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## ABOUT THE ISSN

### What is the ISSN?

\_ISSN stands for International Standard Serial Number.

\_ISSN is the international identifier for serials and other continuing resources in the electronic and print worlds.

\_An ISSN can be assigned to any serial or continuing resource whether past, present or to be published in the foreseeable future whatever the medium of production (e.g., print, online, CD-ROM, etc.).  
*Examples: journals, magazines, newspapers and annual reports (print and electronic), databases, websites...*

\_An ISSN is always composed of the prefix ISSN followed by 2 groups of 4 numbers separated by a central hyphen. The last character is used as a check digit and can be a numeral or the upper case letter X.  
*Example: ISSN 1819-1819 or ISSN 0003-180X*

\_The ISSN is defined by an international standard: ISO 3297.

### How to obtain an ISSN for a publication?

ISSN are assigned either by an ISSN National Centre or the ISSN International Centre (if the country of publication is not covered by a National Centre or if the publication is issued by an international organization).

The procedure is fast, simple (web forms are available on the International Centre website or directly on National Centres' websites) and free of charge.

See [www.issn.org](http://www.issn.org) (the ISSN International Centre website) for further information.

*Note: each separate edition in a given medium should have its own ISSN, even if the title and content are identical.*

### ISSN and GS1-EAN13 barcoding

GS1-EAN13 is the major barcoding symbology used in commercial distribution in the world. The ISSN can be embedded in GS1-EAN13 barcodes, preceded by the prefix 977 which is allocated to serial publications. To get their barcodes, publishers should contact their local GS1 office once they have obtained their ISSN number. For more information, see the GS1 website (<http://www.gs1.org>).

### Is ISSN assignment mandatory?

In certain countries, obtaining an ISSN for a publication is mandatory. Please contact the appropriate ISSN National Centre for more information.

### Is the title of a publication copyrighted if it has been assigned an ISSN?

No, the assignment of an ISSN does not imply any exclusive rights to a title or any legal evidence with regard to ownership of rights. However, ISSN is used by reproduction rights agencies in some countries for the management of their system of copyright fees and royalties levied, for example, for the photocopying of articles.

## When should a new ISSN be assigned?

When the title of the publication undergoes a major change, a new ISSN is assigned because each ISSN is inseparably linked to a unique form of the title called the key title and when that key title changes a new ISSN must be assigned. All other changes (change of publisher, place of publication, frequency, etc.) do not affect the assigned ISSN, it remains the same. However, if the medium of a publication changes, e.g., from print to online, a new ISSN is assigned. Likewise, when a new medium version is published, that version needs its own ISSN. Do not hesitate to contact the relevant ISSN National Centre which will assess whether a new ISSN is needed for the publication.

## What is a Linking ISSN (ISSN-L) and how is it distributed?

The ISSN-L enables the grouping of all the different media versions of a continuing resource (e.g. print, electronic, etc.). It facilitates retrieval of the content of a resource without regard to its medium of publication.

The ISSN-L is available in several different ways:

- \_Via a table which lists the ISSN-L and the corresponding ISSN numbers. This table is available free of charge on the ISSN International Centre web site [www.issn.org](http://www.issn.org);
- \_Via the ISSN Register <http://portal.issn.org>: each record in the ISSN Register includes the medium-specific ISSN assigned to the resource described in the record and the appropriate Linking ISSN, as separate data elements;
- \_Via the ISSN International Centre and National Centres which can communicate to publishers the ISSN-L that has been designated for newly assigned ISSN;
- \_Via the resources themselves, provided that publishers print or display the Linking ISSN according to the recommendations of the ISSN standard.

## What is the ISSN used for?

The ISSN, the unique identifier for serials, is used by many different types of organizations and interest groups to fulfill a wide range of purposes:

- \_Publishers and subscription agencies: The ISSN is essential for identifying publications. It enables disambiguation between titles that are the same or similar to each other. The ISSN is also a key data element for successful OpenURL implementation.
- \_Press distributors: Faster and easier distribution thanks to the embedding of ISSN in EAN 13 bar codes.
- \_Libraries and union-catalogues: Records can be downloaded in order to update a local catalogue or database. Valuable for file matching and de-duplication; for document delivery and inter-library loan; for transactions with subscription agencies (ordering, claiming, paying invoices, etc.).
- \_Scholars, Researchers, Scientists: The ISSN Portal is an important source of information for worldwide bibliographic queries. The ISSN is also a basic requirement for all scholarly serials and publications: it is taken into account in the evaluation process of scholarly publications.
- \_Postal services: In some countries, specific postal rates are applied to publications with an ISSN.
- \_Tax authorities: In some countries, publishers can benefit from lower VAT rates if an ISSN is assigned to the publication.
- \_Electronic resources management and access: The ISSN is the major key for the building of knowledge bases for the management and access to electronic resources, and for the accurate building and processing of OpenURLs.

