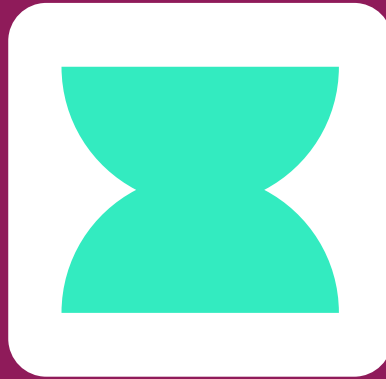


# 2025 Activity Report

ISSN International Centre



# Summary



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# Introduction



The year 2025 marked a particularly significant milestone for the International Centre, both through the celebration of its fiftieth anniversary and the significant progress made across all its strategic missions. This anniversary, organised in partnership with the French ISSN Centre and hosted by the Bibliothèque nationale de France, brought together the international ISSN community for a rich programme of events, demonstrating the vitality of the network and the strength of the cooperation established over the past half-century. This event also provided an opportunity to showcase the network's collective history via a dedicated website, whilst opening up prospects for its future development.

In a constant effort to ensure transparency and the sharing of experience within the network, this year's activity report includes a new section summarising the annual reports of the National Centres. This initiative highlights the diversity of national contexts, whilst emphasising the consistency of actions taken at international level to ensure the quality and reliability of ISSN data. It also reflects the leading role of the National Centres in identifying serial resources and in coordinating a constantly evolving network.

Improving data quality remains a key priority for the International Centre. In 2025, sustained efforts were devoted to correcting errors in the ISSN database and harmonising metadata, with a significant volume of records reviewed, corrected and enriched. These actions directly contribute to strengthening the reliability of the ISSN portal and increasing its value for users, whether they are librarians, publishers or institutional partners. They form part of a comprehensive approach to optimising data production and dissemination processes.

At the same time, the International Centre has continued its efforts in the areas of business development and marketing. The actions undertaken have not only enabled a more structured approach to prospecting and customer retention, but have also allowed us to meet, and even exceed, the financial targets set for 2025. The gradual digitisation of the marketing function, through the roll-out of tools dedicated to customer tracking and campaign automation, represents a major step forward in this regard, contributing to greater operational efficiency and strengthened customer relations.

On the technological front, 2025 was marked by decisive progress in the development of the new ISSN portal. Following several design and testing phases, a basic version (MVP) of the portal went live in February 2026, offering unified and modernised access to our services and data. This new portal is a key driver for improving the user experience, enhancing the visibility of services and furthering the International Centre's digital transformation.

Finally, true to its commitment to innovation, the International Centre has embarked on an in-depth review of the potential of artificial intelligence as applied to its activities. A project has been launched to explore how these technologies can contribute to improving data production processes, particularly in terms of cataloguing support and quality control within the framework of the 2025–2029 action plan. This work opens up promising prospects for automating certain tasks, enhancing the quality of metadata and supporting the evolution of professional practices in a rapidly changing information environment.

The year 2025 therefore looks set to be a pivotal year for the consolidation of the International Centre and its network.

# The ISSN network



# 1. The expansion of the ISSN network

As of 1 January 2026, the ISSN network comprised 96 member states. The United Arab Emirates centre, located in Abu Dhabi, opened on 21 October 2025. Colleagues at the National Library of Mongolia have received training, and the Mongolian centre is scheduled to open in April 2026. As for the Omani centre, it will be launched once the necessary training has been scheduled during 2026.

## 2. The activities of the ISSN network

### 2.1. Governance

The 26th plenary meeting of the General Assembly of the International Centre was held remotely on Wednesday 19 February 2025. It was devoted to the presentation of draft amendments to the CIEPS Statutes and the new Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly. As the quorum was not reached during this online plenary session, two remote votes were held in March 2025.

The texts of the CIEPS Statutes and the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly put to the vote were adopted by the member countries. The quorum was reached as 60 member states took part in the votes. The amended Statutes and Rules of Procedure each received 56 votes in favour and 0 votes against, with 4 member states abstaining.

The new CIEPS Statutes and the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly came into force in March 2025.

Three meetings of the Governing Board took place in 2025:

- The 102nd meeting was held on 14 March 2025 (remotely),
- The 103rd meeting on 28 April 2025 (remotely),
- The 104th meeting was held on 6 October 2025 (in person).

The Rules of Procedure of the Governing Board were amended in 2025. Remote votes were held in April and May 2025. The new Rules of Procedure of the Governing Board came into force on 19 May 2025.

## 2.2. Organisation of the annual meeting of directors and staff of the ISSN National Centres

The 50th meeting of ISSN directors took place from 6 to 10 October 2025 at the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF) in Paris. This week-long celebration of the network's 50th anniversary was organised by the International Centre and the French Centre, hosted by the BnF.

95 participants attended the event, including:

- 9 members of the International Centre's Governing Board;
- 60 delegates representing 40 National Centres;
- 5 staff members from the French ISSN Centre;
- 4 representatives from the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF);
- 19 members of staff and associates of the International Centre.

Preparations for the International Centre's fiftieth anniversary began in November 2024, with a visit to and booking of the venue at the Musée des Arts forains for the evening of 8 October 2025, as well as the booking of the caterer for the conference scheduled for 9 October 2025.

In May and June 2025, bookings were made for the caterer for the entire seminar week and for hotel rooms for the scholarship recipients. A supplier was also contacted to provide a photo booth for the evening of 8 October. The International Centre team made several visits to the BnF to plan these events.

In September 2025, the venue for the cocktail reception on 9 October was booked at Café Oz on the south bank of the Seine. A further visit to the venue at the Musée des Arts Forains for the evening event was carried out with the venue manager. In early October 2025, a meeting was held at the BnF with staff from the International Centre and members of ISSN France to finalise the organisational details.

In March 2025, the International Centre sent out invitations for the 50th Directors' Meeting to members of the ISSN network, as well as the first personal invitations requested by colleagues from the National Centres.

In total, 30 centres submitted requests for personal invitations, for between one and four people depending on the case, notably to justify this trip to France to the host institutions or to facilitate visa applications. For participants from five countries facing specific difficulties, letters were sent to the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs or to the French Embassy in the country concerned.

At the end of the week, certificates of participation were presented to each national centre represented. Official certificates of attendance were also sent to participants who requested them.

The International Centre had set aside a budget to provide financial support to certain National Centres, to enable a representative from each selected centre to travel to and stay in Paris. Twenty grants were initially planned. Six colleagues declined the grant offer for financial or institutional reasons. In total, twenty-two people were therefore offered a grant. Sixteen colleagues accepted the offer and fifteen grant holders ultimately made the trip to Paris.

The grant recipients submitted a confirmation of acceptance, which had to be signed by their institution. Upon arrival, the fifteen grant recipients present signed a document acknowledging receipt of their grants.

Throughout 2025, the ISSN International Centre had the opportunity to share a wealth of information on social media and on its institutional website regarding the celebration of its fiftieth anniversary.

From the start of 2025, the National Centres were invited to write a piece recounting the history of their centre or institution. Fifty-three accounts were shared, constituting the majority of this year's publications:

- 83 social media posts (LinkedIn, Facebook and X) related to the event;
- 55 posts linked to the 50th anniversary website (2 posts promoting the site and 53 stories);
- 14 posts related to the conference held on 9 October 2025;
- 6 news items on the institutional website;
- 4 articles on various themes to celebrate the 50th anniversary, published in French by the Bulletin des Bibliothèques de France, the leading French journal for library science, and in English on the International Centre's institutional website;
- 5 publications directly relating to activities during the 50th anniversary week (review and acknowledgements, presentations by the National Centres, conference, evening event).

The reports from the National Centres are hosted on a website dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the ISSN network (<https://50years.issn.org/>). This site also contains customer testimonials about the International Centre's services, as well as information and the registration link for the conference. On the homepage, a timeline is displayed featuring key dates in the history of the International Centre.

There were a total of 11,282 visits to this site (an average of 1.23 visits per unique visitor) and 59,347 page views (an average of 5.26 pages viewed per visit).

## 3. Summary of the ISSN National Centres' activity reports

In 2025, 72 National Centres (compared with 74 in 2024) submitted their annual reports to the International Centre. The submission of an annual report is an obligation for National Centres under the agreement signed between them and the International Centre. By the end of 2025, 58 centres had signed the updated version of the working agreement.

In 2025, the National Centres continued to play a central role in identifying serial publications, ensuring the quality of metadata and promoting the use of the ISSN worldwide. The reports reflect a dynamic year marked by institutional developments, technological modernisation, digitisation initiatives, and sustained outreach to publishers and information professionals.

Across the network, the Centres collectively processed thousands of ISSN applications and submitted a large number of bibliographic records to the International Centre. Several centres reported a particularly high level of activity, notably Belgium (538 ISSN assignments), Brazil (701), Canada (568), Colombia (569), the United States of America (4,457), France (7,428) and Switzerland (412). Other countries with a smaller publishing sector nevertheless maintained a steady level of activity, such as Armenia (16 assignments), Costa Rica (17) and Bahrain (3), which demonstrates the global reach and diversity of the ISSN network.

### 3.1. Institutional developments and organisational changes

Several National Centres reported institutional or organisational changes during the year. Changes in leadership took place in a number of countries, notably Costa Rica, Peru, Poland, the United Kingdom and Senegal. These changes generally reflected routine administrative rotations and did not disrupt the continuity of services.

Some centres also underwent more significant structural reorganisations within their host institutions. In Romania, the ISSN Centre was integrated into a newly created national editorial identification structure. In Switzerland, the Centre was integrated into the serial publications department of the Swiss National Library. In New Zealand, a major institutional restructuring followed the merger of the National Library and the National Archives of New Zealand.

Developments regarding infrastructure have also been reported. Estonia has undertaken the renovation and relocation of the National Library, whilst Mauritius has reorganised the services responsible for ISSN-related activities.

## 3.2. Technological modernisation

A major trend in 2025 was the ongoing modernisation of the cataloguing systems and workflows implemented by National Centres. Several institutions migrated to new library management systems or improved interoperability with the ISSN portal.

Spain completed its migration to the ALMA library management platform in July 2024, whilst Croatia was preparing a similar transition from ALEPH to ALMA, scheduled for late 2025. Morocco reported the migration of its system from Sierra to Koha.

In the United States of America, the Library of Congress has implemented a new library-wide automated system using the FOLIO platform for acquisitions and bibliographic processing. Whilst ISSN-related activities continue to rely primarily on OCLC Connexion, the transition to the new system opens up prospects for future integration of ISSN data.

Other centres have focused on strengthening interoperability between national catalogues and the ISSN Register. Germany has integrated ISSN processing directly into the workflow of the German National Library (DNB) and has established data exchange using OAI-PMH protocols. Norway has improved data quality checks within ALMA and optimised the export of bibliographic data.

Several countries have also developed new digital services for publishers. Brazil has launched electronic application forms as part of a wider digital transformation project aimed at simplifying the submission of ISSN applications. Lithuania has introduced an online form integrated into the national library system LIBIS, whilst Uzbekistan has set up an electronic platform integrating ISSN applications into the national e-government portal.

## 3.3. Digitisation and retrospective ISSN assignment

The identification and cataloguing of digitised serial publications continued to be a key area of activity for many centres. As national libraries digitise their historical collections, the retrospective assignment of ISSNs ensures that these publications are correctly identified and searchable.

Finland reported on a major initiative planned for 2025–2026 to assign ISSNs to digitised journals. Luxembourg has successfully completed a retrospective project resulting in the assignment of 185 ISSNs to previously unidentified serial publications. Romania and Iran also reported on initiatives to assign ISSNs to historical or older serial titles.

The US Centre continued its 'Openly Available Serials' project, proposing over 100 open-access serial titles each year for inclusion in the Library of Congress's web archiving programme. These titles, which are often available only online, are selected for indexing and long-term preservation.

### 3.4. Participation in the international governance of the ISSN and bibliographic standardisation

The National Centres continued to participate actively in the governance and professional activities of the ISSN network.

Italy served on the ISSN Executive Board for the 2024-2026 term, whilst several centres contributed to meetings and working groups organised by the International Centre. Hungary reported on its participation in the ISSN General Assembly and the Directors' Meeting, whilst Romania actively participated in the ISSN Working Group.

The United States of America contributed to work on international standards by participating in the MARC21 Advisory Committee, the National Information Standards Organisation (NISO) working groups on persistent identifiers, and standardisation committees related to serial publication cataloguing practices.

### 3.5. Promotion and awareness-raising activities

Promoting the use of the ISSN among publishers and information professionals remained a key priority for many Centres.

Nigeria organised webinars on the ISSN Manual and the ISNI identifier system, whilst Tanzania promoted ISSN services at the national SABASABA fair. In the Seychelles, awareness-raising activities were organised as part of the book fair, and Namibia carried out targeted awareness-raising initiatives aimed at public publishers.

The US Centre participated in major professional events, including the American Library Association conference and the NASIG conference, offering sessions on the history and future of the ISSN network to mark its 50th anniversary.

### 3.6. Challenges and specific situations

Despite these positive developments, some National Centres have faced operational difficulties.

In the United Kingdom, the repercussions of the cyberattack that hit the British Library in 2023 were still being felt in 2025. It should be noted that the UK ISSN Centre used ISSN+ for its bibliographic output whilst awaiting the implementation of a new library management system.

Other Centres reported constraints relating to staffing or funding. Canada reported staffing difficulties that necessitated a review of the service's priorities. Bosnia and Herzegovina also experienced financial instability affecting the national library but indicated that ISSN services were continuing without interruption.

The US Centre also reported ongoing difficulties related to disputes with publishers, the diversion of journals and bulk assignment requests.

Reports from the National Centres reveal several key trends within the ISSN network in 2025:

- the ongoing modernisation of cataloguing systems and workflows;
- increased development of digital platforms for ISSN assignment services;
- growing activity related to digitisation projects and the retrospective assignment of ISSNs;
- sustained participation in international initiatives on bibliographic governance and standardisation;
- expanded communication and relations with publishers and the wider information community.

# Progress report on the International Centre's Action Plan 2025–2029



The 2025–2029 Action Plan is the International Centre’s third strategic plan and builds on the achievements of the 2020–2024 period, notably the development of the ISSN+ cataloguing tool and the integration of the Keepers Registry service into the Centre’s service offering.

The development of this action plan involved several stages:

- A study of new decentralised identifiers, the possibilities offered by artificial intelligence, and options for improving the portal and ISSN services;
- The organisation of workshops and interviews with the International Centre’s staff to produce an initial draft strategy;
- An analysis of the International Centre’s marketing and sales activities by an external expert;
- Conducting interviews with sixteen partners to gather their feedback on this draft.

The summary of these steps, together with the contributions of the Keepers Registry Technical Advisory Committee, were taken into account to draw up a second version of the plan, which was discussed and finalised by the International Centre team before being approved at the 25th General Assembly of Member Countries held on 26 June 2024.

The aim of this action plan is to realise our vision for the International Centre and its network by 2030. This vision is as follows:

**A-** The ISSN network will comprise around 100 National Centres and the International Centre, all of which will collaborate in producing high-quality data for the ISSN database.

**B-** The International Centre will have consolidated the status of the ISSN Register as the comprehensive authority database for periodicals and continuing resources and will offer innovative services to a wider clientele.

**C-** Keepers Registry will become a metadata dissemination tool used in serial publication archiving efforts worldwide.

**D-** The ISSN will have strengthened its role as the leading global identification system for periodicals and continuing resources, in both print and digital formats. It will be linked to other relevant identification systems to facilitate the navigation, discovery and management of information.

The 2025–2029 Action Plan is based on four strategic priorities:

- Strategic expansion and strengthening of the ISSN network;
- Strengthening services for libraries and publishers;

- Promoting the preservation of serial publications worldwide;
- Ensuring the development of the ISSN-based identification system.

These priorities are detailed below, and four tables in the appendix set out the specific indicators showing the progress made for each priority.

## 1. PRIORITY AREA: Strategic expansion and strengthening of the ISSN network

This priority aims to continue the expansion of the network and improve its functioning, in particular by enhancing data quality, cohesion between National Centres and the efficiency of production processes. The aim is to consolidate the ISSN network's position as a global producer of reference data for serial publications.

### 1.1. Action Line A1 – Improving the quality and consistency of ISSN metadata produced by the network

The International Centre has set up a table of data to be corrected for each centre within the ISSN+ production tool. Centres received guidelines from 2022 onwards to amend records and thereby reduce the error rate.

The statistics show a clear decrease in the number of records containing errors (see below).

### 1.2. Action Line A2 – Strengthening the cohesion of the network

The International Centre aims to strengthen the cohesion of the network of National Centres through training, production control tools and the updating of the ISSN Manual, the translation and multilingual communication of which will be facilitated by the use of AI.

