management of requests for identification by publishers (creations, modifications, transfers of titles)
- API
- OAI-PMH API for data synchronisation
- Data explorer: display data aggregations for editors, statistics, etc.
- "Institutional pages (to replace and integrate the current institutional website www.issn.org)
- Sales and marketing tools.

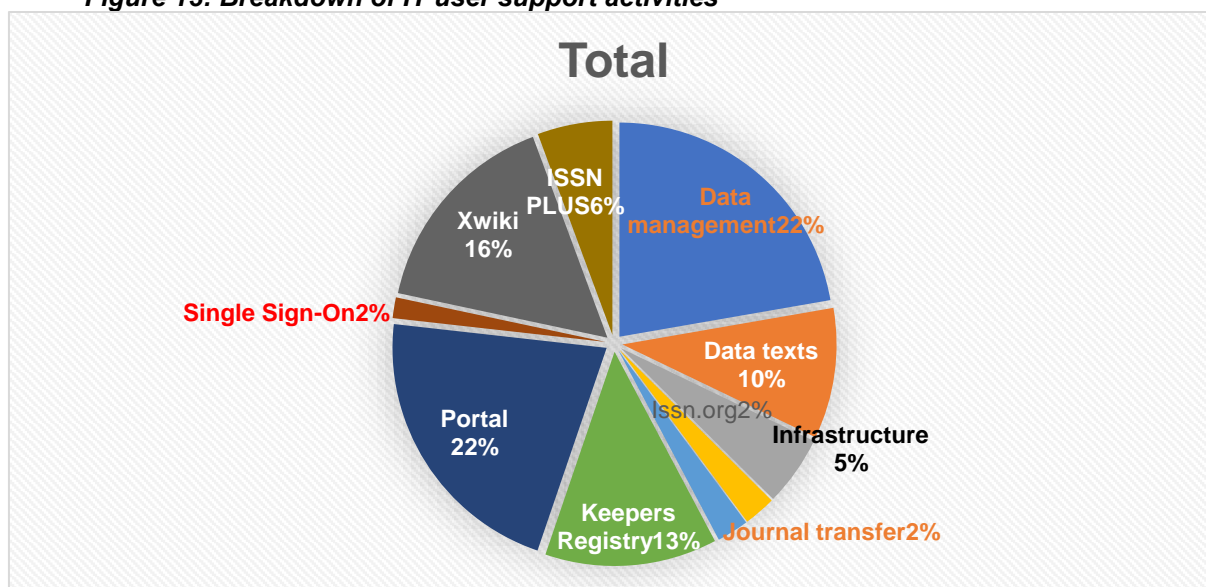
2.4.3 In-house technical support

It should be emphasised that a large part of the activity is devoted to supporting actions triggered by requests from other departments at the International Centre, as well as from external users or partners.

These activities are very varied and can be linked to maintenance or specific improvement projects:

- New external sources (or Keepers Registry agencies) to be processed regularly on an automated basis
- Minor or major improvements to existing scripts or series of scripts
- Debugging or maintenance operations for existing tools (in particular the current ISSN portal)
- Extraction of data or production of statistics for specific needs
- Mass data retention activities
- Development and maintenance of specific ad hoc tools
- Drafting documentation
- Operation of the "ISSN Bot", which automatically adds ISSN-authenticated data to Wikidata.

Figure 13: Breakdown of IT user support activities



2.4.4 External technical support

The contract with Normaprint, which since 2016 has been responsible for monitoring and managing the infrastructure and security of the International Centre's local IT systems, as well as the externally hosted production servers for our various tools, has been extended. Normaprint provides regular checks and support, and no downtime was reported for internal services in 2024.

The following points received particular attention during this period:

- Improving the performance of public applications by replacing a production infrastructure server (ISSN Plus and Portal).
- Reinforcement of anti-intrusion, anti-virus and surveillance systems.
- Introduction of ISO 27001-type documentation.

2.4.5 Deployment of IT tools

The International Centre uses the following tools to facilitate its day-to-day processes and improve efficiency.

- **Gitlab**

Applications, services and scripts (including the ISSN portal, ISSN+, etc.) are managed in a common "Gitlab" account. This also means that a "code of good practice" has been established concerning the procedure to follow when a change needs to be made to a piece of code.

- **Freescout**

The external ticketing service (Freescout) has been extended, some inboxes have been merged and workflows have been reorganised. Thanks to this application, International Centre staff can now share and process all requests submitted by National Centres and other partners in a completely transparent way. It also allows better monitoring of pending issues and improves cooperation between staff members.

- **Jira**

Jira, a cloud-based system and free solution, is the main tool used to manage and plan team workloads.

- **Xwiki**

This tool is used to host four different services (as specific "Wikis"):

- identifying multinational publishers with National Centres,
- ISSN Manual,
- ISSN Plus help pages,
- Tools and documents", a wiki created in 2024 to manage various documents and resources, both internal and external, including, for example, training videos for the ISSN network.

