

ISSN INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

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ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2007

ISSN: THE NETWORK AND THE REGISTER (DECEMBER 2006)

- 82 Member Countries
- 1,284,413 records
- + 57,356 records
- 41,448 electronic resources

ISSUES OF RELEVANCE TO CDNL

a) ISSN Standard revision

The revised ISSN standard (ISO 3297) is to be published in 2007. The Working Group (ISO/TC46/SC9/WG5) set up in October 2003 to work towards this revision included representatives from the publishing world (Elsevier, Wiley, Periodical Publishers Association, EDItEUR), subscription agents (ASA, Swets), other standards (ISBN, ISTC, ISWC, DOI, OpenURL), standardisation organisations (AFNOR, ISO/TC46/SC9), collecting societies (CISAC), Crossref, Bowker, EAN International, and the Library and ISSN Network communities.

The main change regards the definition of a new and additional function for the ISSN system, enabling to group (or "collocate") the various media versions of a publication through a mechanism called the "linking ISSN" or "ISSN-L". This new function comes in addition to the present function of the ISSN system, which enables to differentiate between various media versions of a resource. This new function answers needs very strongly expressed by the members of the Working Group, who wish to use the ISSN at those two different levels of identification.

An informative annex has been added to the standard, regarding the "best practices" for using ISSN in relation with other identification and linking systems such OpenURL, DOI and EAN bar codes.

b) Formats and Tools for ISSN National Centres

The data formats currently in use in the Library world - UNIMARC and MARC21 - are processed by the ISSN system (and can be provided to the users of the ISSN Register). This enables ISSN National Centre to send their ISSN records in the format currently in use in their Library, without having to process the data specifically for ISSN purposes.

Projects enabling semi-automatic ISSN assignment are currently led; an oral presentation will be made during the meeting.

16 ISSN National Centres have implemented the client part of the software implemented at the International Centre, which enables to run the usual functions of an ISSN National Centre.

c) Broadening of the ISSN Network

Some countries still do not have a National ISSN Centre. The National Libraries of these countries are strongly encouraged to host the ISSN National Centre, and should not hesitate to contact the ISSN International centre (tel: +33 1 44 88 22 20, fax: + 33 1 40 26 32 43, e-mail: issnic@issn.org).

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