
**Information and documentation —
International library item
identifier(ILII)**

*Information et documentation — Identifiant de document de
bibliothèque internationale (ILII)*

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Contents

	Page
Foreword	iv
Introduction	v
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
4 Structure and syntax of ILII	2
4.1 Structure of ILII.....	2
4.2 ISIL.....	2
4.3 ISCI.....	2
4.3.1 Structure of ISCI.....	2
4.3.2 Full stop, percent sign escaping process.....	2
4.4 Item identifier.....	3
4.4.1 Syntax of item identifier.....	3
4.4.2 Assignment of item identifier.....	3
4.4.3 Granularity of the item.....	3
4.5 Character usage recommendation.....	3
5 Administration	3
5.1 Persistence.....	3
5.2 Transfer of an item.....	3
Bibliography	4

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation*, Subcommittee SC 9, *Identification and description*.

Introduction

This document was developed to provide a standard way to represent an item in various kinds of applications in libraries or related organizations. Usually, libraries have local identification systems for the items they hold. But when an item is handled beyond the boundary of the library, for example in an interlibrary loan transaction, local identification systems do not continue to function for the overall identification of the item. This document is intended to be used in systems in which items are manipulated beyond the owning institution.

It is true that the combination of the library identifier and its local item identifier generally works for identification. In some cases, however, it might be necessary to add a collection identifier. This identifier addresses the issues involved in external circulation of materials, facilitating global item identification.

This document is designed to maximize the discretion of the holding organizations, to minimize any difficulties in its application. It is simple and easy and promotes the cooperation of libraries.

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Information and documentation — International library item identifier(ILII)

1 Scope

This document specifies the International Library Item Identifier (ILII), which is used for the unique identification of items held by libraries and related organizations. “Library and related organization” here refers to an organization within the scope of ISO 15511. “Items” here refer to materials identified and managed by a concerned organization.

The purpose of ILII is to facilitate unique identification of library items when information about them is shared among library applications. Examples of such system(s) include interlibrary loans and shared print agreements.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 15511, *Information and documentation — International standard identifier for libraries and related organizations (ISIL)*

ISO 27730, *Information and documentation — International standard collection identifier (ISCI)*

ISO/IEC 10646, *Information technology — Universal Coded Character Set (UCS)*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>

3.1 collection

permanent or temporary aggregation of *items* (3.6) accumulated on the basis of some common characteristic, e.g. by location, by type or form of the items, or by source or ownership

3.2 holding organization

library or related organization that holds the relevant *item* (3.6)

3.3 interlibrary loan

lending or copying transaction between two libraries on behalf of an end user

3.4 ISCI

identifier of a *collection* (3.1) assigned in conformance with ISO 27730

3.5

ISIL

identifier of an organization assigned in conformance with ISO 15511

3.6

item

object that a library or a related organization handles as a unit for its services

EXAMPLE Typically, a bound book in a library or a painting in a museum is an item. A set of audio CDs is an item. A computer file or any type of digital object is an item if it meets the definition above.

3.7

shared print agreement

programme to consolidate and preserve print *collections* (3.1) among multiple libraries in response to widespread availability of digital resources and increasing pressure for space in campus library buildings

4 Structure and syntax of ILII

4.1 Structure of ILII

ILII is a character string comprised of two elements separated by the character FULL STOP (.). The first element is either the ISIL or the ISCI. The second element is the item identifier. The holding organization chooses either the ISIL or the ISCI as the first element, in accordance with ISO 15511 or ISO 27730 respectively, in order to ascertain the global uniqueness of the ILII.

EXAMPLE 1 JP-1000003.1201000185819

ISIL part = JP-1000003

item identifier part = 1201000185819

EXAMPLE 2 [FI-H]Hebraica.12345

ISCI part = [FI-H]Hebraica

item identifier part = 12345

NOTE The first FULL STOP in a given ILII is the separator of the first and the second element, as subclauses 4.2 and 4.3 ensure that there is no FULL STOP in the ISIL or the ISCI. The second or subsequent FULL STOP in a given ILII belongs to the item identifier.

4.2 ISIL

An ISIL is the identifier of the holding organization assigned in conformity with ISO 15511. ISIL syntax is specified by ISO 15511.

4.3 ISCI

4.3.1 Structure of ISCI

An ISCI is a character string that is the result of the process specified by 4.3.2 applied to the ISCI of the collection to which the relevant item belongs. The syntax of ISCI is specified by ISO 27730.

4.3.2 Full stop, percent sign escaping process

For a given character string, substitute all the occurrences of character PERCENT SIGN by three characters: PERCENT SIGN; DIGIT TWO; and DIGIT FIVE (%25); and substitute all the occurrences of character FULL STOP (.) by three characters: PERCENT SIGN; DIGIT TWO; and LATIN CAPITAL LETTER E (%2E). Any other character in a given character string is left intact.

4.4 Item identifier

4.4.1 Syntax of item identifier

An item identifier is a character string of arbitrary length comprised of ISO/IEC 10646 characters.

4.4.2 Assignment of item identifier

Holding organizations shall assign unique identifiers to items. The organization shall not assign the same identifier string to different items unless they belong to different collections.

4.4.3 Granularity of the item

When an item comprises subordinate items, the aggregate item and its subordinate items have different identifiers that may or may not reflect the structure of the assigned items. The holding organization is responsible for assigning and maintaining the semantics of the item identifier.

EXAMPLE An audio CD album comprises individual CDs and a booklet.

NOTE ILII does not necessarily convey structure information. An application that needs structure information uses some other means (e.g. obtaining identifier semantics from the holding organization or using descriptive metadata) of getting structure information.

4.5 Character usage recommendation

Although any ISO/IEC 10646 character may be used in the item identifier or in the ISCI, it is recommended to use only characters in the BASIC LATIN block of ISO/IEC 10646, unless it is vital to use other characters.

NOTE 1 In some applications of ILII (e.g. RFID), usage of characters outside BASIC LATIN can cause considerable consumption of memory resources.

NOTE 2 ISO/IEC 10646 contains characters that have identical or almost identical glyphs that can be confused with each other. This can cause security issues and other problems.

NOTE 3 Some identifier systems (e.g. a URI created in accordance with RFC 3986) do not allow usage of certain characters in un-encoded form. When an ILII is used in such environment, an appropriate escape mechanism (e.g. percent-encoding) is needed.

5 Administration

5.1 Persistence

The holding organization should not change the identifier assigned to an item as long as the item is held by the same organization (in the same collection).

5.2 Transfer of an item

When custody of an item is transferred to another organization, the new holding organization shall assign a new ILII. The first element of the new ILII is the ISIL of the new holding organization or an ISCI assigned by the new organization. The new holding organization may also assign a new item identifier to the transferred item.