Thanks to our cooperation with Xwiki, we have introduced a simplified automatic translation module linked to the Deep-L API, making it easier to manage versions in other languages. A script has been added internally to trigger translations when a page has been modified in the source language (English). Other scripts have been added to automatically generate PDF versions of the ISSN manual in the various languages, based on LaTeX, in order to guarantee high-quality production. Development has also been requested from Xwiki in order to better manage the complete expansion/reduction of the table of contents of the ISSN Manual.

- **Weblate**

This application, initially set up to manage multilingual translations of the ISSN+ software interface, was eventually deemed inadequate and replaced by scripts that regularly generate Excel files, which are used by the translators and sent back to Git once completed.

- **Mailjet**

The International Centre team regularly uses this service to manage mass e-mailings to our partners and contacts.

Conclusion

The International Centre continues to improve its processes for producing and distributing metadata, constantly adapting to the demands of National Centres, our partners and subscribers. Our team is available to provide advice and training.

The member countries of the ISSN network have largely approved our proposed strategic plan for 2029. In 2025, we will launch actions in the field of data processing using artificial intelligence and simplified access to the various services of the International Centre by bringing them together on a single information portal.

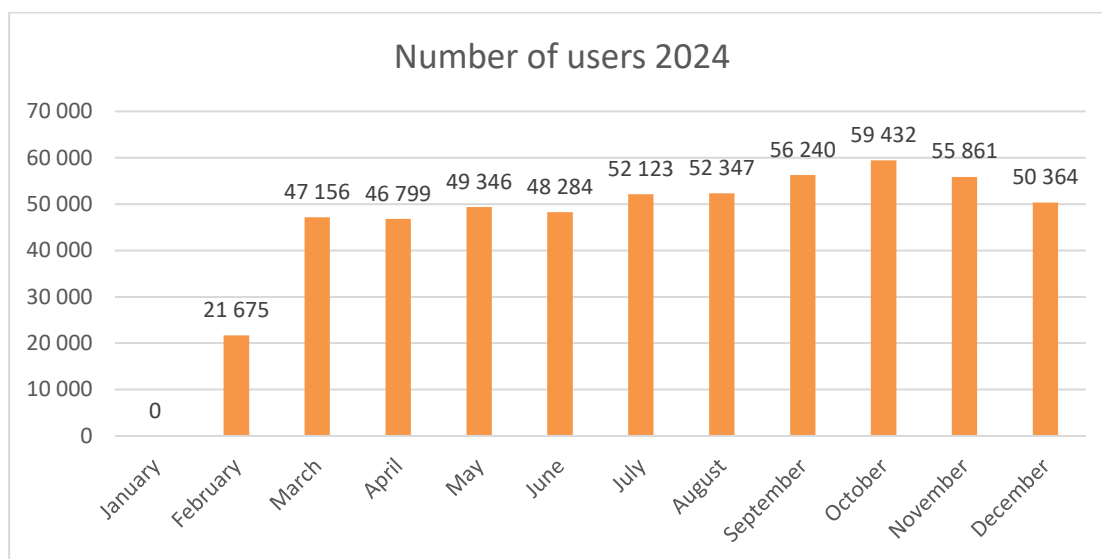
In 2025, the Centre International will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary with the creation of a dedicated website (<https://50years.issn.org>) and a timeline tracing the major stages in its development and the dates on which the National Centres were founded. The meeting of the directors of the National Centres will be held at the Bibliothèque nationale de France - National Library of France in October 2025. An international conference will be held on the subject of identifying and archiving serial publications. This event will mobilise the entire International Centre team and the ISSN network, who will work together to make it a success.

APPENDICES

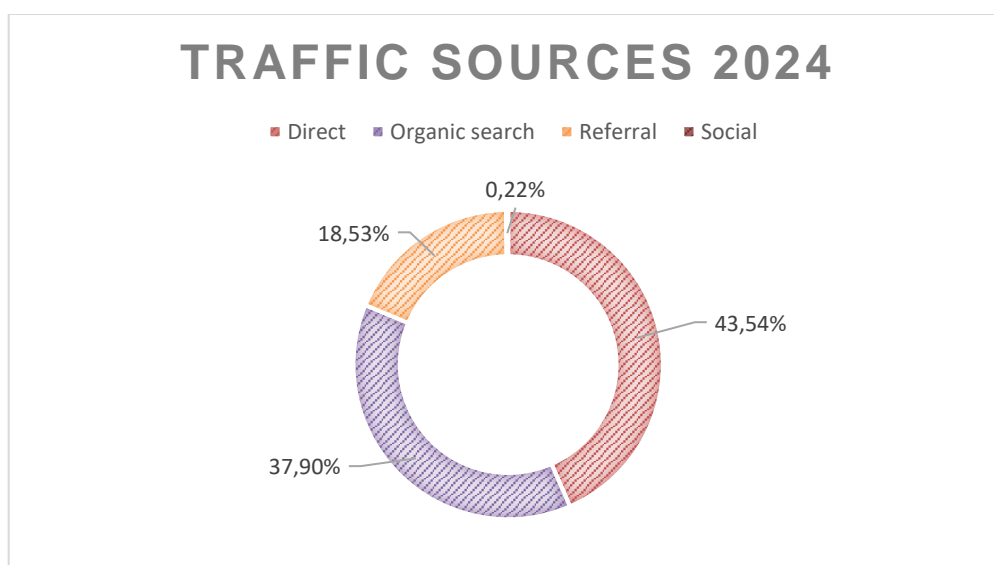
Statistics on the use of the ISSN institutional website and ISSN portal in 2024

