

INTERNATIONAL ISMN AGENCY

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ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2007

The International Standard Music Number (ISO 10957) was established in 1993. As a follow-up to last year's report here is an update:

- The ISMN standard has been under revision for some time. The voting period on the CD ended by March 32, 2007. The result was 100% positive. A number of comments were discussed and answered by an ISMN Working Group during the ISO TC46/SC9 meeting in Santiago de Compostela, on 12 May 2007. The revised CD was forwarded to the SC Secretariat and to AFNOR for translation into French. By July the CD will hopefully be put up for a final vote.
- The current draft follows the view of the user communities that advocate a 13-digit structure in analogy to ISBN. This is not a major change in practical terms as the 13-digit form is identical with the bar-coded version. In contrast to ISBN, the ISMN does not require a change of the check digit. The new ISMN would begin with 979-0- instead of M-.
- There are about 50 countries now representing the user community - most countries of Europe and a number of countries all over the world. Among the new members are the Russian Federation, Belgium and Singapore. Negotiations with the US are still under way (Library of Congress). China expressed interest.
- The next ISMN Panel (AGM of the user community) will take place in Oslo, on 31 May and 1 June 2007, by the kind invitation of the National Library of Norway. Guests are welcome!
- So far the International ISMN Agency was a small unit within the State Library of the Prussian Cultural Foundation. The Foundation decided to put the Agency on its own feet, and therefore ISMN is now an independent association. As of October 2006 the International ISMN Agency is registered as an association («e. V.») under German law, and is recognised as a charity. The ISMN agencies and other organisation supporting the music sector are welcome to join.
- The present Chairman is Hartmut Walravens (Berlin State Library), Deputy Chairman Joachim Jaenecke (Berlin State Library), Treasurer Bettina von Seyfried (German Music Archives, German National Library). We expect the Board to become more international in the future but for the registration procedure it was easier to rely on local members.
- ISMN funding has been a matter of frequent discussions. At the Helsinki meeting it was agreed that a quota system should be based on objective indicators like the GNP/GNI and the number of annual music publications. A list of contributions based on these factors has been prepared and will be discussed and passed at the Oslo AGM.

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