In 2025, the revision of the ISSN Manual was completed by the ISSN working group. The group continues to meet twice a month to refine the description of data creation and modification procedures, complete certain chapters, submit proposals for changes to the MARC21 and UNIMARC encoding formats, and respond to requests for improvements suggested by the network. The Manual, the reference version of which is written in English on a wiki available to the network, has been translated into Spanish, French and Russian using the DeepL application. The automatically translated French version is currently being proofread, whilst the Chinese and Greek Centres have decided to produce a version in their own languages.

In addition, a Network Facilitator post has been created with the aim of improving communication within the network.

### 1.3. Action Line A3 – Strengthening the ISSN allocation procedure

The International Centre will adapt the ISSN assignment procedure to include, in the records, links to the original documents provided by publishers to enable retrospective verification, with an adaptation of the ISSN+ tool and similar recommendations for National Centres not using this system. The necessary developments on ISSN+ have not yet begun in 2025.

### 1.4. Action Line A4 – Streamlining the production process

With the new IT infrastructure, the International Centre has introduced the ISSN+ cataloguing tool, adopted by around half of the National Centres, and will endeavour to create gateways between this system and the local tools used by the other centres.

In 2025, an API/SRU was developed for ISSN+ enabling National Centres to retrieve centrally produced data for integration into their own bibliographic databases. This new functionality must now be promoted within the network.

### 1.5. Action Line A5 – Network Expansion

The International Centre aims to expand the network of ISSN National Centres – currently numbering 96 – by planning to open three to five new centres by 2029.

In 2026, discussions were initiated with institutional representatives from Côte d'Ivoire and Timor-Leste. In the case of the latter country, UNESCO is already involved in the diplomatic accession process.

## 2. PRIORITY AREA B: Strengthening ISSN services for libraries and publishers

### 2.1. Action Line B1 – Consolidation of the service portfolio

The development of the new ISSN portal will be accompanied by the redesign of existing sites (ROAD, Keepers Registry, Transfer, institutional site) into a unified website bringing together all ISSN services, in order to provide a consistent presentation of free and paid services and to increase the visibility and use of the portal.

The portal was launched in an MVP version in February 2026. The services mentioned above are currently being integrated.

## 2.2. Action Line B2 – Targeted Marketing and Sales

Between 2025 and 2029, the International Centre will implement a marketing and sales plan aimed at expanding the customer base for ISSN services through more targeted communication, value propositions and actions tailored to each market segment, as well as the structuring of sales efforts.

The 2025 marketing plan has already borne fruit in terms of commercial results. This effort will continue in 2026.

## 2.3. Action Line B3 – Development of innovative services

The International Centre will examine several proposals for innovative services – notably the integration of identifiers for publishers, improvements to navigation and classifications on the ISSN portal, the addition of cover images and the creation of a ‘Journals Hub’ for university libraries – the value and feasibility of which will be assessed with users prior to any potential implementation.

Work on this area has not yet begun.

# 3. PRIORITY AREA C: Promoting the preservation of serial publications worldwide

## 3.1. Action Line C1 – Expansion of the Keepers Registry network

Following the successful expansion of the Keepers Registry network between 2020 and 2024, which now comprises 20 archiving agencies, the next strategic plan aims to expand it in a targeted manner by adding one or two agencies in regions with less coverage, such as Asia, Africa and South America.

In 2025, the Keepers Registry Technical Committee was renewed. The three archiving agencies represented on the committee are CLOCKSS, Rede Cariniana and Scholars Portal. The partners are the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), African Journals Online (AJOL), and the University of Texas. Two experts from Preserve Together and the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México complete the panel.

The twelfth meeting of the Keepers Registry Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was held online on 5 February 2026 and marked the start of a new two-year cycle for the committee. Twenty archiving agencies participate in the service, of which 18 are active, covering more than 100,000 archived serial titles. The application by the National Library of Sweden to join the network was reviewed and approved. The guidelines for the 2026–2029 development plan were discussed, notably the consolidation of the service, improved monitoring of preservation, and the expansion of APIs.

A statistical analysis revealed progress in archiving but also significant geographical imbalances. The regions of Asia, Africa and Latin America remain under-represented. The committee emphasised the importance of strengthening international cooperation, particularly with UNESCO.

### 3.2. Action Line C2 – Visibility of the Keepers Registry

The International Centre will seek to increase the visibility of the Keepers Registry's monitoring function by regularly disseminating statistics on preservation efforts and by developing partnerships with intermediary services to broaden the dissemination of this information. Communications are planned for 2026.

### 3.3. Action Line C3 – Archiving of scientific journals

As the archiving of scientific publications is essential for research, Keepers Registry is participating in the JASPER project, which aims to ensure the long-term preservation of open-access journals at risk of disappearing from the internet. Specific statistics on the archiving of scientific publications will be published. An indicator has been established to assess this archiving. By early 2026, it is estimated that 31% of the digital scientific journals listed in the registry will be archived.

### 3.4. Action Line C4 – Archiving Assessment Tool

The International Centre will study the feasibility of a tool to visualise the chronology and level of archiving of titles on the ISSN portal in order to help libraries assess the preservation status of their collections. The International Centre wishes to draw on the expertise of certain partners for this undertaking. Discussions are ongoing.

### 3.5. Action Line C5 – Development of the Keepers Community

The International Centre aims to transform the Keepers Registry network into an active community that promotes the exchange of information and the international coordination of efforts to preserve serial publications. A meeting of archiving agencies was held alongside the IPres conference in 2024. This initiative will be repeated at the IPres conference in 2026.

## 4. PRIORITY AREA D: Ensuring the development of the ISSN identification system

### 4.1. Action Line D1 – Roll-out of the ISSN-H

The ISSN-H grouping identifier, developed between 2020 and 2024, will be fully implemented between 2025 and 2029, with its availability – along with that of the ISSN-L – on the new ISSN portal, accompanied by promotional activities targeting the publishing and library sectors.

The ISSN-H has been fully deployed on ISSN+ and on the portal. Its promotion is due to begin in 2026.

### 4.2. Action Line D2 – Monitoring developments in serial resources

In response to the shift in publishing models for scientific journals towards digital and more dynamic formats, the International Centre will step up awareness-raising – via the National Centres – to ensure the assignment of ISSNs to new types of serial resources.

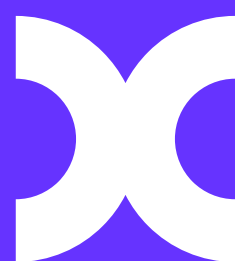
Specific codes have been introduced into the MARC21 cataloguing format used in the register. The ISSN Manual will be updated to provide processing guidelines to National Centres for podcasts, activity reports and fanzines.

### 4.3. Action Line D3 – Interoperability with international identifier systems

In light of the renewed interest in persistent identifiers and the shift towards decentralised identifiers and linked data models such as BIBFRAME, the International Centre will monitor these developments and collaborate with the MARC21 and UNIMARC bodies to ensure the evolution and interoperability of the ISSN standard.

The International Centre contributes to bibliographic standardisation by participating in working groups led by ISO and NISO. In particular, the Director of the International Centre chaired the metadata working group for the NISO RP-46-202X recommendation, the Collaborative Collections Lifecycle Infrastructure Project (CCLIP). This standard, due to be published in 2026, will document exchange protocols describing the collection, standardisation and exchange of information on library collections, contractual information relating to acquisitions, preservation obligations and usage data. It will describe the pooling of library staff skills, particularly their subject-matter expertise. Information on publishers and, more generally, on document acquisition markets will be provided to aid decision-making at local and inter-institutional levels.

# The activities of the ISSN International Centre



# 1. Metadata and Technical Coordination Service of the ISSN Network Department

## 1.1. Metadata production

By the end of 2025, the ISSN portal contained **2,442,601 confirmed ISSN**s.

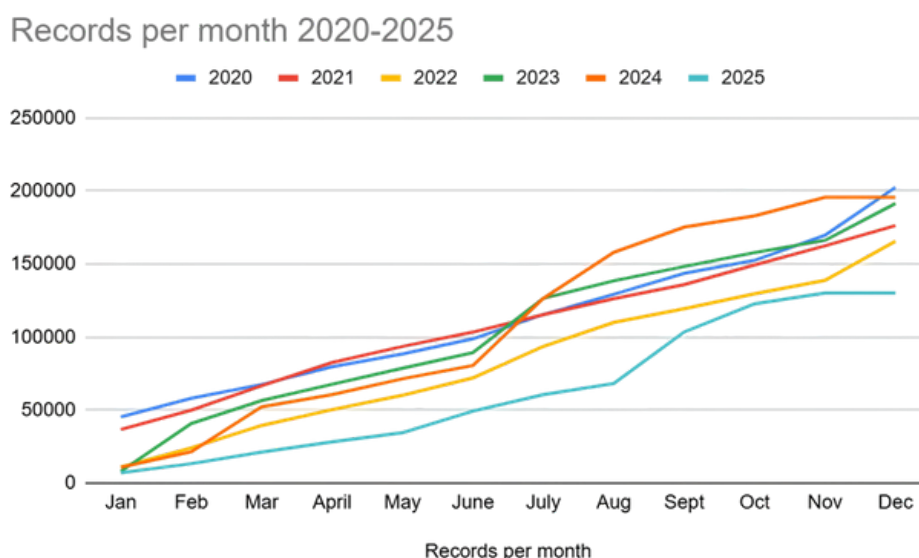
In total, **44,504 new ISSN**s were added in 2025. The production of ISSNs slowed down in 2025 for 60% of National Centres.

**Around 30 National Centres** submitted **130,143 new and updated records**, which were incorporated into the portal in 2025 (compared with 195,677 records in 2024 and 191,447 records in 2023).

**19,065** records were created directly in the ISSN+ production tool by 65 National Centres, representing approximately **42%** of the records. **123,113** records were modified directly in this same tool by 64 centres. It can therefore be concluded that the adoption of ISSN+ as a shared production tool has been a success.

**11,742 errors were corrected** by the service prior to importing the records received from the National Centres, representing a 74% decrease in the number of errors corrected compared to 2024. This decrease is due to the large number of records imported and therefore corrected in 2024. The records retrieved in this way were uploaded daily to the ISSN portal in order to improve the availability of data for both free and paid access.

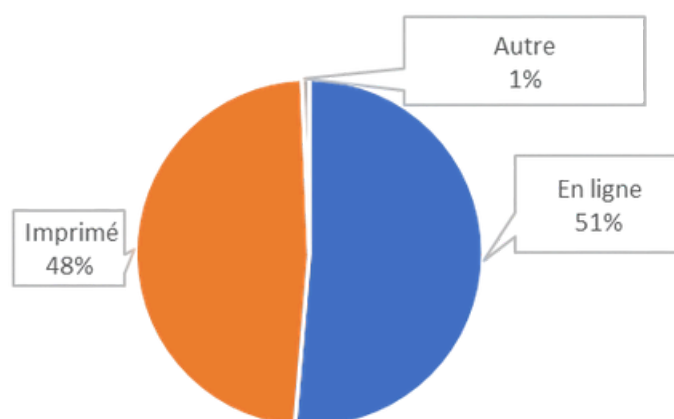
**Figure 1: Number of new and updated records imported into the ISSN portal, 2020–2025**



**22,951 new online resources** were identified in 2025 (compared with 22,831 in 2024), indicating a degree of stability. These new online resources accounted for **51%** of assignments in 2025.

Cumulatively, by January 2026, **418,100 online resources** (compared with **372,404** at the end of 2023) had been identified in the ISSN portal, representing 17% of the portal’s total records.

**Figure 2: Breakdown of ISSN records by medium**



## 1.2. Services to publishers

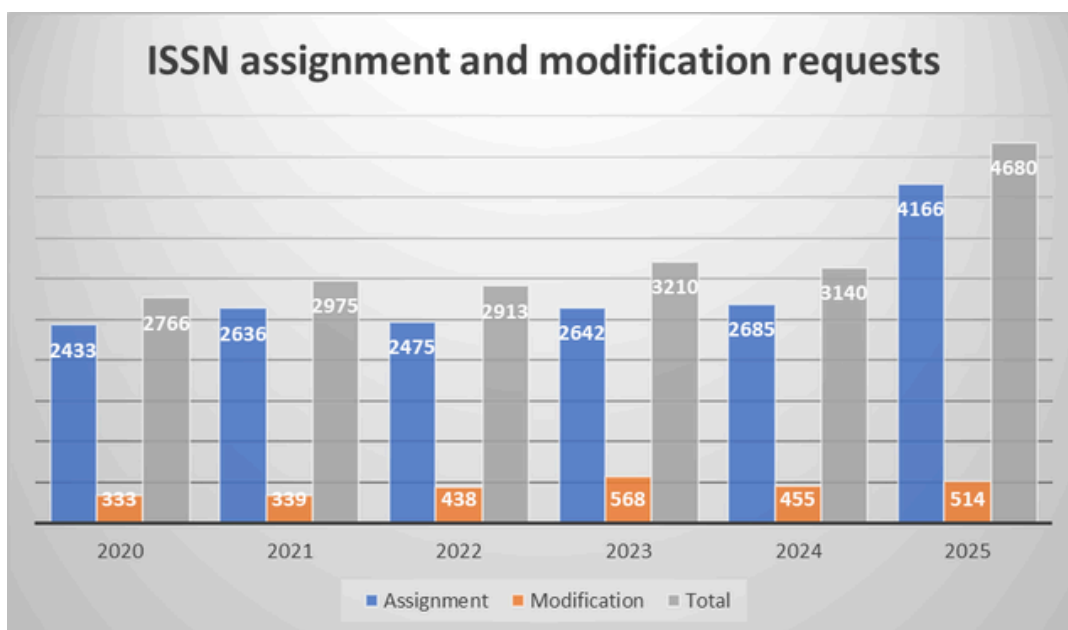
In 2025, **4,680 requests for ISSN from publishers within its remit** were processed by the International Centre, compared with 3,140 in 2024, representing a 33% increase.

**Table 1: Breakdown by type of application and status of ISSN requests processed by the International Centre in 2025 (Source: ISSN portal)**

| ISSN assignment and modification requests in 2025 | Accepted     | Provisional | Sub-total    | Others : incomplete, rejected, in process, pending | Total requests processed |
|---|--------------|-------------|--------------|--|--------------------------|
| Assignment  | 3,094        | 387         | 3,481        | 685  | 4,166                    |
| Modification                                      | 400          | 0           | 400          | 114  | 514                      |
| <b>Total</b>                                      | <b>3,494</b> | <b>387</b>  | <b>3,881</b> | <b>799</b>   | <b>4,680</b>             |

Note: Generally speaking, a single application results in the allocation of two ISSN (print/online).

**Figure 3: Trend in applications for assignment and amendments processed by the International Centre since 2020**



This increase in ISSN assignments in 2025 could be explained, at least in part, by the proliferation of publications created wholly or partly using AI.

As of 2 January 2026, **7,403** publishers were registered on the ISSN portal as ISSN applicants since 2018 (compared to 6,692 publishers in 2024). The distribution of assignments by country is fairly stable compared to the previous year. Publishers in Hong Kong are the most active. They are followed by Pakistani publishers and international organisations.