1/ Consultation of the corporate website (<https://www.issn.org>)

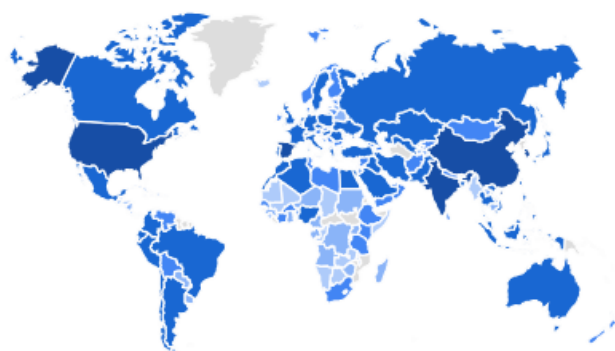
539,627 users were counted in 2024, a stable figure compared with 2023. The figure for January 2024 is not available due to a technical problem.



Users consult the corporate site mainly by entering the URL address or through search engines. A tiny minority access it via social networks.



These users are mainly located in China and India.



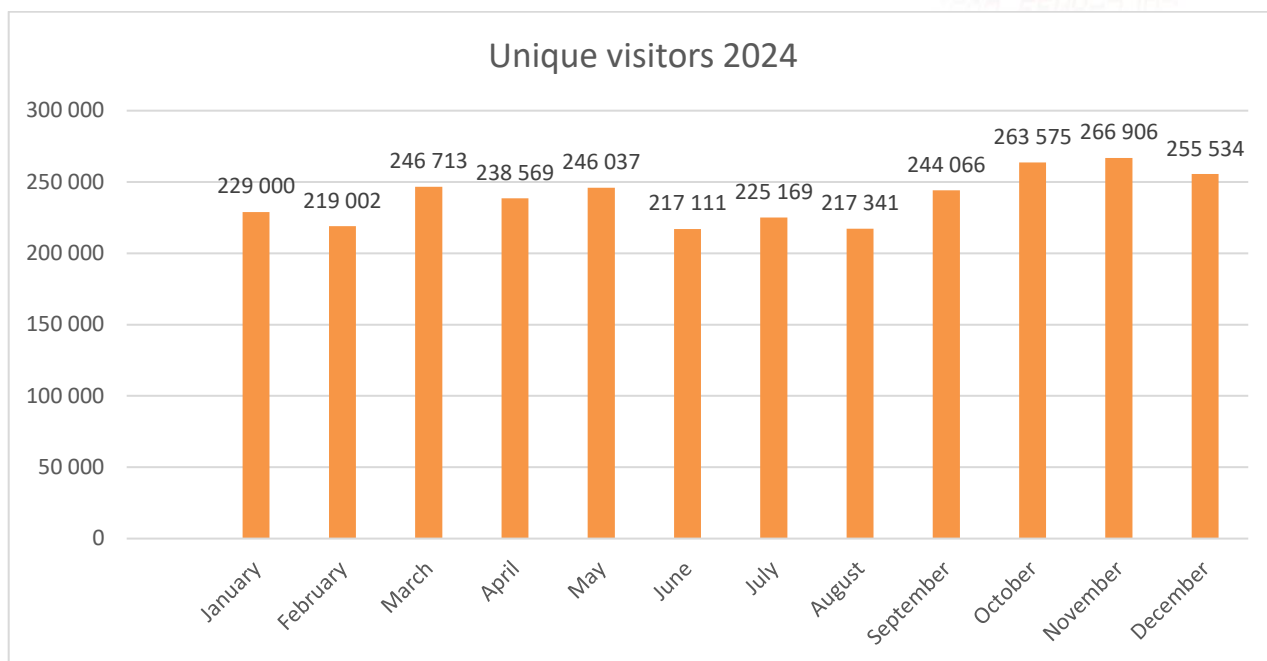
PAYS	UTILISATEUR...
China	2,1 k ↑1,9 %
India	1,4 k ↑6,1 %
United States	774 ↑14,5 %
South Korea	607 ↑17,6 %
Spain	484 ↑116,...
Indonesia	432 ↑21,7 %
Brazil	423 ↑40,5 %