## What is the ISSN Register?

The ISSN Register is the official ISSN database that contains records for all ISSN assigned by the ISSN Network. It is the major source for identification of serials and other continuing resources. The ISSN Register can be considered the world catalogue of serials.

For more information, please contact the Sales Department: email: [sales@issn.org](mailto:sales@issn.org).

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT  
THE ISSN INTERNATIONAL CENTRE  
[www.issn.org](http://www.issn.org) / [issnic@issn.org](mailto:issnic@issn.org)





## THE ISSN NETWORK:

ISSN National Centres and ISSN International Centre

### What is the ISSN Network?

The ISSN Network is made up of ISSN National Centres whose work is coordinated by the ISSN International Centre situated in Paris. The ISSN National Centres assign ISSN and maintain their national ISSN databases. The ISSN International Centre assigns ISSN to titles published by international organizations and titles published in countries without an ISSN centre and maintains the ISSN international Register that identifies the world's serials and other continuing resources. The ISSN International Centre is the registration authority for the ISO ISSN standard (ISO 3297).

### What is the status of the ISSN Network?

The ISSN International Centre is an intergovernmental organization governed by statutes and by its governing bodies (General Assembly of Member States, Governing Board elected by the Member States).

### When was the ISSN system created?

The ISSN system was created in 1975 by an agreement between UNESCO and the French Government. It also relies on the ISO 3297 standard (International Organization for Standardization) which establishes a "standard code for the identification of serials and other continuing resources". This standard has been updated regularly since its first publication.

### What are the main roles and responsibilities of the ISSN National Centres?

The ISSN Network is composed of the ISSN National Centres, whose functions are:

- \_ To assign ISSN to national publications;
- \_ To maintain the national ISSN database and to contribute their records to the International ISSN Register;
- \_ To provide ISSN services to publishers and other ISSN users;
- \_ To promote the ISSN system.

As of 2010, the network includes 87 countries and it continues to grow each year.

### What are the main functions of the ISSN International Centre?

- \_ To maintain the ISSN Register and to make it available via products and services;
- \_ To establish agreements for the creation of new ISSN National Centres;
- \_ To assign ISSN to resources issued by international organizations and to resources issued in countries where no ISSN National Centre exists;
- \_ To coordinate the ISSN Network;
- \_ To promote the ISSN system.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT  
THE ISSN INTERNATIONAL CENTRE  
[www.issn.org](http://www.issn.org) / [issnic@issn.org](mailto:issnic@issn.org)





# THE ISSN PORTAL

the worldwide authoritative source for serial resources!

All ISSN assigned are registered in the ISSN Portal: <http://portal.issn.org>

- \_ 1.5 million ISSN registered in the ISSN Portal
- \_ Real time update of the Database
- \_ Annual growth: between 60 000 and 70 000 new ISSN and records
- \_ Records viewable in labeled and MARC 21 formats
- \_ "Quick search", "Combined search" or "Expert search" interfaces
- \_ Submission of lists of titles or of lists of ISSN (optional)
- \_ Browsing of indexes (titles, issuing bodies...)
- \_ Filtering of indexes
- \_ External links to national databases, Google, Yahoo or OpenURL
- \_ "Save to cart" option, allowing for emailing or saving of selected records in MARC 21 or UNIMARC

A major source of serials information for different types of organizations:

- \_ **Publishers and subscription agencies:** Essential identification for serial publications, enabling disambiguation between same and similar titles. The ISSN is also a key data element for successful OpenURL implementation.
- \_ **Press distributors:** Faster and easier distribution thanks to ISSN embedded in EAN 13 bar codes.
- \_ **Libraries and union-catalogues:** Records can be downloaded in order to update a local catalogue or database. Valuable for file matching and de-duplication; for document delivery and inter-library loan; for transactions with subscription agencies (ordering, claiming, paying invoices, etc.).
- \_ **Scholars, Researchers, Scientists:** The ISSN Portal is an important source of information for worldwide bibliographic queries and for identification of cited serials. The ISSN is also a basic requirement for publishing scholarly journals and other serial publications. The ISSN is also, in many cases, taken into account in the evaluation process of scientific publications.
- \_ **Postal services:** In some countries, specific postal rates are applied to publications with an ISSN.
- \_ **Tax authorities:** In some countries, publishers can benefit from lower VAT rates if an ISSN is assigned to the publication.
- \_ **Electronic resources management and access:** The ISSN is the major key for the building of knowledge bases for the management and access to electronic resources, and for the accurate building and processing of OpenURLs.