**Table 2 : Top 10 countries of publication under the responsibility of the International Centre, ranked by number of ISSN assigned (cumulative from 2018 to 16 February 2026. Source: ISSN portal)**

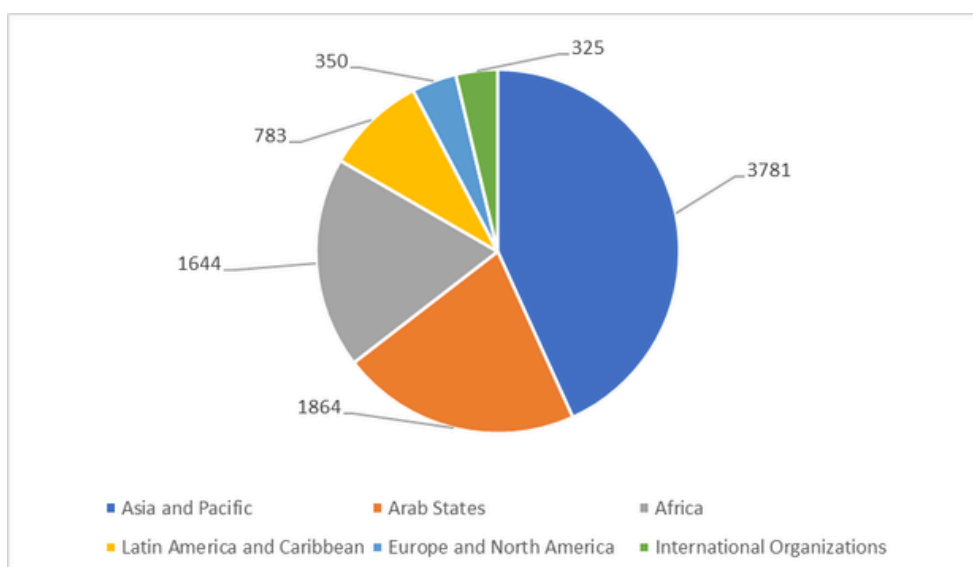
| Country                            | UNESCO area          | Number of publishers | Number of ISSN assigned | Number of requests processed | Number of provisional records |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Hong Kong S.A.R., China</b>     | Asia and the Pacific | 591                  | 5,749                   | 4,544                        | 156                           |
| <b>Pakistan</b>                    | Asia and the Pacific | 1,283                | 3,172                   | 2,406                        | 54                            |
| <b>International organisations</b> | -                    | 325                  | 2,124                   | 1,517                        | 110                           |
| <b>Macau S.A.R., China</b>         | Asia and the Pacific | 114                  | 321                     | 201                          | 321                           |
| <b>Bangladesh</b>                  | Asia and the Pacific | 553                  | 1,011                   | 833                          | 36                            |
| <b>Iraq</b>                        | Arab States          | 921                  | 972                     | 1,022                        | 62                            |
| <b>South Africa</b>                | Africa               | 318                  | 958                     | 868                          | 53                            |
| <b>Kenya</b>                       | Africa               | 212                  | 714                     | 631                          | 15                            |
| <b>Kazakhstan</b>                  | Asia and the Pacific | 339                  | 670                     | 566                          | 43                            |
| <b>Taiwan, P.O.C.</b>              | Asia and the Pacific | 433                  | 666                     | 594                          | 30                            |

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

**Table 3 : Number of publishers by UNESCO region under the responsibility of the International Centre (cumulative from 2018 to 17 February 2026 – Source: ISSN portal)**

| UNESCO area                     | Number of publishers | Number of ISSN assigned | Number of requests processed | Number of provisional records |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Asia and the Pacific            | 3,781                | 12,398                  | 9,863                        | 409                           |
| Arab States                     | 1,864                | 2,560                   | 2,415                        | 710                           |
| Africa                          | 1,644                | 3,026                   | 2,764                        | 156                           |
| Latin America and the Caribbean | 783                  | 1,004                   | 1,000                        | 8                             |
| Europe and North America        | 350                  | 724                     | 688                          | 28                            |
| International organisations     | 325                  | 2,125                   | 1,518                        | 110                           |
| Total                           | 8,747                | 21,834                  | 18,248                       | 1,421                         |

**Figure 4 : Distribution of publishers under the responsibility of the ISSN International Centre by UNESCO region (Cumulative total from 2018 to 2 January 2026 – Source: ISSN portal)**



## 1. 3. ISSN assignments by the International Centre

In 2025, the service assigned 4,665 new ISSNs (compared with 2,960 in 2024), comprising 4,328 confirmed ISSNs and 337 provisional ISSNs. The number of assignments has increased (+45%) compared with 2024.

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

**Table 4 : Number of ISSNs assigned by the International Centre from 2020 to 2025, classified by status and media type (Source: ISSN+)**

|             | Confirmed ISSNs |        |        | Total confirmed records | Provisional ISSNs |        |        | Total provisional records | Total        |
|-------------|-----------------|--------|--------|-------------------------|-------------------|--------|--------|---------------------------|--------------|
|             | Print           | Online | Other* |                         | Print             | Online | Other* |                           |              |
| <b>2020</b> | 1,638           | 1,396  | 20     | <b>3,054</b>            | 160               | 112    | 4      | <b>276</b>                | <b>3,330</b> |
| <b>2021</b> | 1,129           | 1,190  | 23     | <b>2,342</b>            | 153               | 90     | 3      | <b>246</b>                | <b>2,588</b> |
| <b>2022</b> | 1,381           | 1,210  | 14     | <b>2,605</b>            | 123               | 83     | 4      | <b>210</b>                | <b>2,815</b> |
| <b>2023</b> | 1,325           | 1,320  | 13     | <b>2,658</b>            | 97                | 110    | 0      | <b>207</b>                | <b>2,865</b> |
| <b>2024</b> | 1,192           | 1,312  | 13     | <b>2,517</b>            | 203               | 233    | 7      | <b>443</b>                | <b>2,960</b> |
| <b>2025</b> | 3,144           | 1,166  | 18     | <b>4,328</b>            | 372               | 156    | 2      | <b>530</b>                | <b>4,858</b> |

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

The International Centre serves publishers operating in countries without a National Centre. Publishers from Hong Kong, Pakistan and international organisations submitted the majority of ISSN applications in 2025 on a very consistent basis and therefore received the majority of the ISSNs allocated.

**Table 5 : Confirmed ISSN assignments to resources from the major countries within the International Centre’s remit from 2020 to 2025 (Source: ISSN+)**

| Country                            | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025  |
|------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| <b>Hong Kong, S.A.R., China</b>    | 347  | 398  | 368  | 653  | 656  | 2,061 |
| <b>Pakistan</b>                    | 287  | 379  | 433  | 444  | 516  | 577   |
| <b>International organisations</b> | 300  | 236  | 378  | 378  | 166  | 139   |
| <b>Iraq</b>                        | 101  | 109  | 114  | 141  | 137  | 125   |
| <b>Kazakhstan</b>                  | 65   | 91   | 69   | 105  | 77   | 91    |
| <b>Bangladesh</b>                  | 129  | 112  | 125  | 98   | 89   | 113   |
| <b>Taiwan, P.O.C.</b>              | 101  | 112  | 81   | 83   | 51   | 56    |
| <b>Kenya</b>                       | 92   | 147  | 185  | 82   | 45   | 31    |
| <b>South Africa</b>                | 162  | 135  | 172  | 65   | 66   | 109   |
| <b>Libya</b>                       | 22   | 24   | 21   | 56   | 20   | 60    |
| <b>Macau, S.A.R., China</b>        | 8    | 16   | 27   | 18   | 34   | 142   |

## 1.4. The process for assigning ISSNs to Springer-Nature publications

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

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

During 2025, 430 ISSNs were provisionally assigned to publications scheduled by Springer Nature. 356 ISSNs were confirmed in 2025, of which 40 were assigned in 2025, notably by ISSN Switzerland, ISSN Germany, ISSN UK and ISSN Singapore.

Overall, of the 22,382 records describing resources published by Springer-Nature in the ISSN portal, 18,807 have been confirmed. The ISSN validation rate is 85%.

Thanks to a monitoring tool implemented in 2024, the flow of assignments and modifications remains stable and continuous. A campaign to encourage the validation of records based on metadata provided by the publisher was launched, targeting the relevant National Centres, with the aim of improving the confirmation rate for provisional ISSNs.

**Table 6 : ISSNs assigned to Springer Nature publications and confirmed in 2025 by the ISSN network**

| 2025         | Provisional ISSNs assigned | Confirmed ISSNs | Confirmed ISSNs (created in 2025) |
|--------------|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Publications | 121                        | 77              | 12                                |
| Serials      | 309                        | 279             | 28                                |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>430</b>                 | <b>356</b>      | <b>40</b>                         |

## 1.5. Relations with National Centres

The team trained two National Centres of the ISSN network in 2025. Bibliographic practice workshops were led by the team during the meeting of national centre directors in Paris in October 2025.

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 has increased compared to 2024 (+9%). The team thus handled **2,729** queries or requests for action, relating in particular to the assignment of ISSN ranges, ISSN allocation criteria, title changes, transfers of responsibility between National Centres, and requests for corrections.

The National Centres in Central Asia and Latin America receive regular monitoring. The team provides ongoing monitoring for the Ukrainian, Uzbek, Russian and Kyrgyz centres. Twenty-two hours were devoted to training for the various centres, particularly the new centres in the network, namely those in Mongolia and the United Arab Emirates.

## 1.6. Quality projects on ISSN data

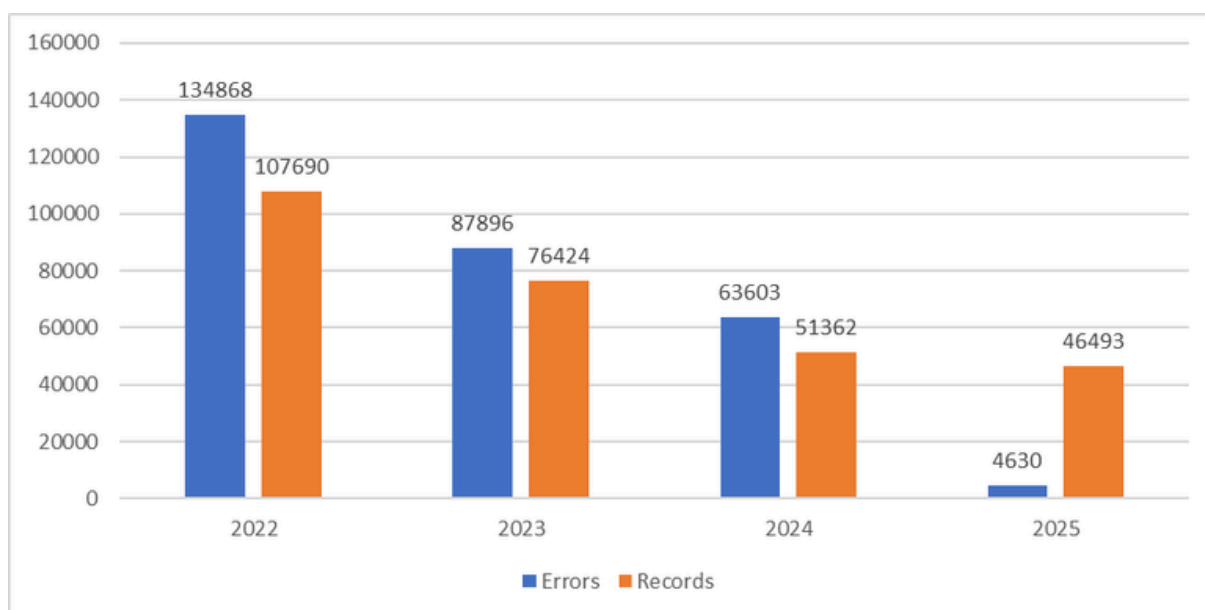
The quality of ISSN data is a key factor in increasing future use of the ISSN portal, attracting new customers and establishing partnerships with database providers, aggregators and other information providers. The plan focuses on the accuracy of bibliographic data, the coverage of ISSN identification, the improvement of processes and workflows, and interoperability with partners' data. Corrections made during the import of records from National Centres are also part of the quality plan.

The following corrections were made:

- 3,267 records were corrected in terms of the serial publication type code,
- 1,014 records were corrected where there was an inconsistency between the medium code and the qualifier for the key title,
- 400 records under the responsibility of the International Centre were deduplicated,
- 376 records, of which 323 fell within the scope of the International Centre, were corrected in the field linking the original characters to the transliterated characters.

It should be noted that corrections to conflicting key titles and records corrected in terms of the carrier code and their key title qualifiers cannot be carried out in bulk. Records must be examined individually. Corrections to the linking fields for missing original characters were carried out semi-automatically.

**Figure 5: Trend in the number of corrections to be made in the database (Source: ISSN+)**

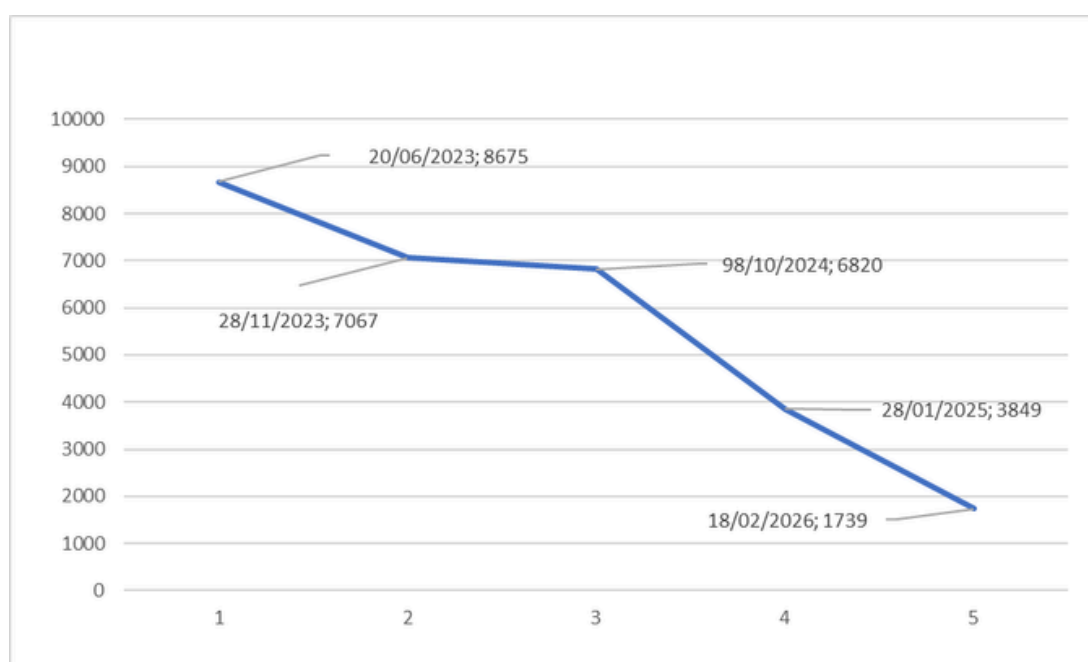


This significant reduction in the number of errors compared with previous years is due to the bulk corrections carried out by the department. There has also been a reduction in the number of error types to be resolved by the network’s cataloguers (for example, key title conflicts).

Thanks to a dashboard designed to detect missing or broken URLs, a correction process has been undertaken. At the start of 2026, the database contained 760,742 URLs, of which 29,527 were broken, representing 3.88%.

At the meeting of national centre directors held in Tunis in 2024, the service presented to all participants the tools made available to the entire network and the methodology to be applied to resolve record errors in accordance with the same priority areas.

**Figure 6 : Trend in the number of errors in records under the responsibility of the International Centre (Source: ISSN+)**



The team continues to participate in ad hoc projects run by ISSN France, notably the one concerning the identification of digital reproductions of titles from colonial Algeria. This project is still ongoing, with 76 records created in 2025. A new project by ISSN France was launched in 2025 focusing on the identification and digital reproduction of titles published in Belgium. These records require specific processing, similar to that carried out for Algerian titles.

Cooperation with our partners also offers opportunities to detect and correct errors in records within our mutual databases and to improve the database’s coverage, as described below.

## CIDEMIS

**CIDEMIS** is the automated system managed since 2015 by ABES (Agence bibliographique de l'enseignement supérieur) in cooperation with the Bibliothèque nationale de France and the International Centre. CIDEMIS enables the management of ISSN assignment requests and record modifications concerning serial resources described in SUDOC (<http://www.sudoc.abes.fr>), the collective catalogue of French higher education. As part of their work, SUDOC cataloguers can identify serial resources without an ISSN or whose ISSN data requires updating.

### Requests issued and processed in 2025

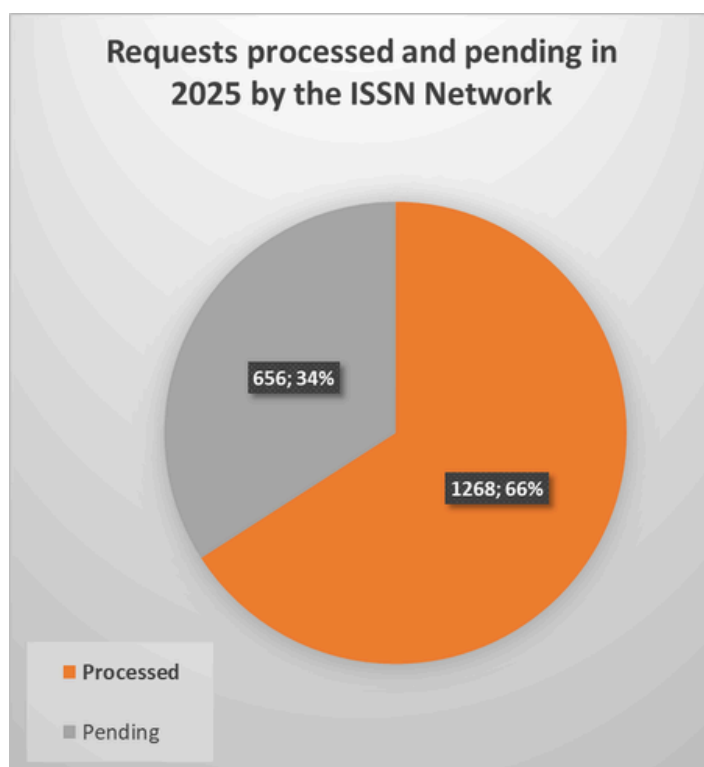
In 2025, **778 requests** were created in CIDEMIS and forwarded to the International Centre and its network, excluding ISSN France, which has a specific workflow. 618 applications related to assignments and 160 to updates. **224 applications** were processed in 2025 by the National Centres, representing 28%.

