

2024 Activity Report. Executive Summary

As the ISSN International Centre prepares to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary in 2025, it is strengthening its global network, which now comprises 96 member countries. In 2024, the Centre welcomed the United Arab Emirates, Mongolia and the Sultanate of Oman as new members, and laid the groundwork for the launch of their National Centres in 2025. These additions affirm the Centre's commitment to multilateral cooperation and the sharing of best practices in managing bibliographic metadata.

Key figures (% change compared to 2023):

2 398 100 confirmed ISSN records
(+2%)

395 206 ISSN records describing online
resources (+6%)

61 316 OA titles indexed in ROAD (- 4%)

ISSN Network Governance and Operations

The 25th General Assembly was held remotely in June 2024. The 2025–2029 strategic plan was adopted, and a new Governing Board was elected. In October 2024, the 49th Meeting of ISSN National Centre Directors was held in Tunis, hosted by the National Library of Tunisia. The meeting saw strong international participation, with workshops focusing on metadata quality.

Strategic Progress and IT Modernization

2024 saw the successful conclusion of the 2020–2024 strategic plan. Notable achievements included creating a new cluster ISSN, i.e. ISSN-H, expanding the Keepers Registry and implementing new definitions for continuing resources in MARC21 and UNIMARC. The ISSN+ production tool was widely adopted by national centres, and work on overhauling the infrastructure of the ISSN Portal continued.

ISSN Data

By the end of 2024, the portal contained 2,398,100 confirmed ISSNs — a 2% increase on 2023. Over 53,000 new ISSNs were added, and more than 44,000 metadata errors were corrected. Enhancements included more granular categorisation of resources and the use of a new data field to record persistent and archival URLs.

Data Quality and Collaborations

The International Centre stepped up its quality assurance initiatives, correcting tens of thousands of records and improving the accuracy of URLs. Partnerships with organisations such as Mir@bel, DOAJ and Ex Libris facilitated metadata enrichment and error correction.

Services to Publishers and Workflow Integration

A total of 3,140 ISSN applications were processed by the International Centre in 2024, with the highest volume coming from publishers in Hong Kong S.A.R., Pakistan, and international organisations. A new memorandum of understanding with Springer Nature formalised the centralised process of assigning both provisional and confirmed ISSNs to their publications.

Development of ROAD and Keepers Registry

The Directory of Open Access Scholarly Resources (ROAD) now references over 61,000 open access titles. Improvements in data indexing and clean-up have enhanced its alignment with platforms such as DOAJ. The Keepers Registry has expanded to include 20 archiving agencies, thereby confirming its role in the preservation process of continuing resources.

Sales

Sales increased by 11% in 2024, surpassing budget projections by 5.6%. Portal subscriptions remained the primary source of revenue, accounting for 60.3% of total income. Meanwhile, sales of ISSN credits rose by 31.7%, and sales of the OAI-PMH service increased by 20.6%. The geographic distribution of customers remained stable, with the majority based in North America and Europe, and the largest client group being academic libraries.

Communications and Outreach

In 2024, marketing efforts emphasised CRM adoption, email campaigns and targeted messaging for publishers and librarians. The Centre actively engaged with professional conferences such as UKSG, LIBER and the Frankfurt Book Fair, while also expanding its digital presence through its newsletter and its social media.

Technical and IT Developments

Despite the delays caused by the change of service provider, progress has been made on the development of the new ISSN Portal. New functionalities were added to ISSN+, including support for non-Roman characters and enhanced handling of MARC fields.

Conclusion

The ISSN International Centre has achieved significant progress across a range of areas in 2024. With the launch of the new portal and anniversary celebrations planned for 2025, the Centre is well-placed to increase the visibility and interoperability of ISSN data worldwide.

All information and statistics are published in the full activity report available on the institutional website www.issn.org.

In 2024

318 790 new and updated records
by National Centres

2 960 ISSN assigned by the
International Centre

2 869 023 visits to the ISSN Portal