The screenshot below shows the different options for searching and navigation of the ISSN Portal:

Click here to do a "Quick search", "Combined search" or "Expert search" of the Portal

Link to submit a list of titles or a list of ISSNs

View newest entries and link to the ISSN website

LINK TO ...

- Newest publications entered (August 2010)
- Online publications
- Applying for an ISSN
- ISSN validation request
- ISSN Statistics
- ISSN National Centres
- ISSN International Centre

0 record(s) in your cart

Mon Oct 4 07:41:56 2010 GMT  
1338315 records

THE ISSN PORTAL  
ISSN 1819-1819

Home Quick Search Combined Search Expert Search Browse Submission of lists (titles/ISSN) LTWA Disabled Help

Back to last: Labelled Record [2] Submit

Welcome to the ISSN Portal, the tool for identifying more than one million periodical titles worldwide and for accessing related information and resources.

You have an ISSN number, or a title, or a publisher's name	Quick search
You wish to target and refine your search	Combined search
You need to check ...	Browse
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an index</li> <li>• an abbreviation</li> </ul>	LTWA Disabled
You have a list of titles, a list of ISSN. To check them automatically, subscribe to the	Submission of lists (titles/ISSN)
More information	Help

## Sample Search Results:

ISSN-L	ISSN	Key Title / Variant titles	Dates	Country	Language	Frequency
1	1119-8699 / 1119-8699	Abuja <a href="#">Newsweek</a>	1999-9999	NIGERIA	English	Monthly
2	1930-3564 / 1930-3564	America's hottest colleges <a href="#">Kaplan-Newsweek college guide</a> <a href="#">Newsweek-Kaplan college guide</a> How to get into college	2005-9999	UNITED STATES	English	Annual
3	1021-6170 / 1021-6170	<a href="#">Báixing sīwén zhāokān</a> <a href="#">Pai shing newsweek</a>	1993-9999	HONG KONG	Chinese	Unknown
4	1496-208X / 1496-208X	Blue line news week <a href="#">Blue line newsweek</a>	1997-2001	CANADA	English	Weekly
5	0116-2195 / 0116-2195	Bohol <a href="#">newsweek</a>	1975-9999	PHILIPPINES	Multiple languages	Weekly
6	1440-7485 / 1440-7485	Bulletin with <a href="#">Newsweek</a>	1984-9999	AUSTRALIA	English	Weekly
7	1055-9019 / 1055-9019	Buyers of new compact trucks. Bar charts of individual vehicle owner groups <a href="#">Bar charts of individual vehicle owner groups</a> <a href="#">National survey of new compact truck buyers</a> <a href="#">Newsweek ... national survey of new compact truck buyers</a>	1980-9999	UNITED STATES	English	Unknown

## Example of an ISSN record in both labeled and MARC formats:

Record 1 of 1

You searched ISSN Register - ISSN: ISSN 1764-8343

**ISSN** 1764-8343

**ISSN-L** 1764-8343

**Medium** Regular print

**Key Title** Newsweek (Paris)

**Publisher** Paris : Lafayette Press 2004-

**Country of publication** FRANCE

**Dates of publication** 2004 / 9999 status unknown

**Frequency** Annual

**Type of publication** Periodical

**Language** French

**Title script** Extended roman

**Title proper** Newsweek.

**Abbreviated key title** Newsweek (Paris)

**Dewey classification** 074 [original]

**ISSN Centre** France

**Category** -- Register

Find this ISSN in :  
[Bibliothèque Nationale de France](#)  
[Google](#)  
[Yahoo](#)

Find this ISSN via [Open URL](#)  
Configure your OpenURL settings

You searched ISSN Register - ISSN-L: 1764-8343 AND Category: Register

Tag	In 1	In 2	Data
001			vtis001764834
003			ISSN
005			20080819135800.0
007			ta
008			031222u20049999f:al[p]     b0fr
022	0		l2_7 la 1764-8343 l1 1764-8343
035			la (ISSN)17648343
044			lc FRA
082	0		la 074 l2 [original]
210	1		la Newsweek lb (Paris)
222			la Newsweek lb (Paris)
245	1		la Newsweek.
260			la Paris : lb Lafayette Press lc 2004-

You obtained the labeled and MARC 21 record of this ISSN

You can also find this ISSN in Google, Yahoo etc. or via OpenURL

## How to access the ISSN Portal?

- \_ Annual or quarterly subscriptions.
- \_ Identification by Login and Password or by IP (optional: Submission of Lists and Titles).
- \_ ISSN Data also available via downloading of data files in different formats (MARC 21, UNIMARC or tabular), or via the Z39.50 protocol in MARC 21.

## CONTACT:

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