The International Centre processed **123 requests**, assigning 87 ISSNs and updating 36 records. It also validated **197 older requests from all countries** that had been incorrectly recorded in the CIDEMIS system.

### Requests submitted between 2015 and 2024 and processed in 2025

In 2025, the ISSN network processed, i.e. accepted or rejected, **1,268 applications** (covering all years of application submission and all types of applications). 879 ISSNs were assigned and 283 records were updated.

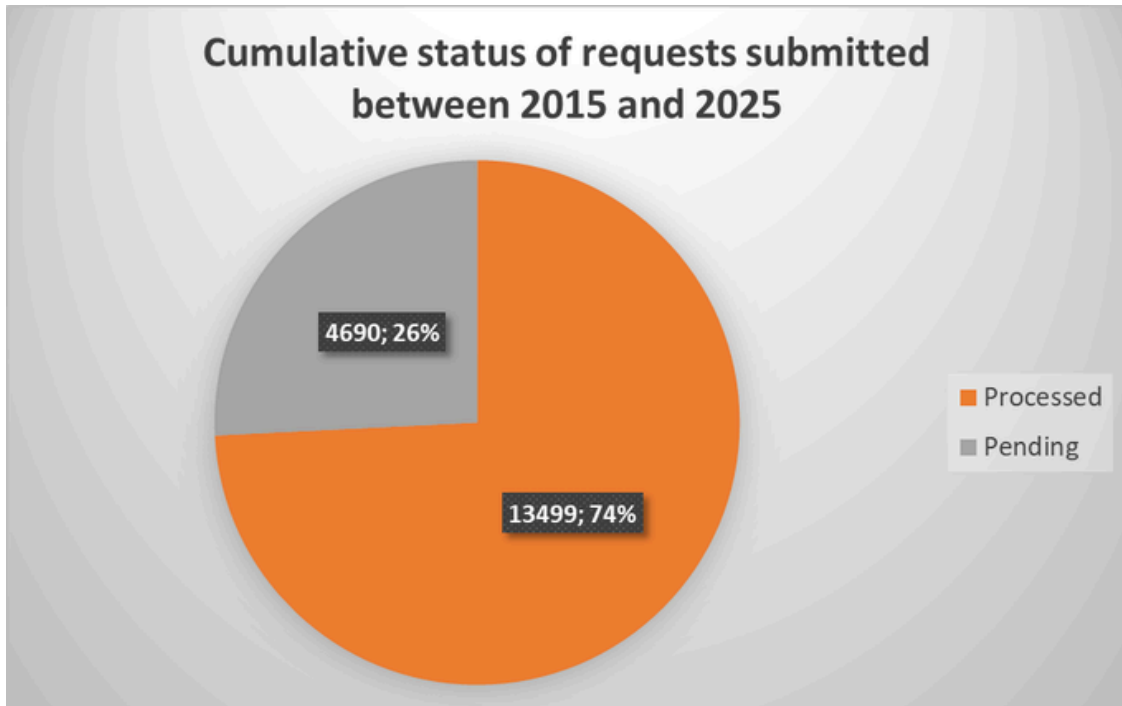
**Figure 7: Applications submitted via CIDEMIS processed and pending (2025 review)**



Overall, of the **18,187 applications** submitted between 2015 and 2025, **13,499 were processed, representing 74%**, and **4,690 are pending processing**.

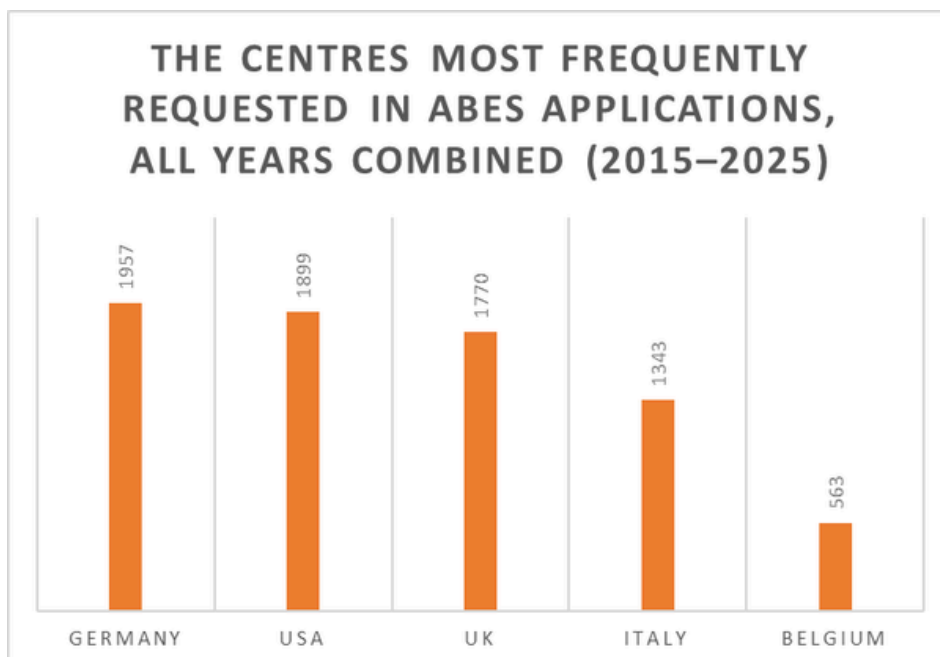
Of these 13,499 requests, 11,557 are requests for ISSN allocation and 1,942 are requests for record updates.

**Figure 8 : Status of requests created between 2015 and 2025**



The efforts of the National Centres collaborating within the framework of CIDEMIS, and in particular the German, British and US centres, are to be commended.

**Figure 9 : Table showing the national centres most frequently contacted between 2015 and 2025, based on the cumulative number of requests processed**



In conclusion, the year 2025 confirms CIDEMIS's pivotal role in the international management of ISSN applications, with a sustained volume of **778 new applications**, the majority of which were for allocation (**79%**). However, only a limited proportion of these recent applications (**28%**) could be processed within the year, highlighting a persistent gap between the incoming flow and immediate processing capacity.

At the same time, the network's activity is part of a strategy to gradually reduce the backlog, as evidenced by the processing of 1,268 applications across all years in 2025. This trend helps to maintain a high overall processing rate (74% of applications submitted since 2015), although a significant volume of 4,690 applications remains pending, highlighting a structural challenge. The International Centre plays a key role not only in direct processing (123 applications in 2025), but also in the regularisation and validation of older applications (197 cases), thereby contributing to the improvement of overall data quality.

### [Mir@bel](#)

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

The International Centre monitors **92 publications** listed by the Mirabel network. Most of these are published by the OECD. Specific work needs to be carried out with the OECD to update the URLs of these publications following their migration to a new server.

### [Ex Libris](#)

**Ex Libris** flags ROAD records containing faulty URLs, as well as titles that are no longer open access. As a result, **612 ROAD** records were corrected in 2025.

### [ABES](#)

Similarly, since late 2023, a specific workflow outside CIDEMIS and Mir@bel has been established between **ABES** and the International Centre to correct ISSN-L errors on an ad hoc basis.

## [ISNI](#)

Since 2018, **ISNIs** (International Standard Name Identifiers) have been progressively added to ISSN records. These ISNIs identify publishing entities and international publishers. In February 2026, **54,646 records** containing ISNIs were recorded in the ISSN database. The team also contributes to the enrichment of the ISNI database by flagging duplicates and enriching ISNI records with entries in the original script and links to the institutional websites of the issuing organisations.

## 1.7. The development of the Repertory of Open Access Scholarly Resources (ROAD)

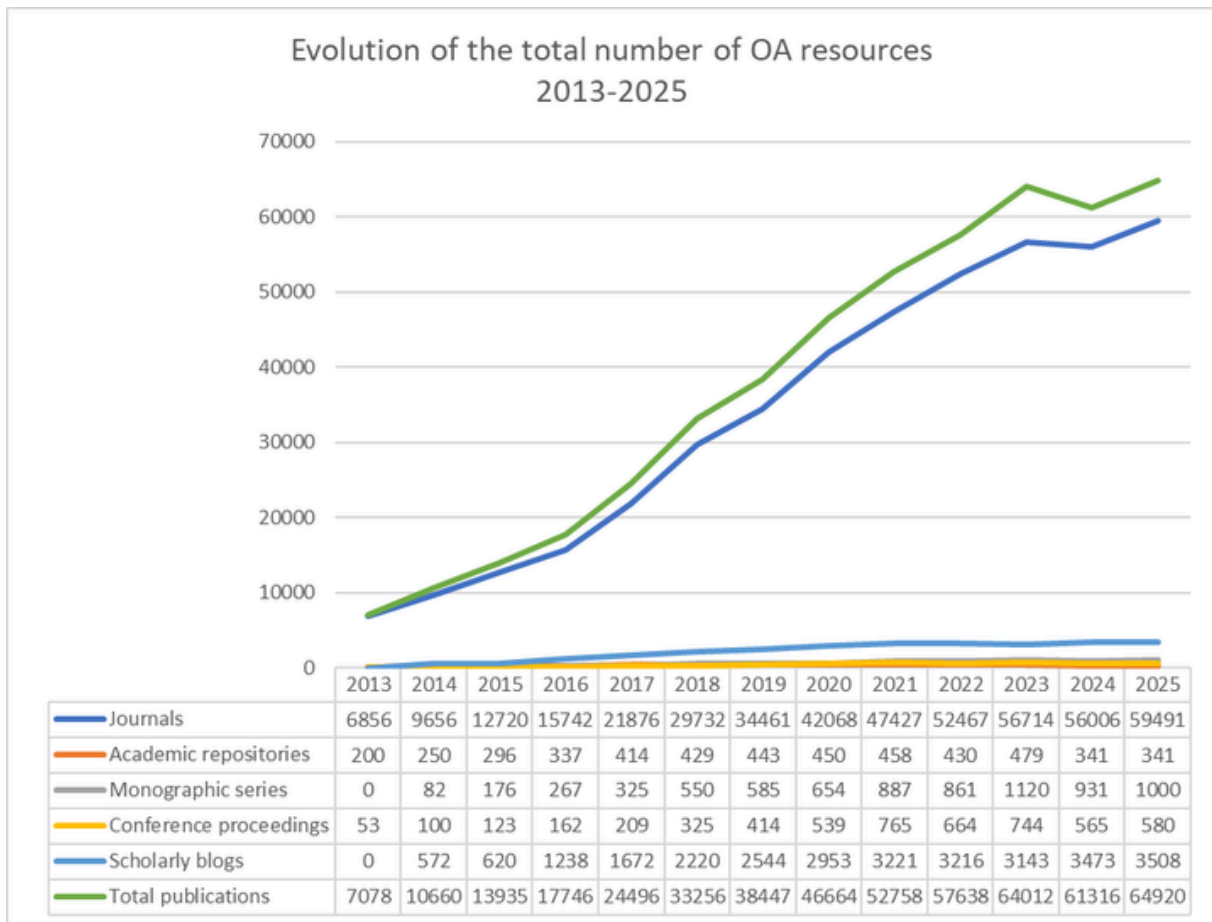
**2,624** records describing open access (OA) scholarly resources were added to ROAD in 2025. Overall, in December 2025, ROAD contained **65,534 open access titles**. Open access scientific publications account for 16% of the online publications described in the ISSN portal. The relevant National Centres were asked to reintegrate these resources into ROAD after adding a working URL where necessary.

**Table 7: Change in the number of resources in ROAD (cumulative) (Source: ISSN+)**

|                           | 2020          | 2021          | 2022          | 2023          | 2024          | 2025          |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Journals                  | 42,068        | 47,427        | 52,467        | 56,714        | 56,006        | 59,491        |
| Academic repositories     | 450           | 458           | 430           | 479           | 341           | 341           |
| Monographic series        | 654           | 887           | 861           | 1120          | 931           | 1,000         |
| Conference proceedings    | 539           | 765           | 664           | 744           | 565           | 580           |
| Science blogs             | 2,953         | 3,221         | 3,216         | 3,143         | 3,473         | 3,508         |
| <b>Total publications</b> | <b>46,664</b> | <b>52,758</b> | <b>57,638</b> | <b>64,012</b> | <b>61,316</b> | <b>64,920</b> |

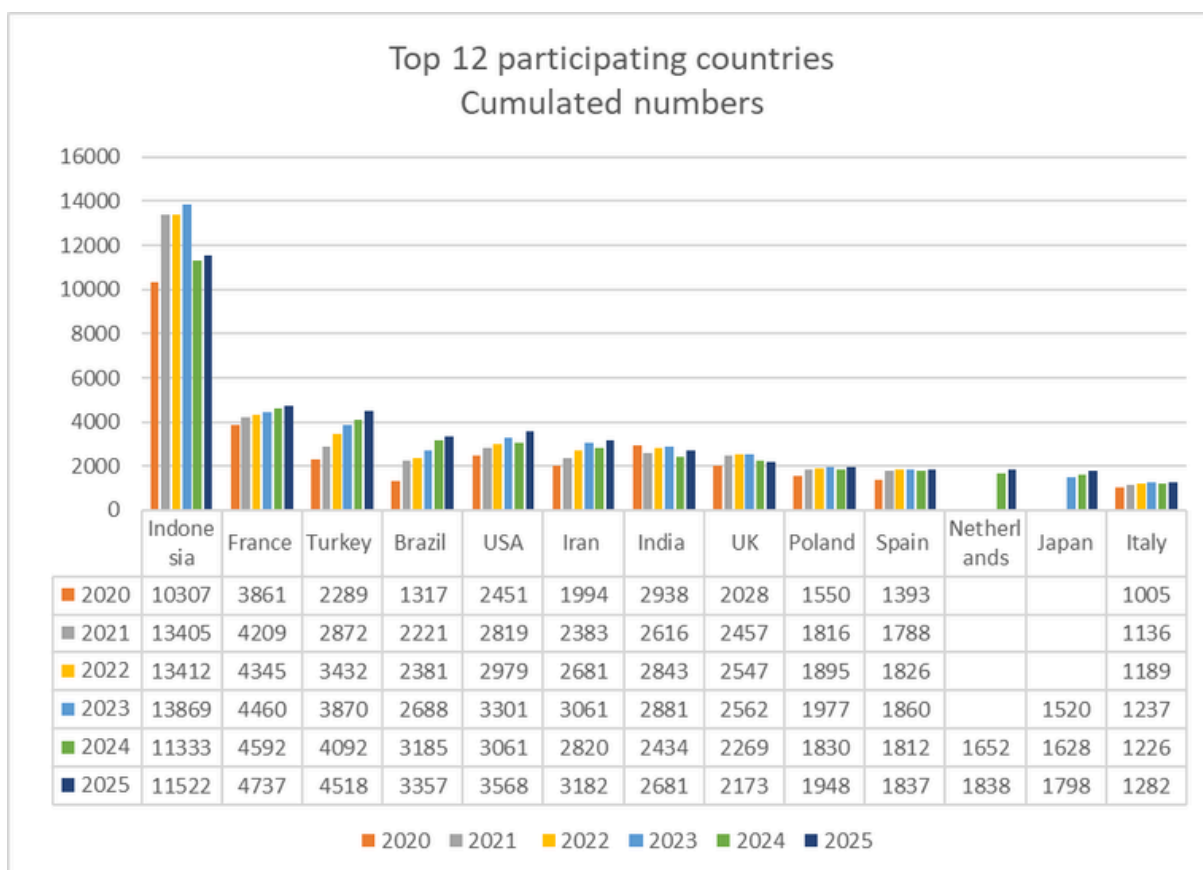
The two main types of publications in ROAD remain scientific journals and blogs.

Figure 10: Change in the total number of open-access publications reported in ROAD between 2013 and 2025



The **breakdown by contributing country** has changed significantly compared to 2023 following the database clean-up. Whilst **Indonesia** remains in the lead with 11,522 open-access resources, followed by France and Turkey, **Brazil has moved up the rankings**. **Iran** maintains its lead over the United Kingdom and India. In total, the top 12 contributing countries account for nearly **66%** of all open access titles listed in ROAD.

