

## REPORT TO CDNL 2005

### ISBN Update

In order to establish a new infrastructure for the ISBN system that currently comprises 166 countries and territories, a membership organisation with limited guarantee was registered in London. In spring 2005, invoices and contracts were circulated to the ISBN agencies. According to current estimates, a budget of appr. 260,000 E will be needed to keep the system running. So far the Prussian Cultural Foundation subsidised ISBN, and for this reason there were no fees on the international level. As the subsidies will run out now, funding through membership is unavoidable. In connection with the new infrastructure, a number of questions was asked, especially with regard to the amounts of the contributions, and the necessity of contracts. So far most ISBN agencies did not have a contract – the International Standard provided a list of required services on the international and the national/regional levels. As now there is the issue of membership contributions contracts will be necessary. A frequently asked question is: What do we do if we cannot pay now, owing to the fact that we are on the public budget? Members may pay later but will have to pay starting as of 2005. Questions regarding these matters should be directed to Brian Green (brian@bic.org.uk).

The preparations for the change of the ISBN from the ten digit to the 13 digit form are well under way - definitely the development is faster in countries with automated ordering and distribution systems. Just as a reminder: The new standard takes effect as of Jan. 1, 2007. From that time onwards ISBN should be assigned in its 13-digit form only. The International Agency is going to put conversion software on its website (<http://isbn-international.org>), and users will be able to convert their current contingents easily.

Ten digit ISBN will be read and processed also after Jan. 2007; but no guarantee can be given as to how long this transition period will be.

In May 2005 finally the new version of ISO 2108 was published in English and French, and it is available for purchase from national standards offices.

The new ISBN User's Manual which corresponds to the new standard is also ready. A small printed edition was prepared for those who do not have satisfactory internet access. The brochure is available from the International Agency free of charge. All ISBN agencies will be sent at least one copy. Continuous updates will be available from the International Agency's website.

The next annual ISBN Panel, now, with regard to the new membership organisation, renamed Annual General Meeting, will take place in Tehran, Iran on Nov. 8-9, 2005. As this will be the first meeting of this kind, agencies are encouraged to participate.

Also ISMN (ISO 10956) is undergoing changes. The recent ISMN Panel worked out a draft standard for a 13-digit ISMN which would be in line with the new ISBN. As there will be no need for a recalculated check digit, the proposed ISMN change will be much easier.

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