INTERNATIONAL STANDARD SERIAL NUMBER INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

ISSN International Centre

2025 Activity Report - Executive Summary

The year 2025 was marked by the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the ISSN International Centre in Paris. This event enhanced the visibility and cohesion of our international network.

2025 is also the first year of implementation of the 2025–2029 action plan, which marks the start of a phase of innovation and digital transformation.

The ISSN network has continued to expand and now comprises 96 member states, with the opening of the United Arab Emirates centre in October 2025. The International Centre and its network are proving their appeal and are thereby contributing to multilateral cooperation in the fields of culture and science.

Key figures (change in % compared to 2024)

- 2,442,601 confirmed ISSN records (+2%)
- 418,100 online resources identified (+5.5%)
- 64,920 open access titles reported in ROAD (+6%)
- 98,225 titles archived by Keepers Registry agencies (+2.5%)

Governance and operation of the ISSN network

The 26th General Assembly of Member Countries was held remotely on 19 February 2025. Member countries voted online between 4 and 7 March 2025 to approve the new Statutes of the International Centre and the new Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly. The Governing Board also adopted its new Rules of Procedure by remote vote in May 2025. The meeting of directors and staff from the ISSN national centres took place from 6 to 10 October 2025 in Paris, at the invitation of the Bibliothèque nationale de France. Around 100 participants contributed to the discussions.

Strategic progress and modernisation

The implementation of the 2025–2029 action plan has already improved the quality and consistency of metadata. The ISSN+ production tool is increasingly being used by national centres. The development of the new ISSN portal has reached a decisive milestone with the delivery of a minimum viable product in early 2026. Finally, the International Centre has begun exploratory work on integrating artificial intelligence into metadata production to optimise cataloguing activities and quality control.

ISSN data

By the end of 2025, the portal contained 2,442,601 confirmed ISSNs, an increase of 2% compared to 2024, with 44,504 new ISSNs added by the network. 130,143 new and updated records were integrated into the portal in 2025 and 11,742 errors were corrected by the International Centre prior to data import. Finally, 123,113 records were modified directly in our production tool by 64 national centres.

Services to publishers

The International Centre's work with publishers saw significant growth in 2025, with 4,680 requests processed, representing a 33% increase. This growth is partly due to changes in editorial practices and the rise in the number of serial publications worldwide, including those produced with the support of artificial intelligence technologies.

Development of ROAD and Keepers Registry

The ROAD directory continues to develop and consolidate its position as a reference tool for open-access scientific resources, with nearly 65,000 titles listed. Meanwhile, the Keepers Registry service now brings together 20 archiving agencies and covers more than 98,000 titles, strengthening its role in monitoring the preservation of serial publications on an international scale. However, further efforts are still needed to improve geographical coverage.

Sales, marketing and communications

The International Centre's commercial performance is on the rise in 2025, with a 6% increase in turnover, exceeding the targets set. This growth is driven in particular by strong demand for portal subscriptions and a significant increase in sales of ISSN credits. Marketing activities have been strengthened through the deployment of tools dedicated to customer relationship management and prospecting, thereby improving commercial efficiency and customer loyalty. Furthermore, communication activities have seen a notable intensification, with an increased presence on social media and the promotion of events linked to the 50th anniversary.

In 2025

- 130,143 new and updated records by the National Centres
- 4,858 ISSNs assigned by the International Centre
- 2.3 million unique visitors to the ISSN portal

Technical and IT developments

The development of the new portal reached a decisive milestone with the launch of a minimum viable product in early 2026, incorporating new features such as single sign-on (SSO), application programming interfaces (APIs) and improved search functionalities. At the same time, the internal production tool has continued to evolve to meet the network's needs, and projects incorporating artificial intelligence are opening up promising prospects for the improvement of business processes.

Conclusion

The year 2025 confirms the momentum generated by the International Centre as part of its new strategic plan. The progress made in data quality, service development and digital transformation strengthens the ISSN portal's position as a global benchmark for the identification of serial resources. The launch of the new portal and the gradual integration of innovative technologies, notably artificial intelligence, open up interesting prospects for improving working methods and production across the entire network.

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