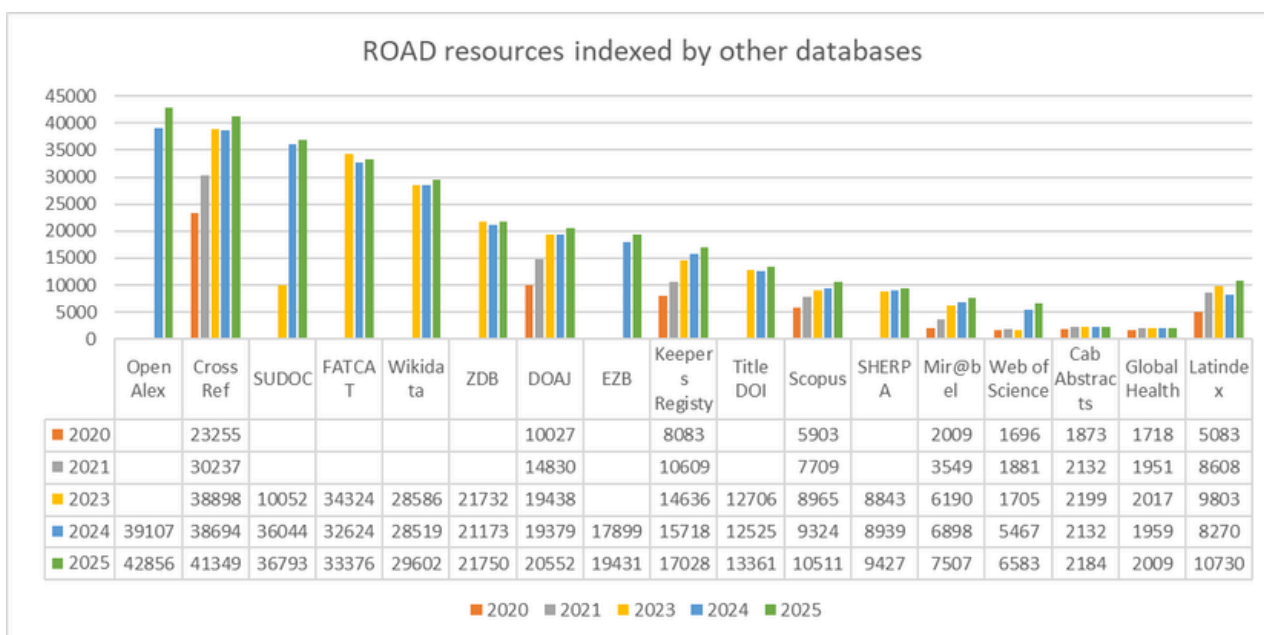
Figure 11: The top twelve National Centres contributing to ROAD cumulatively since 2020 (Source: ISSN+)



It is also noted that of all the titles listed in ROAD:

- 65% are indexed by Open Alex,
- 62% are identified by Crossref for their content, and 20% have DOI identifiers,
- 55% are referenced by SUDOC,
- 44% are indexed by Wikidata,
- 31% are indexed by the Directory of Open Access Journals,
- 25% are listed in the Keepers Registry,
- 16% are indexed by Scopus,
- 16% are indexed by Latindex,
- 65% are indexed by both Crossref and the Keepers Registry,
- 69% are indexed by Crossref, Keepers Registry and DOAJ.

**Figure 12: Number of open access resources indexed in ROAD and by partner services (Source: ISSN+)**



## 1. 8. The development of Keepers Registry

By early 2026, twenty archiving agencies were sharing their preservation data with the International Centre. However, the British Library and the Swiss National Library had not updated their data since 2020. The Persée support and research unit, affiliated with the ENS de Lyon and the French National Centre for Scientific Research, was the twentieth agency to join this service in 2025.

In January 2026, **98,225** titles are archived by partner agencies and **20,230** titles are archived by at least three agencies. Statistics are available on the website <https://keepers.issn.org/stats>.

## 1.9. The development of the Transfer Alerting Service (TAS)

The International Centre collaborates with the TRANSFER working group of the National Information Standards Organisation (NISO), United States of America, to disseminate information on changes of publisher for journal titles. The International Centre manages 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.

**Eleven** new publishers signed the Transfer Code of Practice in 2025 and registered on the ISSN portal, which they use to report title transfers. A total of 124 Transfer publishers are registered. Thirty publishers used this service in 2025 and **142** title transfers were carried out. In 2025, Sage Publishing, Taylor and Francis and Wiley were the most active receiving publishers, whilst Wiley, Mary Ann Liebert and Taylor & Francis were the most active transferring publishers.

## 1.10. Standardisation and international cooperation activities

### [ISSN Standard Revision Group \(ISSN RG\)](#)

This working group met **twenty times** in 2025. A written report was produced for each meeting and made available to the network on the wiki. The Manual was made available to the ISSN network in May 2025. Webinars were organised for network members

The multinational publishers' wiki was finalised. The list of multinational publishers was published on Zenodo in PDF format (<https://zenodo.org/records/7915582>) and in Excel format (<https://zenodo.org/records/8321076>). These approximately 300 publishers were identified using data from the ISSN portal (<https://portal.issn.org>).

### [Activities within the framework of the International Organisation for Standardisation \(ISO\)](#)

The International Centre is a member of Subcommittee 9 of ISO Technical Committee 46 – Information and Documentation. It participates in subcommittee meetings and working groups as required.

### [Activities within the framework of the National Information Standards Organisation \(NISO\)](#)

The International Centre is a member of NISO. In this capacity, it contributes to the development of standards and recommendations drawn up by the US publishing and library community. In 2025, it participated in the drafting of the NISO RP-46-202X recommendation, Collaborative Collections Lifecycle Infrastructure Project (<https://www.niso.org/standards-committees/cclip>). It also participated in the revision of the Transfer Code of Practice, the fifth version of which will be published in 2026 (<https://www.niso.org/publications/rp-24-2019-transfer>).

### [International Federation of Library Associations \(IFLA\)](#)

Within IFLA, the International Centre is represented on the following committees:

- the Preservation and Conservation Section (PRESCONS),
- the ISBD Revision Group,
- the PRESSOORevision Group.

In 2025, the annual World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) was held in Astana, Kazakhstan. The International Centre had a stand there and presented its activities during a dedicated session.

## 2. Sales, Marketing and Communications Department

In 2025, the department's activities focused on the following:

- renewing existing subscriptions to increase turnover in line with the 2025 budget forecast;
- prospecting for new clients in Europe via the social media platforms LinkedIn and Facebook and by participating in various trade fairs;
- the implementation of marketing tools to optimise customer follow-up and prospecting. This work is being carried out in collaboration with a consultant from Reference DMD.

### 2.1. Data sales

The International Centre's total turnover for 2025 saw a 6% increase compared to 2024, surpassing the set target by 3.3%.

The main services billed in 2025 remain Portal subscriptions (64% of total revenue in 2025 and 2024) and OAI-PMH (15% in 2025 compared with 12% in 2024). Subscription prices rose by 3% in 2025.

In 2025, customers subscribing to the services of the International Centre are mainly based in North America and Europe. The breakdown by customer type has not changed in 2025 compared to 2024, with university libraries being the most represented category.

### 2.2. Sales of ISSN Credits

Revenue from the sale of ISSN credits in 2025 increased by **55%**. There was a sharp rise in the sale of ISSN credits in July 2025.

### 2.3. Contributions from member countries

In 2025, contributions actually received amounted represented **97%** of the total amount called for. In 2025, the amount of contributions was increased by 3% following the decision approved by the General Assembly of Member Countries in 2024.

The International Centre also recovered outstanding contributions. One member country paid its contribution for 2026 during 2025.

## 2.4. Communication and marketing activities

In 2025, the Marketing and Sales department strengthened its capabilities by deploying new tools designed to **optimise prospecting, sales follow-up and customer retention**. These initiatives led to a significant improvement in sales performance, with a notable increase in sales and more sustainable customer relationships.

Various initiatives were carried out **targeting customers and prospects of the ISSN Portal**:

- We carried out a follow-up campaign targeting all prospects from the last five years. This campaign generated additional revenue of €5,837;
- As part of our customer retention strategy, we have implemented a series of targeted emails designed to maintain contact with our customers, offer them additional services, re-engage inactive users and prevent un-subscriptions;
- Using specialist tools, we were able to identify and contact professionals working specifically in the field of bibliographic metadata. This outreach generated several business opportunities for our services;
- We have also humanised the image of the International Centre by highlighting the expertise and know-how of our teams, in order to showcase the human capital behind each of our services.

Further initiatives were undertaken targeting publishers who submit their ISSN applications to the International Centre. To strengthen publisher loyalty, we ran several campaigns highlighting our volume discounts on ISSN packages, thereby encouraging them to make bulk purchases. Furthermore, to optimise revenue from ISSN credits, we followed up with publishers who had abandoned their shopping baskets, i.e. those whose quotes did not result in a payment.

These various initiatives proved successful. We noted that in 2025, **155 publishers** renewed their credit purchases, compared with 135 in 2024, representing a **15%** increase. Furthermore, the average basket value rose by **27.7%**.

**Table 8 : List of communication initiatives targeting customers and prospects of the ISSN Portal**

| <b>Titre du message</b>   | <b>Nbre de destinataires</b> | <b>Taux d'ouverture du message</b> | <b>Taux de clics / ouverture</b> |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| UKSG "we are at Booth 52"   | 172                          | 49%                                | 1%                               |
| UKSG cocktail invitation  | 54                           | 57%                                | 6%                               |
| Renewal customer thank you  | 224                          | 33%                                | 0                                |
| Renewal user thank you  | 378                          | 33%                                | 1%                               |
| Launch of the International Centre's 50th anniversary website           | 526                          | 38%                                | 21%                              |
| Re-engagement of inactive users   | 29                           | 41%                                | 61%                              |
| Introduction to the Premium service                                     | 725                          | 33%                                | 2%                               |
| MARC21 change   | 498                          | 30%                                | 17%                              |
| Problem displaying records  | 685                          | 39%                                | 0                                |
| Portal downtime   | 663                          | 38%                                | 0                                |
| Summer break  | 658                          | 38%                                | 0                                |
| Stories ISSN website 50th anniversary                                   | 657                          | 30%                                | 14%                              |
| Presentation of the ISSN to IFLA participants                           | 623                          | 54%                                | 84%                              |
| Renewal of Portal subscriptions   | 648                          | 42%                                | 0                                |
| Invitations to the 50th anniversary party                               | 63                           | 30%                                | 0                                |
| Reminder for 50th anniversary party invitations                         | 47                           | 36%                                | 0                                |
| Portal subscription renewals  | 255                          | 48%                                | 0                                |
| Reminder about the Premium service for those who clicked on the message | 4                            | 75%                                | 0                                |
| Renewal of Portal subscriptions   | 125                          | 56%                                | 0                                |
| Follow-up with prospects 2020-2025                                      | 86                           | 57%                                | 0                                |
| Announcement of the new Portal  | 566                          | 48%                                | 0                                |
| Renewal of Portal subscriptions   | 103                          | 45%                                | 18%                              |
| New Year's greetings 2026   | 559                          | 55%                                | 10%                              |
| Portal subscription renewals  | 104                          | 48%                                | 17%                              |

In 2025, **24 email campaigns** were sent to customers and prospects, compared with 12 in 2024, representing a **100%** increase in communication with this target group.

**Table 9 : List of communication activities targeting publisher clients who submit their ISSN applications to the International Centre**

| Message title  | Number of recipients | Open rate | Click-through rate |
|--|----------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Publishers in the Emirates regarding the opening of the Centre | 204                  | 49%       | 6%                 |
| UAE publishers with ISSN credits                               | 51                   | 43%       | 46%                |
| Category A ISSN package publishers                             | 250                  | 45%       | 40%                |
| Category B ISSN package publishers                             | 128                  | 38%       | 0                  |
| Publishers of Category C ISSN packages                         | 535                  | 34%       | 48%                |
| Publishers with abandoned quotes                               | 78                   | 42%       | 35%                |
| Category A ISSN package publishers                             | 278                  | 45%       | 36%                |
| Category B ISSN package publishers                             | 115                  | 30%       | 26%                |
| Category C ISSN package publishers                             | 496                  | 34%       | 65%                |
| Publishers with abandoned quotes                               | 65                   | 43%       | 30%                |

This type of communication was introduced in 2025. The aim is to automate this process via the new Portal in 2026.

In 2025, the International Centre sent 29 communications to members of the ISSN network.

**Table 10 : List of communication activities directed at the ISSN network (1)**

| Message title                                  | Date       | Open rate | Number of recipients | Click-through rate | Number of clicks |
|--|------------|-----------|----------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| DM 25 Grant                                    | 09/05/2025 | 56%       | 20                   | 0%                 | 0                |
| DM 25 Reminder_20 May                          | 20/05/2025 | 56%       | 18                   | 39%                | 7                |
| Info for grant recipients 1 - group 1          | 12/06/2025 | 88%       | 8                    | 75%                | 6                |
| 2024 Annual Report                             | 20/06/2025 | 31%       | 581                  | 54%                | 268              |
| Info for grant recipients 2 - group 1          | 26/06/2025 | 100%      | 8                    | 29%                | 2                |
| Info for grant recipients 3 - group 1          | 30/06/2025 | 100%      | 8                    | 50%                | 4                |
| Follow-up on NC testimonials                   | 30/06/2025 | 36%       | 521                  | 19%                | 95               |
| Presentations by NCs at DM2025                 | 30/06/2025 | 88%       | 8                    | 0%                 | 0                |
| Presentations by NCs at DM2025 (2)             | 01/07/2025 | 86%       | 7                    | 0%                 | 0                |
| Info for grant recipients 1 - group 2          | 07/07/2025 | 50%       | 4                    | 0%                 | 0                |
| Info for grant recipients 4 (eng)              | 11/08/2025 | 76%       | 18                   | 24%                | 4                |
| Info for grant recipients 4 (esp)              | 11/08/2025 | 83%       | 6                    | 17%                | 1                |
| Request for grant recipients bank details (EN) | 22/08/2025 | 69%       | 18                   | 0%                 | 0                |
| Request for grant recipients bank details (ES) | 22/08/2025 | 80%       | 5                    | 0%                 | 0                |
| Registration for workshops                     | 10/09/2025 | 74%       | 23                   | 32%                | 6                |

**Table 10 : List of communication activities directed at the ISSN network (2)**

| Message title   | Date       | Open rate | Number of recipients | Click-through rate | Number of clicks |
|---|------------|-----------|----------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Reminder - request for grant recipients bank details (EN) | 12/09/2025 | 69%       | 17                   | 0%                 | 0                |
| Reminder - request for grant recipients bank details (ES) | 12/09/2025 | 83%       | 6                    | 0%                 | 0                |
| Invitation to Café Oz ISSN France                         | 26/09/2025 | 29%       | 7                    | 0%                 | 0                |
| Grant confirmation of receipt                             | 30/09/2025 | 68%       | 21                   | 16%                | 3                |
| YouTube link for the 9 October conference                 | 08/10/2025 | 39%       | 515                  | 28%                | 138              |
| Thank you to NCs for attending the DM2025                 | 27/10/2025 | 76%       | 87                   | 100%               | 86               |
| Reminder - Thank you to NCs for attending the DM2025      | 19/11/2025 | 54%       | 86                   | 37%                | 31               |
| Beta test   | 24/11/2025 | 46%       | 369                  | 100%               | 396              |
| xWiki service interruption December 2025                  | 28/11/2025 | 40%       | 507                  | 32%                | 152              |
| Beta test 2   | 01/12/2025 | 52%       | 358                  | 100%               | 374              |
| Beta test report and videos                               | 03/12/2025 | 47%       | 365                  | 99%                | 351              |
| Beta test questionnaire 1                                 | 11/12/2025 | 45%       | 368                  | 56%                | 195              |
| Suspension of ISSN+                                       | 12/12/2025 | 35%       | 355                  | 100%               | 387              |
| Interruption of ISSN+_REMINDER                            | 17/12/2025 | 37%       | 355                  | 33%                | 111              |

In 2025, **127 news items** were published on the International Centre’s social media channels, compared with 37 in 2024, representing an increase of 243%, and **15 news items** were published on the website [www.issn.org](http://www.issn.org), compared with 23 in 2024.

**Table 11: Number of followers on social media in 2025**

| Social media | Number of followers |
|--------------|---------------------|
| X            | 1 480               |
| Facebook     | 3 800               |
| LinkedIn     | 830                 |

There has been a 55% increase in the number of followers on **LinkedIn**. In 2026, one of the International Centre’s objectives will be to publish at least one news item every two weeks.

