

**33<sup>rd</sup> CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL LIBRARIES  
SEOUL, KOREA 23<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST 2006****REPORT TO CDNL 2006**

## ISBN

The International Standard Book Number has successfully gone through the revision of the ISO Standard (ISO 2108) which turns the identifier into a 13-digit number, and the structural reorganization which turned the International ISBN Agency into a membership organization in the form of a company under limited guarantee, registered in London. As of the 1<sup>st</sup> of April the international administration moved from Berlin to London where the agency work is in the hands of a subcontractor (initially for a period of 3 years), EDItEUR. The responsible executive director is Brian Green.

As the Prussian Cultural Foundation withdrew its support the new organization is completely dependent on membership contributions, and hopefully these will enable the Agency to continue publishing PIID (see below) which, with its more than 700,000 publishers addresses from all over the world is an important steering tool for the book-trade. Also training needs more attention as those agencies that are not able to attend the annual meetings or administer small book producing countries often lack the experience to advise the book sector.

## ISBN Panel

The annual ISBN Panel took place at Tehran, Iran, at the beginning of November, 2005. It was excellently organized by the Iranian ISBN Agency and provided another opportunity to discuss all the changes within the ISBN field. Also, it was the first Panel ever to be held outside of Europe. This outreach was not undisputed; nevertheless it takes into account that currently approximately 170 countries worldwide participate in the ISBN system, and thus it is a worldwide operation which should not cling to traditional book centres like Europe. The 2006 Panel, at the same time also the Annual General Meeting of the new organization, will take place in Paris in November while there is an invitation to hold the 2007 Panel in Colombia.

## ISBN Revision

The extension of the ISBN from ten to thirteen digits has been implemented worldwide, and a certain amount of 13 digit numbers is already in existence. In order to make the transition period as smooth as possible publishers were advised to print both the ten and the 13 digit versions of the ISBN on their publications before 2007. The 1<sup>st</sup> of January, 2007, will be the official date on which the revised standard will come into effect.

The trade systems will accept 10 digit numbers also after this date but there is no guarantee how long this will be the case. At any rate, library systems should see to it that their formats and software are tuned to accommodate the 13 digit identifiers.

## PIID

The Board of the International ISBN Agency has commissioned a consultant's report on the future of the Publishers International ISBN Directory (PIID). PIID has, for many years, been published in collaboration with KG Saur, whose proposal for a much reduced royalty no longer makes this collaboration economically feasible. The Board are considering the viability of a web-based directory with somewhat less editorial control. This would be cheaper to produce and would have the advantage of being more frequently updated.

## Content Management System

A content management system has been commissioned that would facilitate the management of prefixes and ranges and automatically feed the relevant pages on the International ISBN website. The system will be designed to allow group agencies to use it for their own management of publisher prefixes.

## Training

The initial draft of a training manual has been produced, to act as course material for training workshops and an aide memoire following such training. A concise abbreviated version of the manual has been produced for easier translation and readability. Training remains one of the core tasks of the International Agency. Surprisingly enough, the need is not only apparent in developing countries - experience collected at the Frankfurt Book Fair during the last two years showed that even publishers and booksellers from Central Europe were ill informed.

## Baltic & Nordic ISBN Agencies

Brian Green participated in a meeting of the Nordic and Baltic ISBN Agencies in Oslo in May. In addition to discussion of the use of ISBN for digital products and the move to 13-digit ISBNs, an interesting item of discussion was the increased collaboration between ISBN agencies in national libraries and commercial providers of Books in Print databases, based on the implementation of ONIX in several of these countries.

## Interoperability of Identifiers and Metadata

Following a meeting of ISO identifier registration authorities at the February plenary meeting of ISO TC46, an Identifiers Interoperability Group was set up under the auspices of ISO TC 46/SC 9 to work on issues relating to interoperability of the identifier systems managed by the Registration Authorities for TC 46/SC 9 standards. Members of the group, that met again in June, are the managers of the registration agencies for the International Standard Book Number (ISBN), International Standard Serial Number (ISSN), International Standard Music Number (ISMN), International Standard Audiovisual Number (ISAN), International Standard Recording Code (ISRC), International Standard Musical Work Code (ISWC) and the International Standard Textual Work Code (ISTC), joined by the manager of the International DOI Foundation.

URL: <http://www.isbn-international.org>

## ISMN

The International Standard Music Number (ISMN) comprises now 49 agencies some of which cover several countries. Interest in the number has been worldwide, and even very small music-producing countries value the identifier because it enables them to identify and publicise their sheet music.

#### ISMN Panel

The annual ISMN Panel was held in Helsinki by kind invitation of Helsinki University Library - the National Library of Finland. Among the important issues were the current revision of the standard, the new governance, and electronic publications. The chairman of the Finnish Music Publishers Association informed about electronic licensing, the national Sibelius edition was presented, and role of internet suppliers was discussed. It was an excellent meeting, and the Finnish colleagues deserve high praise for the perfect organization.

The 2007 Panel will be held in Oslo, by kind invitation of the National Library of Norway.

#### Revision

The revision of the ISMN standard (ISO 10956) has been under way for some time. The ballot on the draft was positive (no negative votes), and the requested additional information was added at a working group meeting at Chiang Mai, Thailand, in February 2006. Unfortunately, the minutes of the meeting were stolen, and this required a reconstruction of the minutes and additional delay so that the committee draft has not yet been circulated for voting.

Besides more precise wording and explanations in some cases the draft stipulates the transition to thirteen digits, in analogy to ISBN. The change would be less dramatic, however, as the check digit would remain the same. Only the initial M- would be replaced by 979-0.

This change was proposed mainly in the interest of the trade. Libraries are advised to see to it that their data formats and applications would be able to handle the 13 digit numbers in the future.

#### New Governance

As in the case of ISBN, also ISMN is turning into a membership organization. The founding meeting took place in Berlin on June 29, and official registration is expected in July. All ISMN agencies will then be requested to become members. The ISMN office will remain in Berlin with the State Library. The new structure will allow for more members' participation and more transparency.

#### Music in Print

A Music in print application has been developed and marketed by the German ISMN Agency. They are now cooperating with the British Agency, and this step may open the way for a future European Music in Print.

#### MPIID

The International ISMN Music Publishers Directory was published just in time for the ISMN Panel. In contrast to the previous co-publication with K. G. Saur in printed form, it is now only available as a CD-ROM. All ISMN agencies received a complimentary copy. The edition is not for sale as K. G. Saur is no longer involved but interested institutions will be furnished a copy free of charge. The CD mirrors the layout of the printed edition but is a searchable pdf. Almost needless to say, every effort has been made to update the information.

#### IPI

It may be added that at the ISO TC 46 meeting at Chiang Mai the first proposal for an Interested Party Identifier was presented. It would close a gap in the family of bibliographic identifiers by allowing the unique identification of persons (authors, composers, arrangers, translators, etc.) and corporate bodies. Thus reliable links between products (manifestations), works and the

originators or connected persons would be possible - an application not only important for more efficient rights administration.

URL: <http://www.ismn-international.org>

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