



**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS
AND INSTITUTIONS
WORLD LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CONGRESS**

**82nd IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE AND ASSEMBLY
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CATALOGUING SECTION

ISSN Liaison

<http://www.issn.org>

Activities Report, August 2015 - August 2016

I. Status of the ISSN Network

The ISSN Network consists of the International Centre, based in Paris, and 89 member countries worldwide: Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa-Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Gambia, Ghana, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Nepal, New-Zealand, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam.

The Russian Federation joined the ISSN network in December 2015.

II. Cataloguing activity of the ISSN Network

ISSN are assigned to serial publications by the International Centre and the ISSN National Centres which are hosted by national libraries or scientific and technical research centres. ISSN are registered as identification metadata in bibliographic records which are subsequently published in the ISSN Register.

At the end of 2015, the ISSN Register included 1,884,990 records with an increase of 73,880 new records added in 2015. The identification of electronic resources continues to make good progress both in quantity and quality: 177,631 online serial titles had an ISSN at the end of 2015 (+ 22,886 records in 2015, i.e. 30% of the total increase).

The assignment activity of the ISSN International Centre itself continued to be very active, with a total number of 3,859 new ISSN assigned. These figures do not include the amendment of existing records.

III. Standardisation activity

a. ISSN Review Group (ISSN RG)

The ISSN Review Group is a group of experts, from different ISSN National Centres, in charge of the general maintenance and evolution of ISSN bibliographic rules.

Among many different topics, the ISSN RG has been working on:

- the preparation of the ISSN standard revision (see below)
- the harmonization between ISSN, RDA and German cataloguing rules, at the request of the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek;
- ISSN assignment to digitized resources.

The ISSN RG has also decided to better distribute its decisions to the whole Network, by sharing the minutes of its meetings on the Network listserv – and by storing them on the ISSN extranet. It has also decided to regularly issue ISSN Supplementary Guidelines, i.e. additional rules that complement or specify the Manual where it is not clear enough. These guidelines should also be distributed to the Network and could ultimately help preparing new versions of the Manual.

Two guidelines have been issued so far:

- how to define and record the publisher of a blog;
- main criteria to be checked when assigning ISSN to publisher packages.

b. ISSN Manual

The latest version of the ISSN Manual was released in January 2015 after extensive review by the members of the ISSN Review Group. It is available online in French, English and Spanish at <http://www.issn.org/understanding-the-issn/assignment-rules/issn-manual/>.

The ISSN International Centre is considering translating it into Russian with the help of its colleagues from the Russian Book Chamber.

c. ISO

A ballot on the systematic revision of the ISSN standard (ISO 3297:2007) has been distributed to ISO members. If the result of the vote is positive, a revision process will be launched. It shall last at least two years.

In that case, institutions in ISO P-member countries (“P” stands for “Participating”) will be able to nominate experts to participate to the revision working group. The revision activity will be performed within the Technical Committee 46 (Information and Documentation) / Sub-Committee 9 (Identification and Description).

See the list of ISO TC 46/SC 9 P-members here:

http://www.iso.org/iso/fr/home/standards_development/list_of_iso_technical_committees/iso_technical_committee_participation.htm?commid=48836.

d. IFLA

In 2013-2014, the ISSN IC and the BnF developed the PRESS₀₀ model, an ontology intended to capture and represent the underlying semantics of bibliographic information about continuing resources. The model was validated by the FRBR Review Group and submitted to a world-wide review in March-April 2015 whose results were positive.

It has thus been decided by the Cataloguing Section to set up a “PRESS₀₀ Review Group” to ensure the maintenance of the PRESS₀₀ standard. Clément Oury has been elected as chair of the Review Group, whose other members are Vincent Boulet (BnF), Gordon Dunsire (chair of RDA Steering Committee), Louise Howlett (BL/ISSN UK), Patrick Lebœuf (BnF) and Regina Reynolds (LC/ISSN US).

See the 2016 report of the PRESS₀₀ Review Group to IFLA CATS section.

e. RDA

In June 2015, the ISSN IC signed an agreement with the RDA Steering Committee (formerly RDA Joint Steering Committee) in order to “support the maintenance and development of functional interoperability between data created using the RDA and ISSN instructions and element sets”.

The ISSN International Centre was represented at the JSC/RDA meeting in Edinburgh (Nov. 2015). It is also a member of EURIG (European RDA Interest Group) which had meetings in Bern (April 2015) and in Riga (May 2016).

IV. Networking and communication activities

The 40th ISSN Directors’ meeting took place from 13th to 16th October 2015 at the National Library of Serbia in Belgrade. The 41st meeting will be organized in Brasilia, from 7th to 11th November 2015.

The 21st meeting of the General Assembly of the ISSN was held in Paris, on 28th and 29th April 2016. It started with a one-day international conference dedicated to the topic: “Bibliographic metadata going linked: business cases and projects”.

The ISSN network celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2015 with a series of professional events.

Respectfully submitted by

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ISSN Liaison with IFLA CATS
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