**Table 12: Details of articles and other information published online in 2025 (1)**

| Publication   | Platform               | Date       |
|---|------------------------|------------|
| New Year’s greetings  | Social media           | 06/01/2025 |
| Newsletter update January 2025  | Social media           | 23/01/2025 |
| Action Plan 2025–2029 (FR)  | Website + social media | 27/01/2025 |
| Action Plan 2025–2029 (EN)  | Website + social media | 29/01/2025 |
| 2024 statistics infographics  | Social media           | 11/02/2025 |
| Newsletter update February 2025                                       | Social media           | 24/02/2025 |
| UAR Persée joins Keepers Registry                                     | Website + social media | 13/03/2025 |
| Repost from Thomas Francart – Wikidata                                | Social media           | 19/03/2025 |
| The ISSN International Centre clarifies the rules for assigning ISSNs | Social media           | 28/03/2025 |
| Presentation by Gaëlle Béquet at Harvard University Library           | Website + social media | 02/04/2025 |
| Repost from Abdelghani Maddi – article published in PLOS ONE          | Social media           | 15/04/2025 |
| ISSN 50th Anniversary Website   | Website + social media | 30/04/2025 |
| ISSN IC @ 14th International Congress on Scientific Journals – CRECS  | Social media           | 07/05/2025 |

**Table 12: Details of articles and other information published online in 2025 (2)**

| <b>Publication</b>                               | <b>Platform</b>        | <b>Date</b> |
|--|------------------------|-------------|
| ISSN stories information                         | Social media           | 16/05/2025  |
| ISSN IC @NASIG 2025 Annual Conference            | Social media           | 20/05/2025  |
| 9 October conference registration                | Social media           | 23/05/2025  |
| Story ISSN Luxembourg                            | Social media           | 27/05/2025  |
| Story ISSN Türkiye                               | Social media           | 30/05/2025  |
| Story ISSN Peru                                  | Social media           | 03/06/2025  |
| Story ISSN Namibia                               | Social media           | 06/06/2025  |
| Story ISSN Uzbekistan                            | Social media           | 11/06/2025  |
| 2024 Annual Report EN (summary)                  | Website + social media | 13/06/2025  |
| 2024 Annual Report EN (full version)             | Website + social media | 16/06/2025  |
| 2024 Annual Report FR (full version)             | Website + social media | 17/06/2025  |
| 2024 Annual Report ES (full version in English)  | Website + social media | 18/06/2025  |
| 2024 Annual Report RU (full version in English)  | Website + social media | 19/06/2025  |
| 2024 Annual Report AR (full version in English)  | Website + social media | 20/06/2025  |
| Webinar registration with AJOL                   | Social media           | 20/06/2025  |
| 2024 Annual Report CHI (full version in English) | Website + social media | 23/06/2025  |
| 2024 Annual Report FR (summary)                  | Website + social media | 24/06/2025  |
| 2024 Annual Report ES (summary)                  | Website + social media | 25/06/2026  |
| 2024 Annual Report RU (summary)                  | Website + social media | 26/06/2026  |
| 2024 Annual Report AR (summary)                  | Website + social media | 27/06/2025  |
| 2024 Annual Report CHI (summary)                 | Website + social media | 30/06/2025  |
| Story ISSN Sweden                                | Social media           | 02/07/2025  |
| Story ISSN Argentina                             | Social media           | 04/07/2025  |
| Story ISSN Bosnia and Herzegovina                | Social media           | 08/07/2025  |

**Table 12: Details of articles and other information published online in 2025 (3)**

| <b>Publication</b>   | <b>Platform</b> | <b>Date</b> |
|--|-----------------|-------------|
| Story ISSN Finland   | Social media    | 11/07/2025  |
| Story ISSN Algeria   | Social media    | 15/07/2025  |
| 9 October conference registration  | Social media    | 16/07/2025  |
| Story ISSN Spain   | Social media    | 18/07/2025  |
| Story ISSN Serbia  | Social media    | 22/07/2025  |
| Collaboration with UNESCO – preservation of serial digital heritage  | Social media    | 23/07/2025  |
| Story ISSN Ireland   | Social media    | 25/07/2025  |
| News from the NL Colombia – Mes del Editor   | Social media    | 28/07/2025  |
| Story ISSN China   | Social media    | 30/07/2025  |
| ISSN International Centre @ 89th IFLA World Library and Information Congress – reception   | Social media    | 01/08/2025  |
| Story ISSN Slovakia  | Social media    | 05/08/2025  |
| Story ISSN Colombia  | Social media    | 08/08/2025  |
| Story ISSN Denmark   | Social media    | 11/08/2025  |
| ISSN International Centre @ 89th IFLA World Library and Information Congress – presentation by Gaëlle Béquet                               | Social media    | 13/08/2025  |
| ISSN International Centre @ 89th IFLA World Library and Information Congress – visit the ISSN IC stand                                     | Social media    | 16/08/2025  |
| ISSN International Centre @ 89th IFLA World Library and Information Congress – opening   | Social media    | 18/08/2025  |
| ISSN International Centre @ 89th IFLA World Library and Information Congress – the IC staff meets the IFLA President and Secretary General | Social media    | 20/08/2025  |
| Poster from Doha University at IFLA  | Social media    | 20/08/2025  |
| Story ISSN Australia   | Social media    | 25/08/2025  |
| Story ISSN Bulgaria  | Social media    | 28/08/2025  |

**Table 12: Details of articles and other information published online in 2025 (4)**

| Publication   | Platform               | Date       |
|---|------------------------|------------|
| Story ISSN Senegal  | Social media           | 01/09/2025 |
| IC staff cooking workshop review  | Social media           | 03/09/2025 |
| Story ISSN Malaysia   | Social media           | 04/09/2025 |
| 9 October conference info   | Website + social media | 04/09/2025 |
| Bulletin des Bibliothèques de France – article by Gaëlle Béquet (FR)                                | Website + social media | 05/09/2025 |
| Story ISSN Germany  | Social media           | 08/09/2025 |
| Bulletin des Bibliothèques de France – article by Carol Riccalton (FR)                              | Website + social media | 10/09/2025 |
| Bulletin des Bibliothèques de France – article by Gaëlle Béquet (EN)                                | Website + social media | 12/09/2025 |
| Bulletin des Bibliothèques de France – article by Carol Riccalton (EN)                              | Website + social media | 15/09/2025 |
| 9 October conference info – Gilles Pécout   | Social media           | 16/09/2025 |
| Bulletin des Bibliothèques de France – article by Sanjay Burde (FR)                                 | Website + social media | 17/09/2025 |
| 9 October conference info – Fackson Banda   | Social media           | 18/09/2025 |
| Bulletin des Bibliothèques de France – article by Sanjay Burde (EN)                                 | Website + social media | 19/09/2025 |
| Enssib repost – article by Sanjay Burde   | Social media           | 19/09/2025 |
| 9 October conference info – Jérémie Petit   | Social media           | 22/09/2025 |
| 9 October conference info– Todd Carpenter   | Social media           | 23/09/2025 |
| Bulletin des Bibliothèques de France – article by C. Authier, A.M. Cetto et J.O. Alonso Gamboa (FR) | Social media           | 24/09/2025 |
| 9 October conference info – Chinwe Anunobi  | Social media           | 25/09/2025 |
| Bulletin des Bibliothèques de France – article by C. Authier, A.M. Cetto et J.O. Alonso Gamboa (EN) | Website + social media | 26/09/2025 |
| 9 October conference info – Joanna Ball   | Social media           | 29/09/2025 |
| 9 October conference info – Caroline Saccucci   | Social media           | 30/09/2025 |
| 9 October conference info – Hervé Chneiweiss  | Social media           | 01/10/2025 |

**Table 12: Details of articles and other information published online in 2025 (5)**

| Publication   | Platform               | Date       |
|---|------------------------|------------|
| 9 October conference info - Odile Contat  | Social media           | 02/10/2025 |
| Esssib repost - article by Sanjay Burde   | Social media           | 19/09/2025 |
| 9 October conference info - Jérémie Petit   | Social media           | 22/09/2025 |
| 9 October conference info - Todd Carpenter  | Social media           | 23/09/2025 |
| Bulletin des Bibliothèques de France - article by C. Authier, A.M. Cetto and J.O. Alonso Gamboa (FR)                        | Social media           | 24/09/2025 |
| 9 October conference info - Chinwe Anunobi  | Social media           | 25/09/2025 |
| Bulletin des Bibliothèques de France - article by C. Authier, A.M. Cetto and J.O. Alonso Gamboa (EN)                        | Website + social media | 26/09/2025 |
| 9 October conference info - Joanna Ball   | Social media           | 29/09/2025 |
| 9 October conference info - Caroline Saccucci   | Social media           | 30/09/2025 |
| 9 October conference info - Hervé Chneiweiss  | Social media           | 01/10/2025 |
| 9 October conference info - Odile Contat  | Social media           | 02/10/2025 |
| DOAJ repost - presentation details: Joanna Ball   | Social media           | 03/10/2025 |
| DM2025 - presentations by the NCs   | Social media           | 07/10/2025 |
| Story ISSN Iran   | Social media           | 16/10/2025 |
| IFLA 2025 - presentation by Gaëlle Béquet   | Social media           | 17/10/2025 |
| IFLA webinar  | Social media           | 20/10/2025 |
| Opening of the UAE National Centre  | Website + social media | 20/10/2025 |
| Repost from the Publications Office of the European Union - article by Carol Riccalton + opening of the UAE National Centre | Social media           | 21/10/2025 |
| Story ISSN Hungary  | Social media           | 22/10/2025 |
| Story ISSN Ghana  | Social media           | 23/10/2025 |
| DM2025 - review and acknowledgements  | Social media           | 24/10/2025 |
| DM2025 - conference on 9 October  | Social media           | 27/10/2025 |
| DM2025 - conference replay  | Social media           | 28/10/2025 |
| Story ISSN Croatia  | Social media           | 29/10/2025 |

**Table 12: Details of articles and other information published online in 2025 (6)**

| <b>Publication</b>   | <b>Platform</b>        | <b>Date</b> |
|--|------------------------|-------------|
| Repost from Hamideh Memari – IFLA video  | Social media           | 30/10/2025  |
| Congratulations to IBICT + story ISSN Brazil                                   | Social media           | 31/10/2025  |
| Story ISSN Czechia   | Social media           | 03/11/2025  |
| ISSN IC @ Charleston Library Conference 2025 – presentation info Gaëlle Béquet | Social media           | 04/11/2025  |
| Story ISSN New Zealand   | Social media           | 05/11/2025  |
| World Digital Preservation Day   | Social media           | 06/11/2025  |
| Story ISSN Romania   | Social media           | 07/11/2025  |
| Story ISSN Canada  | Social media           | 10/11/2025  |
| Repost National Library and Archives – UAE NC opening                          | Social media           | 12/11/2025  |
| Story ISSN Italy   | Social media           | 14/11/2025  |
| Story ISSN Singapore   | Social media           | 17/11/2025  |
| Story ISSN Moldova   | Social media           | 18/11/2025  |
| Story ISSN Burkina Faso  | Social media           | 19/11/2025  |
| Story ISSN Ukraine   | Social media           | 20/11/2025  |
| ISSN IC @ Charleston Library Conference 2025 – article                         | Website + social media | 21/11/2025  |
| Story ISSN Mexico  | Social media           | 24/11/2025  |
| Story ISSN United Kingdom  | Social media           | 25/11/2025  |
| Story ISSN North Macedonia   | Social media           | 26/11/2025  |
| DM2025 – Arts Forains Evening  | Social media           | 27/11/2025  |
| Story ISSN Philippines   | Social media           | 01/12/2025  |
| Story ISSN Nigeria   | Social media           | 03/12/2025  |
| Story ISSN Slovenia  | Social media           | 05/12/2025  |
| Story ISSN USA   | Social media           | 08/12/2025  |

**Table 12: Details of articles and other information published online in 2025 (7)**

| <b>Publication</b>     | <b>Platform</b>        | <b>Date</b> |
|------------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Story ISSN Lituanie    | Social media           | 09/12/2025  |
| Story ISSN Japon       | Social media           | 10/12/2025  |
| Story ISSN Norvège     | Social media           | 12/12/2025  |
| Story ISSN Panama      | Social media           | 15/12/2025  |
| Story ISSN Russie      | Social media           | 16/12/2025  |
| Story ISSN Ile Maurice | Social media           | 17/12/2025  |
| AI4LAM article         | Website + social media | 19/12/2025  |
| Story ISSN Monténégro  | Social media           | 22/12/2025  |
| Story ISSN Thaïlande   | Social media           | 23/12/2025  |
| Story ISSN Islande     | Social media           | 29/12/2025  |
| Story ISSN France      | Social media           | 30/12/2025  |

## 2.5. The International Centre's newsletter

In January 2026, the International Centre's newsletter had **11,407** subscribers.

A clean-up was carried out in May 2025 to retain only active email addresses. This process ensures the newsletter is distributed more effectively. New addresses have been checked monthly since May 2025. The average monthly growth rate is 102 subscribers. Since May 2025, the newsletter has been distributed using the Brevio CRM tool. Previous newsletters, as well as new ones, are also available in PDF format at <https://www.issn.org/newsletters-pdf/>.

**Table 13: Newsletter distribution and open rates**

| Month     | Number of recipients | Open rate | Click-through rate |
|-----------|----------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| May       | 10,585               | 30%       | 4%                 |
| June      | 10,440               | 21%       | 2.50%              |
| July      | 10,540               | 23%       | 9.50%              |
| September | 10,954               | 19%       | 23%                |
| October   | 11,123               | 18%       | 13.50%             |
| November  | 11,176               | 20%       | 10%                |
| December  | 11,238               | 29%       | 4.50%              |

## 2.6. Participation in professional events

The department took part in two professional events:

- UKSG 47th Annual Conference and Exhibition, 31 March–2 April 2025, Brighton, United Kingdom <https://www.uksg.org/uksg-annual-conference-2025-programme/>
- IFLAWLIC Astana, Kazakhstan, <https://2025.ifla.org/>

## 3. Information Systems Department

In 2025, the department continued to provide technical services to the staff of the International Centre, the ISSN network, and external clients and partners, notably through regular data exports.

In 2025, the IT team consists of the head of department, 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 the team's work and internal reporting activities. One junior developer is specifically responsible for the development and maintenance of scripts and processing tools, as well as for coordinating with the external service provider on infrastructure matters. The other junior developer is part of the ISSN+ and new portal development team, which relies primarily on the contribution of our external developers. Both developers provide ongoing support to the entire ISSN team.

Several new members were recruited in 2025 to accelerate development and support the goal of achieving minimum viable product (MVP) status by the end of the year. These recruitments also filled the vacancy left by the departure, in June 2025, of the senior developer who previously held the position of technical lead.

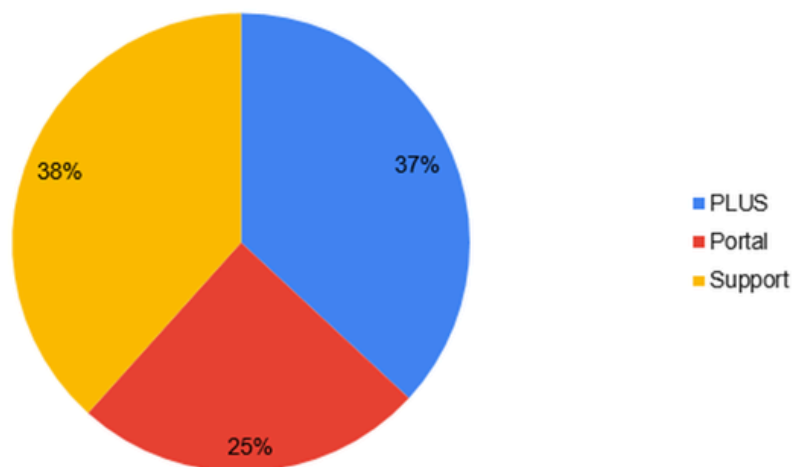
For external developments, notably ISSN+ and the new portal, the team comprises four full-time specialists. This includes a senior developer who was already part of the original team and who has in-depth knowledge of the application as a whole. The team was strengthened by the recruitment of a new senior developer in June 2025, a senior front-end developer in July 2025 tasked with implementing the web designer's proposals, and a Product Owner/proxy developer, also recruited in June 2025, responsible for designing new modules and features for the ISSN portal.

The external team also includes a freelance web designer, initially hired in 2023, who is responsible for the UX/UI specifications of the new platform, including its functional logic, visual design and accessibility. She works closely with the development team.

To support activity planning and assist the in-house project manager, an external project management consultant was engaged for a total of twenty days between May and August 2025.

Although this does not fall within the reference year, it should be noted that in January 2026, an external expert carried out a penetration test on the ISSN portal and other exposed tools. This assessment identified potential security vulnerabilities, which were subsequently rectified prior to the launch of the MVP in February 2026.

**Figure 13: Breakdown of Information Systems Department activities in 2025 (Source: JIRA)**



### 3.1. Developments for the ISSN Plus tool

The main developments carried out in 2025 included the full implementation of the ISSN-H logic, which took longer than initially anticipated due to its complexity. A single sign-on (SSO) module based on the Keycloak application was also implemented, enabling the management of logins for ISSN+ as a preliminary step towards its integration into the new portal.