Table 1 - Breakdown of visits to the corporate website by the 10 most active countries in 2024

Country	Percentage of total visits
China	18,86%
India	9,65%
United States of	9,05%
Spain	3,94%
Mexico	3,79%
Brazil	3,50%
France	3,28%
South Korea	2,93%
Indonesia	2,49%
Germany	2,04%

2/ Consultation of the data portal (<https://portal.issn.org>)

In 2024, **2,869,023 consultations** (-20% compared with 2023) were recorded on the ISSN portal.



Users are located mainly in the **United States** (13.5%), **India** (11.7%), **Indonesia** and **Brazil** (5.4%).

Table 2 - Breakdown of visits to the ISSN portal by country in 2024











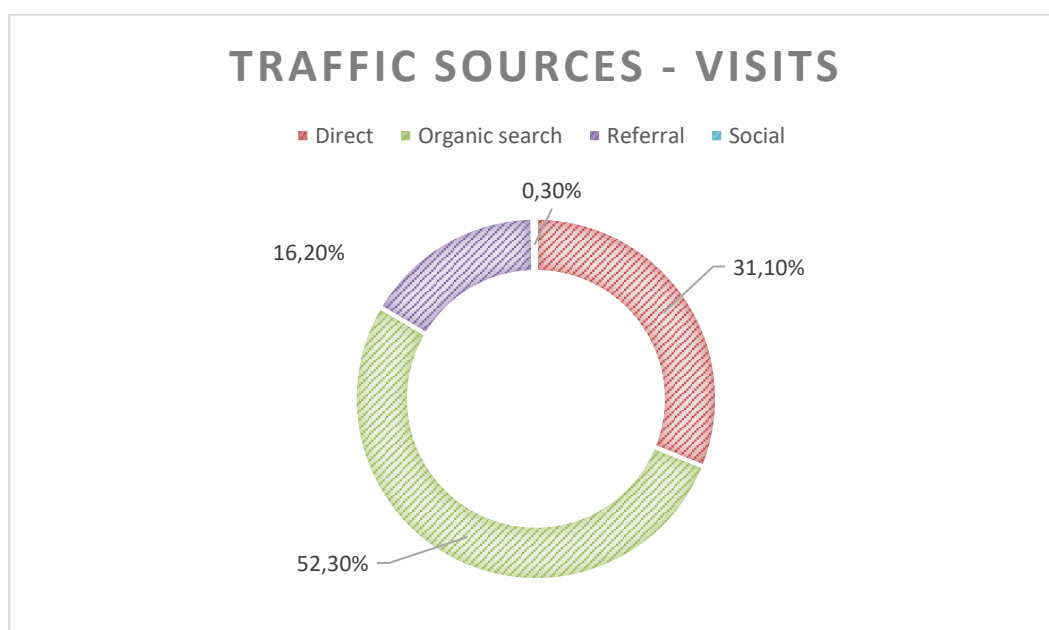
PAYS	VISITES
 États-Unis	13,5 % 552 300
 Inde	11,7 % 478 830
 Indonésie	5,4 % 221 621
 Brésil	5,4 % 220 293
 Chine	4,5 % 184 773
 France	3,3 % 133 975
 Royaume-Uni	3,1 % 128 602
 Espagne	2,9 % 118 174
 Russie	2,4 % 99 126
 Turquie	2,2 % 90 656

Figure 2 - Breakdown of visits to the ISSN portal by region in 2024

CONTINENT	▼ VISITES
Asie	37,6 % 1 542 697
Europe	29,5 % 1 208 120
Amérique du Nord	16,9 % 694 592
Amérique du Sud	9,5 % 387 839
Afrique	4,7 % 194 775
Océanie	1 % 39 215
Amérique centrale	0,7 % 27 059

As the graph below shows, search engines are the main route for users to access the ISSN portal, direct entries the second and websites the third.

Figure 3- ISSN portal acquisitions in 2024



Below is a list of the main websites from which users can access the ISSN portal:

SITE WEB	▼ VISITES
⊕ doaj.org	10,4 % 68 905
⊕ www.issn.org	4,2 % 27 882
⊕ catalogue.bnf.fr	3,5 % 23 268
⊕ road.issn.org	3,1 % 20 536
⊕ eurekamag.com	2,7 % 18 085
⊕ fr.m.wikipedia.org	2,6 % 17 349
⊕ portal.issn.org	2,5 % 16 776
⊕ fr.wikipedia.org	1,9 % 12 348
⊕ wos-journal.info	1,3 % 8 594
⊕ es.wikipedia.org	1,3 % 8 543