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**Information and documentation —  
International standard serial  
number (ISSN)**

*Information et documentation — Numéro international normalisé  
des publications en série (ISSN)*

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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](http://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](http://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](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html)

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

This fifth edition cancels and replaces the fourth edition (ISO 3297:2007), of which it constitutes a minor revision with the following changes:

- Clause 10, which covered fees for ISSNs, has been deleted since the notion of fees should not be mentioned in this document.

## Introduction

The need for a brief, unique and unambiguous identification code for serials and other continuing resources is internationally recognized. The exchange of information among libraries, abstracting services and other content users, suppliers, distributors and other intermediaries, and publishers and other content producers imposes the requirement for a standard code. Communication between the different organizations transcends national boundaries and therefore requires an international code which is numeric, since no single alphabet is used by the majority of producers and users of serials. In response to these requirements, the International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) was established as the identification code for serials.

The International Serials Data System (ISDS) was established as an inter-governmental organization within the framework of the UNESCO/UNISIST program to be the designated authority for controlling the assignment of ISSN. In 1993, the ISDS became the ISSN Network.

The first three editions of this International Standard pertained only to serials. However, in 2002 a new category of resources, “continuing resources”, was defined by the library community to encompass new kinds of resources, such as updating databases, as well as traditional serials. The scope of the fourth edition was broadened to cover serials and other continuing resources.

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# Information and documentation — International standard serial number (ISSN)

## 1 Scope

This document defines and promotes the use of a standard code (ISSN) for the unique identification of serials and other continuing resources.

Each International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) is a unique identifier for a specific serial or other continuing resource in a defined medium. This document also describes a mechanism, the “linking ISSN (ISSN-L)”, that provides for collocation or linking among the different media versions of the same continuing resource.

ISSN are applicable to serials and to other continuing resources, whether past, present or to be published or produced in the foreseeable future, whatever the medium of publication or production.

Individual monographs, sound and video recordings, printed music publications, audiovisual works and musical works have their own numbering systems and are not specifically mentioned in this document. Such items may carry an ISSN in addition to their own standard numbers when they are part of a continuing resource.

More detailed operational guidance is provided in the *ISSN Manual* available from the Registration Authority for this document (see [Clause 11](#)).

## 2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

## 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:

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

### 3.1 continuing resource

publication, in any medium, that is issued over time with no predetermined conclusion and made available to the public

Note 1 to entry: Such a publication is usually issued in successive or integrating issues which generally have numerical and/or chronological designations.

Note 2 to entry: Continuing resources include serials such as newspapers, periodicals, journals, magazines, etc., and ongoing integrating resources such as loose-leaf publications that are continually updated and Websites that are continually updated.

Note 3 to entry: The French term is *ressource continue*.

**3.2**  
**serial**

continuing resource issued in a succession of discrete issues or parts, usually bearing numbering, that has no predetermined conclusion

EXAMPLE Journals, magazines, electronic journals, ongoing directories, annual reports, newspapers, monographic series, and also those journals, magazines and newsletters of limited duration that otherwise bear all the characteristics of serials (e.g. newsletter of an event).

Note 1 to entry: The French term is *publication en série*.

**3.3**  
**ongoing integrating resource**

continuing resource that is added to or changed by means of updates that do not remain discrete and are integrated into the whole

EXAMPLE Databases, Websites and loose-leaves that are updated over time with no predetermined conclusion.

Note 1 to entry: The French term is *ressource intégratrice permanente*.

**3.4**  
**ISSN**  
**International Standard Serial Number**

eight digit number, including a check digit and preceded by the alphabetic prefix ISSN, assigned to a continuing resource by the ISSN Network

Note 1 to entry: The French term is *ISSN, numéro international normalisé des publications en série*.

**3.5**  
**ISSN Network**

collective entity comprised of the ISSN International Centre and the ISSN national and regional centres, for the purpose of administering the assignment of ISSN

Note 1 to entry: The French term is *Réseau de l'ISSN*.

**3.6**  
**key title**

unique name for a continuing resource, established by the ISSN Network and inseparably linked with its ISSN

Note 1 to entry: The key title can be the same as the title of the resource; or, in order to achieve uniqueness, it can be constructed by the addition of identifying and/or qualifying elements such as name of issuing body, place of publication, edition statement, etc.