Other improvements included the introduction of default sorting of search results by relevance, the implementation of UNIMARC conversions and export features, and the upgrading of the ISSN+ interface software to address the technical debt associated with Vue.js. In addition, data processing activities were carried out to facilitate the identification of major publishers, drawing in part on data from OpenAlex.

Furthermore, around forty bugs, both functional and technical, were resolved during the year. Various minor improvements were also implemented as required, including optimisations to relevance sorting and adjustments to time-out settings.

### 3.2. Development of the new portal

Following the start of work in 2023 and the near-completion of the core bibliographic module in 2024, development of the new portal in 2025 focused on achieving the minimum viable product (MVP) required for the application to be ready for production and to meet the basic expectations of its users.

This work notably involved implementing the Single Sign-On (SSO) module within the new portal, as well as developing several APIs, including a public API and an SRU API. An OAI-PMH API was also implemented to support data synchronisation.

In addition, features were developed to manage subscriptions to the portal and its various options, as well as mechanisms to monitor usage statistics for ISSN record queries in different contexts (textual searches are to be integrated at a later stage). Finally, the necessary accessibility standards and responsive design features were implemented for the portal's web pages.

It should be noted that these tasks were carried out by a newly formed team, only one member of which had prior experience of working with the application's developers. The team therefore had to familiarise itself with an entirely new application, including its underlying logic, components and development environment. Several key milestones were reached during the period under review and shortly thereafter. The 50th anniversary of the International Centre, in October 2025, provided an opportunity to demonstrate the progress made in bibliographic search functionality and the readiness of this major module.

A beta testing session was held in early December 2025, bringing together 80 participants. A total of 84 comments were received, mainly concerning display issues, a few technical bugs and suggestions for future developments, such as the provision of a 'print-ready' version of the records. An initial MVP version for ISSN network users was delivered in late December 2025. The full launch, including access for subscribers and the general public, took place on 23 February 2026.

Following this roll-out, exceptionally high traffic generated by numerous AI bots – reaching up to 10 million requests per day – led to the identification of a major issue with the application. This issue, which only became apparent after a very high volume of requests (in the region of one million visits), was identified and resolved within around ten days, in early March 2026. During the investigation phase, the application had to be temporarily taken offline on several occasions in order to analyse the situation without interference from external bot traffic.

During this period, two external experts, including the application's original designer, were consulted to provide an assessment and recommendations for improvement (excluding strictly technical aspects). Their recommendations included strengthening monitoring tools, ensuring that the test environment was strictly identical to the production environment, implementing proxy protection solutions such as Anubis or Cloudflare, fine-tuning the web server to improve protection and streamline operations, and establishing a clearly defined system operator ('sysop') role.

Once the issue had been fully analysed and the initial corrective measures implemented, a system reboot was carried out on 7 March 2026. This reboot was deemed successful, with no incidents reported since that date. Subsequent fine-tuning of the rate-limiting mechanisms has improved protection against bot traffic, and the new portal now displays significantly better average response times compared to the old system.

**Table 14: Summary of features deployed on the new portal in March 2026**

Legend: New / Improved / Existing module or feature

| Module / Feature                            | Previously available | Comments / Improvements                         |
|---|----------------------|---|
| SSO authentication                          |                      | Implemented in the new portal                   |
| SSO authentication (IP address recognition) | ✓                    | Functionality retained                          |
| Basic bibliographic searches                | ✓                    | Managed and integrated                          |
| Fuzzy searches                              |                      | New feature                                     |
| Special search for Chinese entries          |                      | Newly implemented                               |
| Boolean searches                            |                      | Now directly available in the main search field |
| ISSN-L pages                                | ✓                    | Improved design                                 |
| ISSN-H pages                                |                      | Newly implemented                               |
| Graphs illustrating ISSN relationships      |                      | Newly implemented                               |
| Navigation between ISSN records             |                      | Improved navigation                             |
| Filters (facets)                            | ✓                    | New name and improved design                    |
| Sorting records                             | ✓                    | Feature retained                                |
| Display of caretaker data                   | ✓                    | Feature retained                                |
| Display of transfer data                    | ✓                    | Feature retained                                |
| Export of records                           | ✓                    | Feature retained                                |
| User management (back office)               | ✓                    | Extended features                               |
| SRU API                                     |                      | Replaces the old custom API                     |
| Public API                                  |                      | New feature requiring registration              |
| OAI-PMH                                     | ✓                    | Improvement: retrievable sets                   |

**Table 15: Features to be developed or improved on the new portal in March 2026**

Legend: New / Improvements to existing features

| Module / Feature   | Previously available on the portal | Status on the new portal                  |
|--|------------------------------------|---|
| Identification of publishers                                 |                                    | New                                       |
| Management of ISSN applications                              | ✓                                  | Improvement                               |
| Management of transfer requests                              | ✓                                  | Improvement                               |
| Management of complaints and ISSN certificates               | ✓                                  | Improvement                               |
| Integrated CMS for page editing                              | ✓                                  | Improvement                               |
| ISSN network directory (back office and public web pages)    | ✓ (institutional website)          | Improvement (integration into the portal) |
| Addition of ROAD, Keepers and Transfer filters               | ✓                                  | Improvement                               |
| Addition of overview pages for ROAD, Keepers and Transfer    | ✓                                  | Improvement                               |
| Printing records   | ✓                                  | Improvement                               |
| Record selection   | ✓                                  | Improvement                               |
| Acceptance of ISSNs without hyphens, standardisation of URLs | ✓                                  | Improvement                               |
| Corrections to linked data (ISSN-H, etc.)                    | ✓                                  | Improvement                               |
| Make the public API accessible                               | ✓                                  | Improvement                               |
| SRU API: large queries (> 20,000 records)                    |                                    | New                                       |
| Changes to the internal HiMarc file based on MARC21          |                                    | New                                       |
| Direct links between the ISSN portal and ISSN+               |                                    | New                                       |
| Improvements to the sales back office                        | ✓                                  | Improvement                               |
| Improvements to the customer interface                       | ✓                                  | Improvement                               |

### 3.3. In-house technical support at the International Centre

A significant part of the work involves providing support in response to requests from other departments within the International Centre, as well as from external users and partners.

These activities are varied in nature and cover both routine maintenance and specific improvement initiatives. They include, in particular, support for the integration of new ISSN centres, such as the one in the United Arab Emirates in 2025, as well as the regular automated processing of new external data sources, including contributions from Keepers registry agencies.

In addition, work is carried out on an ongoing basis to make minor and major improvements to existing scripts and workflows, alongside debugging and maintenance of current tools, notably the ISSN portal. The team is also responsible for data extraction and the production of statistics to meet specific needs, as well as large-scale data preservation activities.

Other tasks include the development and maintenance of ad hoc tools, such as dashboards designed to monitor automated data production processes, as well as the preparation of technical documentation and user guides.

### 3.4. External technical support

The contract with Normaprint, which has been responsible since 2016 for the monitoring and management of the ISSN International Centre's local IT infrastructure, remained in force throughout 2025.

Normaprint continued to provide regular monitoring and support services, and no service interruptions affecting internal services were reported during the year.

Particular attention was paid to several key areas, including the implementation of immutable backup and archiving solutions, the conduct of an external security audit by a third party, and the strengthening of laptop security.

### 3.5. Deployment of IT tools

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

- **GitLab**

Applications, services and scripts, including the ISSN and ISSN+ portals, are managed within a shared GitLab environment. In this context, a code of good practice has been established to define the procedures to be followed when modifying code.

Since the summer of 2025, more than 500 code commits have been recorded by members of the development team, reflecting sustained development activity.

- **Freescout**

The external ticket management system (FreeScout) was further expanded during the period under review, with the merging of several inboxes and the reorganisation of workflows. This application enables staff at the International Centre to manage and process requests from National Centres and other partners in a fully transparent manner. It also facilitates the tracking of outstanding issues and strengthens collaboration among staff members.

Between January 2025 and February 2026, approximately 800 requests of various types were processed by the IT department.

- **Jira**

Jira, a cloud-based system and a free solution, is the main tool used to manage and plan the teams' workload.

- **Sentry**

Sentry, a cloud-based monitoring tool, is used to track errors in ISSN+ and the Portal. This subscription-based solution provides detailed contextual analysis for every automatically logged error, including those not necessarily directly perceived by users.

The tool provides team members with a daily overview of incidents, thereby facilitating effective monitoring and rapid problem resolution.

- **Xwiki**

This tool is used to host four separate sections in the form of dedicated wikis. These include resources for identifying multinational publishers in collaboration with National Centres, the ISSN Manual and the ISSN+ help pages. It also hosts the 'Tools and Documents' wiki, created in 2024 to manage a range of internal and external resources, including, for example, training videos for the ISSN network.

- **Weblate**

This application, initially set up to manage multilingual translations of the ISSN+ software interface, ultimately proved unsuitable for operational needs. It has since been replaced by a system based on scripts that regularly generate Excel files for translators, which are then returned and integrated into Git once the work is complete. The application is no longer in use.

- **Mailjet**

This application is used exclusively for transactional emails, i.e. messages sent automatically by the system. These include emails triggered by user actions, such as password reset requests ('forgotten password') and other system-generated notifications.

- **Brevo**

This tool is used for all editorial and marketing communications. This includes communication with the ISSN network (registration forms, surveys, meeting information, etc.), as well as the distribution of the newsletter. It is also used for communication with customers, particularly in the context of renewal campaigns, the promotion of new services, notifications regarding portal maintenance and commercial offers aimed at publishers.

In addition, Brevo supports outreach activities, such as sending emails to event participants or contacts gathered in various contexts, as well as targeted follow-ups (for example, abandoned basket reminders for publishers who have created an account). It is also used to distribute customer satisfaction surveys.

### 3.6. The project to use AI to improve metadata quality

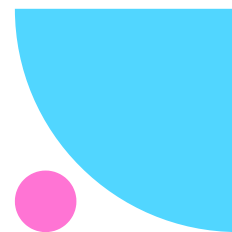
Following a selection process, a contract was signed with Headmind Partners in late 2025 for the development of several modules aimed at introducing artificial intelligence into ISSN+ to improve the quality of records.

The head of the IT department, accompanied by the director and a metadata specialist, took part in the subsequent technical meetings to define the specifications for the first module, dedicated to the designation of abbreviated key titles.

This module is designed to assist cataloguers by facilitating the automated generation of abbreviated key titles from the key title when no abbreviation is already present in the List of Abbreviations of Title Words (LTWA). New candidate entries for the LTWA will be proposed automatically and may be added to the list following human validation.

Following user testing scheduled for March 2026, the module will be integrated into ISSN Plus within the cataloguing environment.

# Conclusion



The year 2025 confirms the momentum generated by the ISSN International Centre as part of its 2025–2029 action plan, with the first results of the work undertaken now emerging. Strengthening the network, continuously improving the quality of metadata and consolidating services are key priorities that will continue to guide the Centre’s actions in the coming years. This trajectory is part of a clear ambition: to consolidate the role of the ISSN portal as a global reference for the identification of serial resources and to develop services that are increasingly tailored to users’ needs.

The development of the new portal represents, in this regard, a crucial project. Following a phase of design and intensive technical implementation, the launch of a first version in 2026 marks a decisive milestone. Future developments – whether in the form of enhanced functionality, the gradual integration of new services or continuous performance improvements – will enable the portal to become a high-performance system serving information professionals and publishers.

However, this digital transformation cannot be envisaged without constant support from the network of National Centres and users. The International Centre will therefore ensure it continues its efforts in training and communication, in order to facilitate the adoption of the new tools and ensure a smooth transition to this new ecosystem. The involvement of the network, the incorporation of feedback and dialogue with partners will be key factors for success.

In a rapidly evolving environment, marked in particular by the emergence of artificial intelligence, the International Centre intends to continue its innovation efforts whilst guaranteeing the reliability, quality and interoperability of ISSN data. It is within this balance between continuity, adaptation and innovation that the outlook for the coming years is taking shape.

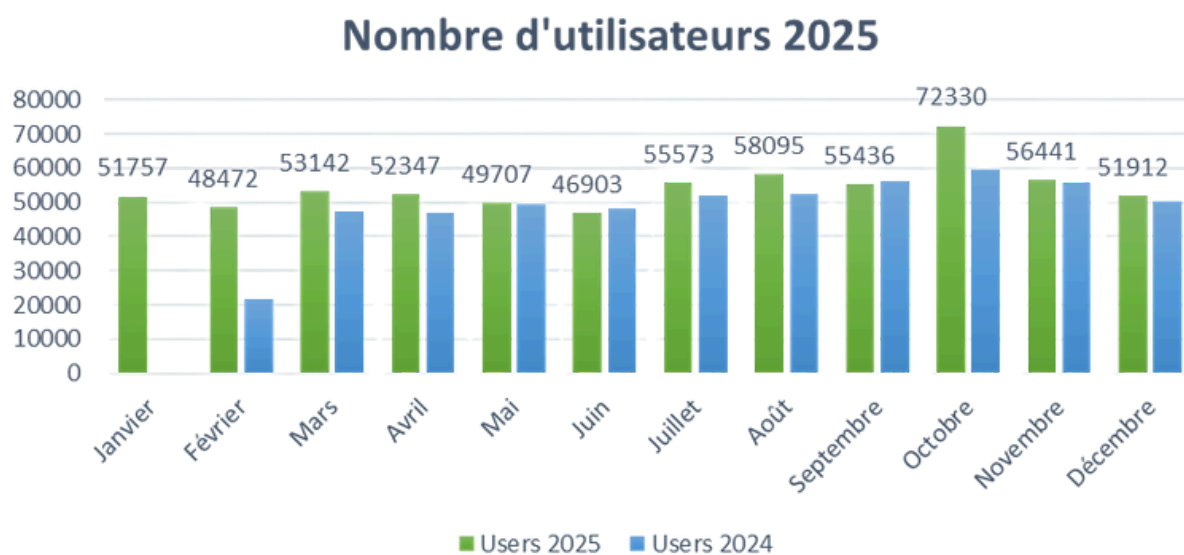
# Appendices



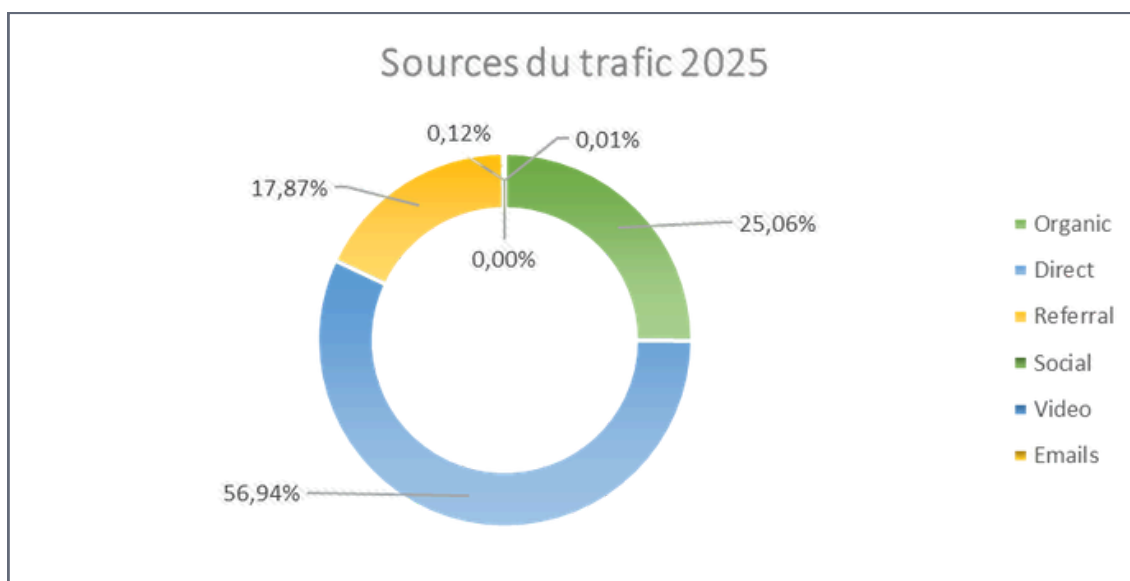
# Appendix I: Usage statistics for the ISSN International Centre’s institutional website and the ISSN portal in 2025

1- Visits to the institutional website (<https://www.issn.org>) – Source: Google Analytics

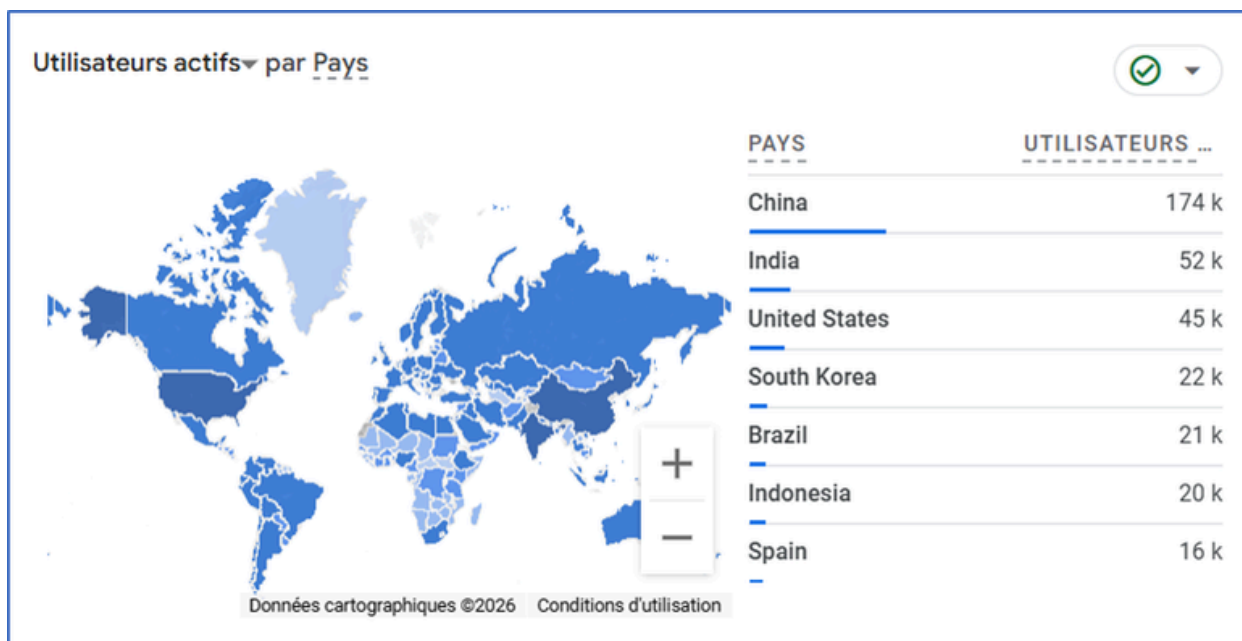
**625,115** users were recorded on the institutional website in 2025, compared with 539,627 in 2024.



