

ISBN Development 2007/2008

Membership

There are now 175 countries in the international ISBN system covered by 147 national or group agencies. The latest applicants for national ISBNs agencies are the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Training courses have been run for agencies in sub-Saharan Africa and S.E. Asia and a training manual has been produced for national agencies.

Standard revision

The move from 10 to 13 digit ISBNs in line with the 4th edition of ISO 2108 is now complete and caused no serious problems to users of the standard. All new books now carry 13-digit ISBNs, although books with 10-digit ISBNs are likely to remain in the supply chain for several years.

Digital publications

The International ISBN Agency is currently devoting time and resources to ensuring that digital publications, especially audiobooks and eBooks, are correctly identified using separate ISBNs for each separately available digital format – an essential requirement for the whole book supply chain.

Encouragement of trade directories

In the year ahead, in addition to further regional training courses for ISBN Agencies, the International ISBN Agency intends to promote the establishment of well-maintained book databases in all its member countries by encouraging closer relationships between those National ISBN Agencies based in government institutions and book trade bodies such as publishers' and booksellers' associations.

Review of the Standard

Under the new rules, the ISBN standard, ISO 2108:2005, is currently out for systematic review. As everything is working well, there is no need for changes. (Based on the official Report of the International ISBN Agency.)

AGM

The 2009 Annual General Meeting will take place in Seoul, Korea, in September.

Website: <http://isbn-international.org>

ISMN Report for 2007/2008

Membership development

The IA has now 47 members (ISMN agencies). In 2007 three countries joined the system – Belgium, Kazakhstan and Singapore. Luxembourg will join in 2008. Negotiations are under way with South Africa, the United States and Colombia.

AGM

The annual meeting took place in Yogyakarta, on June 16-18, by kind invitation of the National Library of Indonesia. Major discussion point was the revision of the ISMN standard.

In 2009 the AGM will probably take place at Seoul, Korea, in conjunction with the annual ISBN meeting. This seems to be a good way to cut costs and foster the cooperation with ISBN.

Office

The IA moved in 2007 from the Berlin State Library to new premises in the South of Berlin: Schlossstr. 50, 12165 Berlin. The management changed as of June 30, 2007: Dr. U. Wegner stepped down to work as full-time lecturer at the University of Hildesheim. He was succeeded by Carolin Unger who has been familiar with the work of the IA from its establishment in 1993.

Revision of the Standard

The final vote on ISO DIS 10957 was discussed at the ISO TC46/SC9 annual Stockholm. A working group discussed the few comments and decided to include them in the ISMN User's Manual if necessary. As there was complete agreement in the ISMN community on the issue, the SC9 Secretariat agreed to make the revision effective as of Jan. 1, 2008.

ISMN agencies set to work to prepare the necessary changes. A transition period will make this process smooth. A revised ISMN Manual was put up on the website. The ISMN information CD was also revised.

Register of Music Publishers

A new database is being prepared for the listing of music publishers and their ISMN prefixes, as a follow-up to the IA's former International ISMN Publishers Directory.

Statutes

As the IA is registered as a non-profit membership organisation under German law, its statutes are in German. An English version was prepared with the help of British and American colleagues.

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