

**35th CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL LIBRARIES
(CDNL), QUEBEC CITY, CANADA, 13 AUGUST 2008**

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2008

Name of institution in liaison with CDNL: ISSN International Centre
Name of Director : Françoise Pellé (Mrs)

1 . ISSN : the Network and the Register (December 2007)

- 82 Member Countries
- 1,345,719 records
- + 61,306 records
- 50,353 electronic resources

2 . Issues of relevance to CDNL

a) ISSN Standard revision

The revised ISSN standard (ISO 3297) was published in August 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), standardization organizations (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.

ISSN-L is currently being implemented in the ISSN Register. It will be made available, on the ISSN Web site through downloadable correspondence tables accessible free of charge, and in the current ISSN products (raw data, ISSN Portal) with no additional cost.

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 the re-use of existing records and semi-automatic ISSN assignment are currently led with some ISSN National Centres and other partners (union lists, publishers) so as to facilitate and alleviate the work of ISSN National Centres. National Libraries interested in such programs are invited to contact the ISSN International Centre

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

c) ISSN award

The ISSN Governing Bodies have established this year an “ISSN Award” which aims at recognizing special efforts made by a country in the ISSN field and at providing an incentive to improve the coverage of the ISSN register. The ISSN Award provides financial support to a country that is making a consistent effort to participate in ISSN activities so as to enable the participation of this country in an ISSN training session and/or meeting. For further information, please see the ISSN Web site.

d) 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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