Direct traffic (direct URL entry) is the main source of visits.



Users are mainly located in China and India. There has been no change in this regard compared to 2024, apart from an increase in the proportion of visitors from China (from 18.86% to 28.64%).

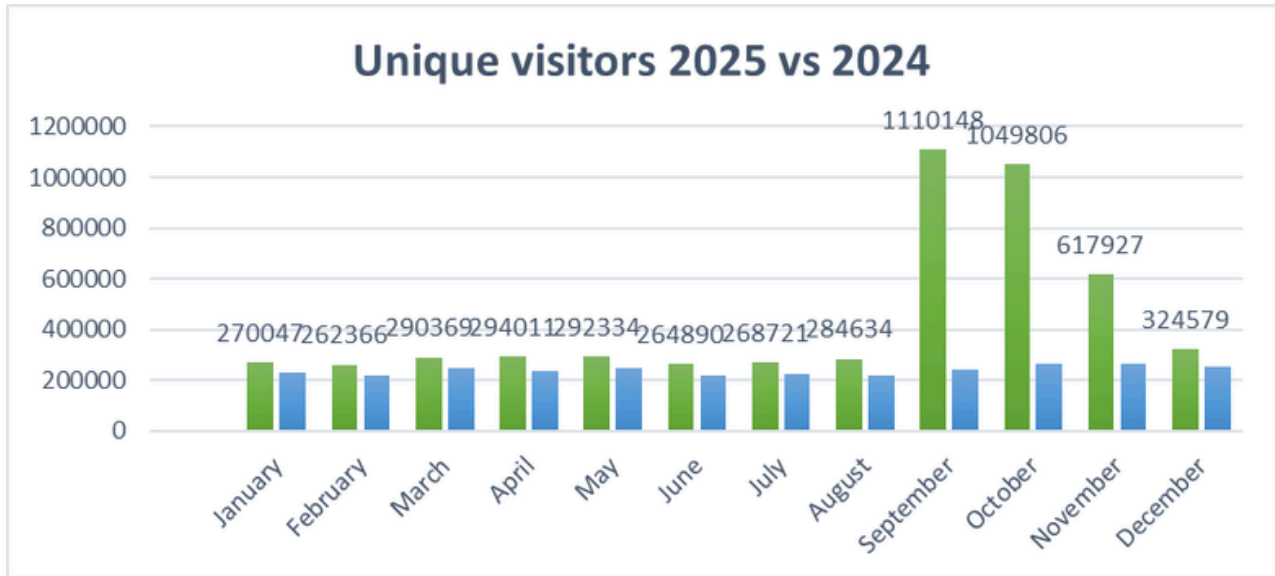


### Breakdown of visits to the institutional website for the 10 most active countries in 2025

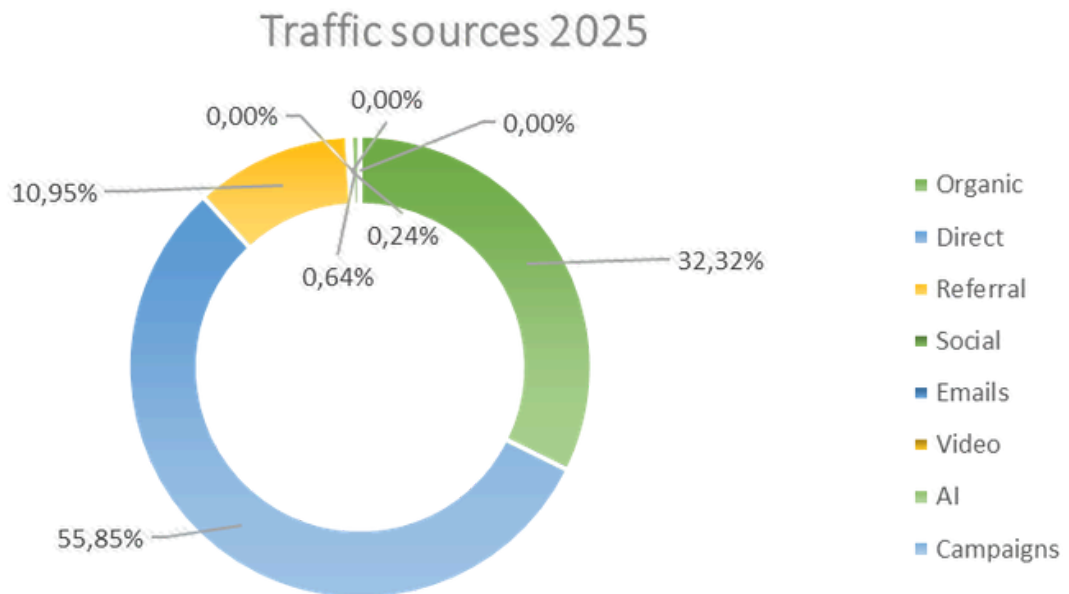
| Country     | % of active users |
|-------------|-------------------|
| China       | 28.64%            |
| India       | 8.63%             |
| USA         | 7.36%             |
| South Korea | 3.71%             |
| Brazil      | 3.44%             |
| Indonesia   | 3.38%             |
| Spain       | 2.69%             |
| Mexico      | 2.56%             |
| France      | 2.26%             |
| Singapore   | 1.98%             |

2 - Data portal consultation (<https://portal.issn.org>) – Sources: Matomo and Google Analytics

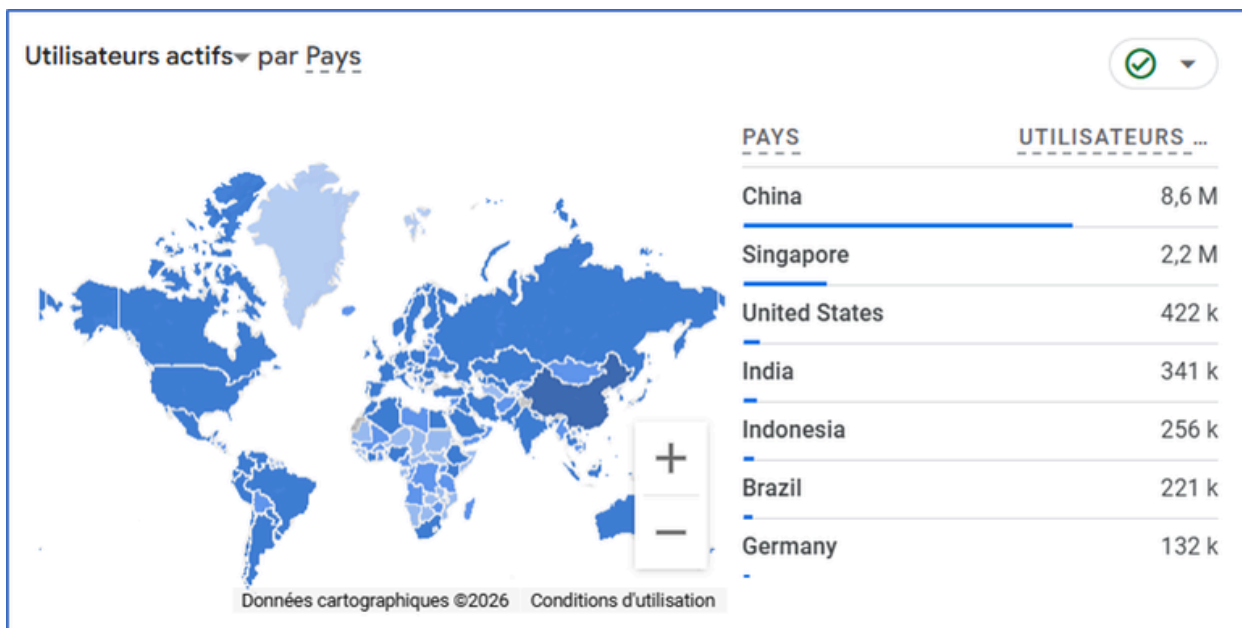
In 2025, there were 5 million unique visitors (2.8 million in 2024). These statistics are skewed due to requests from bots whose IP addresses are located in China.



The main source of traffic is direct traffic, which is therefore partly driven by bots. To obtain a more reliable comparison with the 2024 figures, we can look at organic traffic, which rose from 2.1 million unique visitors in 2024 to 2.3 million in 2025.



Visitors are mainly located in China and Singapore.



### Breakdown of portal visits for the 10 most active countries in 2025

| Country        | % of active users |
|----------------|-------------------|
| China          | 68.74 %           |
| Singapore      | 17.38 %           |
| USA            | 3.38 %            |
| India          | 2.74 %            |
| Indonesia      | 2.06 %            |
| Brazil         | 1.77 %            |
| Germany        | 1.06 %            |
| Hong Kong      | 0.87 %            |
| United Kingdom | 0.82 %            |
| Japan          | 0.68 %            |

Among the leading sites, ChatGPT appears in fourth place this year, whereas in 2024 there were no conversational artificial intelligence models on this list at all.

| Source manuelle de la session ▾ + |                     | Utilisateurs<br>actifs            |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Total                             |                     | <b>713 643</b><br>5,73 % du total |
| 1                                 | doaj.org            | 124 489 (17,44 %)                 |
| 2                                 | cn.bing.com         | 56 695 (7,94 %)                   |
| 3                                 | google              | 20 494 (2,87 %)                   |
| 4                                 | chatgpt.com         | 34 399 (4,82 %)                   |
| 5                                 | catalogue.bnf.fr    | 20 008 (2,8 %)                    |
| 6                                 | yandex.ru           | 13 060 (1,83 %)                   |
| 7                                 | in.search.yahoo.com | 9 236 (1,29 %)                    |
| 8                                 | fr.wikipedia.org    | 13 939 (1,95 %)                   |
| 9                                 | fr.m.wikipedia.org  | 11 945 (1,67 %)                   |
| 10                                | id.search.yahoo.com | 8 439 (1,18 %)                    |

## Appendix II: Tables of indicators corresponding to the four pillars of the 2025–2029 Action Plan

| Priority | Action line                | Indicator   | Frequency   | Target for 2029                                      | Findings at the end of 2025 | Notes   |
|----------|----------------------------|---|-------------|--|-----------------------------|---|
| A        | A1 Data quality assurance  | Number of records with errors   | Half-yearly | Maximum threshold of 2% of records containing errors | 1,39%                       | Since 2022, the number of errors has fallen by 97% and the number of records containing errors has fallen by 57%. Between 2024 and 2025, these figures are 93% and 10% respectively.  |
| A        | A2 Network cohesion        | Training sessions for the network   | Annual      | ≥4/an  | 12                          | 4 training webinars on the Wiki Manual organised in 2025: in English (14 May, 60 participants), in Spanish (21 May, 30 participants), in French (28 May, 20 participants) and in Russian (5 June, 5 participants). 8 workshops organised during DM2025. |
| A        | A2 Network cohesion        | Participation (online or in person) of National Centres in network meetings – % of centres participating (X centres out of total number of centres) | Half-yearly | ≥50%   | 45%                         | 44 centres represented at DM2025 and having participated in the workshops; 43 centres connected for testing on the new portal   |
| A        | A3 Robust ISSN procedure   | % of records with links to publishers' proofs in ISSN+  | Yes/No      | ≥90%   | 0%                          | The development of this feature in ISSN+ has not yet been scheduled.  |
| A        | A4 Streamlining production | Number of accounts logging in at least once a year to ISSN+ / total number of active accounts over the year   | Half-yearly | ≥75%   | 53%                         | In ISSN+, past logins are not retained. Only the most recent login is stored in the system's memory.  |
| A        | A5 Network expansion       | Total number of centres   | Annual      | +3 à +5  | 1                           | United Arab Emirates Centre   |

| Priority | Action line           | Indicator   | Frequency   | Target for 2029 | Findings at the end of 2025 | Notes  |
|----------|-----------------------|---|-------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--|
| B        | B1 Service portfolio  | Traffic on the new portal – number of unique visits | Monthly     | 50%             | 5 million                   | 2.8 million unique visitors in 2024. In 2025, the figure increased significantly due to automated requests (bots). |
| B        | B2 Sales Marketing    | Number of new qualified leads per year              | Monthly     | 100 / year      | 80 / year                   |  |
| B        | B2 Sales Marketing    | Conversion rate of leads to customers               | Monthly     | 0,25            | 0,18                        |  |
| B        | B3 Service Innovation | Pilot projects                                      | Half-yearly | 3               | 0                           |  |
| B        | B3 Service Innovation | Services launched                                   | Half-yearly | 2               | 0                           |  |

| Priority | Action line   | Indicator  | Frequency   | Target for 2029       | Findings at the end of 2025 | Notes   |
|----------|---|--|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| C        | C1 Keepers expansion  | Number of Keepers Registry agencies acquired in priority regions: Africa, Asia, Latin America                  | Half-yearly | 3 additional agencies | 0                           | The National Library of Sweden has applied to join KR. The onboarding process will be scheduled for 2026. |
| C        | C2 Keepers Registry visibility                                  | Number of public communications containing statistics on KR  | Half-yearly | ≥6                    | 0                           |   |
| C        | C3 Scientific journals  | % of scientific journals archived compared to the estimated number of scientific journals in the ISSN register | Half-yearly | ≥50%                  | 31%                         |   |
| C        | C4 Archiving assessment tool based on collection status reports | Launch of a tool for visualising collection status reports for archived titles                                 | N/A         | Tool available        | 0                           | No IT development has been initiated for this feature   |
| C        | C5 Keepers Community  | Number of technical committee meetings and meetings between agencies   | Half-yearly | 3 per year            | 1                           | The KR Technical Committee was reconstituted in 2025.   |

| Priority | Action line            | Indicator  | Frequency   | Target for 2029                      | Findings at the end of 2025                     | Notes   |
|----------|------------------------|--|-------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| D        | D1 ISSN-H              | Deployment of the identifier in production in ISSN+  | N/A         | Implementation of the new identifier | Deployment completed on ISSN+ and on the portal |   |
| D        | D1 ISSN-H              | Number of communications regarding ISSN-H to target audiences  | Half-yearly | 4/year                               | 0   | Communication to be planned in 2026 in connection with the new portal               |
| D        | D2 Resource monitoring | Number of social media posts highlighting the benefits of identifying serial publications with an ISSN | Quarterly   | ≥6                                   | 10  |   |
| D        | D3 Interoperability    | Number of participations in working groups in the field of standardisation and the use of identifiers  | Half-yearly | 3/year                               | 2   | MARC21 Advisory Committee, Crossref Working Group on Recommendations for Publishers |



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