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PRESS RELEASE

As the Sole Agent Authorized to Grant This License in the UAE, The National Library and Archives Launches the Emirates ISSN Centre Service

As a strategic step to strengthen the national information infrastructure and develop publishing activities, the National Library and Archives, in cooperation with the International Centre for the Registration of Serial Publications (ISSN IC), is launching the Emirates ISSN Centre, which will serve as the official representative and exclusive agent of the International Centre in the UAE, effective from 21 October 2025.

The UAE International Standard Serial Number Centre assigns ISSN identifiers to periodicals published in the United Arab Emirates. ISSN is the ISO standard identifier for serial publications and other continuing resources such as periodicals, magazines, newsletters, newspapers, yearbooks, and series, published in print, digital, or any other media.

The Emirates Center includes them in the national bibliography in addition to the International Standard Serial Number portal (<https://portal.issn.org>), thereby contributing to the dissemination of intellectual output from Emirati periodicals, making them accessible from around the world, and increasing their distribution and circulation.

On the occasion of the launch of the UAE Centre, His Excellency Dr. Abdullah Majid Al Ali, Director General of the National Library and Archives, said: "This initiative is the culmination of collaborative efforts between the ISSN International Centre and the National Library and Archives, and aims to facilitate the registration of periodicals and serial publications in accordance with international standards and promote them internationally, thereby enhancing the cultural scene and the country's position as a centre of cultural influence."

His Excellency Dr. Abdullah Majid Al Ali also emphasized that this service is an important step towards preserving the nation's memory, as it is the identity of the periodical. This special identifier (ISSN) distinguishes the periodical from other publications, which enriches knowledge societies by ensuring the global dissemination of periodicals, thereby strengthening the knowledge economy and dialogue among civilizations.

His Excellency Dr. Abdullah Majid Al Ali added: "With the activation of the online portal for the service <https://www.nla.ae/en/national-library/uae-national-issn-centre/>, the National Library and Archives is fully prepared to receive requests from publishers and grant the standard identifier (ISSN) to Emirati periodicals with the aim of promoting the publishing industry."

Dr. Gaëlle Bequet, Director of the ISSN International Centre, commented: "Thanks to the high level of professionalism of the team at the National Library and Archives in Abu Dhabi and to open and constructive dialogue, our cooperation with our colleagues in the United Arab Emirates has been very satisfactory. I would like to commend the International Centre's trainers for supporting the new centre in producing quality identification metadata and setting up the IT process to ingest the data into the global ISSN portal. I am delighted that the UAE ISSN Centre is set to open in October 2025, which will strengthen the MENA region's position within our network."

About the National Library and Archives

The National Library and Archives was established in 1968 under the name the Documents and Research Bureau, following the directives of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, founder of the United Arab Emirates. Its mission was defined as collecting and preserving archives to enhance cultural and historical awareness. Accordingly, it houses a vast collection of historical materials documenting various aspects of life in the United Arab Emirates and the Arabian Gulf region since the 16th century. The National Library and Archives also undertakes the collection, preservation, and electronic storage of historical documents, in addition to safeguarding the nation's cultural heritage. It is a member of numerous international institutions and plays a distinguished role as a creator of cultural content. Under Federal Law No. 13 of 2021, the National Library has become part of its umbrella.

About the ISSN International Centre

Founded in Paris, France, in 1975, the ISSN International Centre is the global authority responsible for the assignment and management of International Standard Serial Numbers (ISSNs). It works with a network of National Centres to support the bibliographic control and dissemination of serial publications worldwide. The Centre manages the global database of serial publications (<https://portal.issn.org>).

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