Note 2 to entry: The French term is *titre clé*.

**3.7**  
**ISSN metadata**

descriptive data recorded as part of the ISSN assignment process that provides elements by which the resource is identified and distinguished from other resources

Note 1 to entry: The French term is *métadonnées de l'ISSN*.

**3.8**  
**ISSN Register**

official registration database of the ISSN Network containing metadata records for the ISSN assigned to continuing resources

Note 1 to entry: The French term is *Registre de l'ISSN*.

### 3.9

#### ISSN-L

##### Linking ISSN

ISSN designated by the ISSN Network to enable collocation or linking among the different media versions of a continuing resource

Note 1 to entry: The French term is *ISSN de liaison*.

## 4 Construction of ISSN

An ISSN shall consist of eight digits, using Arabic numerals 0 to 9, except for the last digit (extreme right, low-order position) which can also use the upper case letter X. The last digit shall be the check digit. The check digit shall be calculated on a modulus 11 basis with weights 8 to 2, using X in lieu of 10 where 10 would occur as a check digit. See [Annex A](#) for further details.

Since ISSN are likely to be used in the same context as codes designed for other purposes, such as the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) or local control numbers, the written or printed presentation of ISSN shall clearly distinguish ISSN from other numbering systems. Therefore, an ISSN shall be preceded by the prefix ISSN and a space, and shall appear as two groups of four digits separated by a hyphen.

#### EXAMPLES

ISSN 0251-1479

ISSN 1050-124X

## 5 Assignment of ISSN

**4.1** An ISSN shall be assigned only by a centre of the ISSN Network.

**4.2** Required metadata about the continuing resource to which an ISSN is assigned shall be collected and submitted within the timeframe established by the ISSN International Centre to the *ISSN Register* by the centre of the ISSN Network that registered the continuing resource. See [Annex B](#) for further details.

**4.3** Each distinct continuing resource in a particular medium as defined in the *ISSN Manual* shall be assigned only one ISSN.

**4.4** Each ISSN shall be permanently linked to the key title established by the ISSN Network at the time of registration.

**4.5** When a continuing resource is published in different media, with the same title or not, different ISSN and key titles shall be assigned to the different editions.

**4.6** In cases where the continuing resource undergoes a major change in title or other major change as defined in the *ISSN Manual*, a new ISSN shall be assigned and a corresponding new key title shall be established.

**4.7** Once an ISSN has been assigned to a continuing resource, it shall not be altered, replaced or reused for another publication.

**4.8** The assignment of an ISSN to a continuing resource shall not imply any meaning or legal evidence with regard to the ownership of rights to that publication or its contents.

## 6 Establishment of the key title

The key title is established or authenticated by the ISSN centre responsible for the registration of the continuing resource, in accordance with the rules given in the *ISSN Manual*.

The key title is derived from information appearing at the time of registration on the title page of resources having a title page or title page equivalent, or from the most complete information formally presented on resources lacking a title page. The title of the resource becomes the key title if this title is unique in the *ISSN Register* at the time of registration. If this title is not unique, the key title is the title of the resource, to which a qualifying term is added (such as name of issuing body, place and/or date of publication, edition statement or medium statement), in order to make the resulting key title unique.

All key titles are listed in the *ISSN Register* together with their ISSN. Key titles in non-roman alphabets shall be romanized according to ISO standards or, in the absence of ISO standards, national standards.

## 7 Linking ISSN (ISSN-L)

To enable the use of ISSN in cases where finding or linking to a continuing resource without regard to medium is desired, the ISSN Network shall designate a linking ISSN.

The linking ISSN shall be designated from among the ISSN assigned to the different media versions of a continuing resource. Further specifications regarding the linking ISSN are given in [Annex C](#).

## 8 Printing and display of ISSN

### 8.1 General

The ISSN shall be presented as two groups of four digits separated by a hyphen and shall always be preceded by the prefix ISSN and a space (see also [Clause 3](#)).

The ISSN shall be displayed in a prominent position on or in the first issue and on or in each subsequent issue of serials; or on or in each iteration of ongoing integrating resources.

If a resource bears an ISSN as well as another standard number, such as an ISBN for a volume of a series, the two numbers shall appear together and each number shall be identified by its own prefix: "ISSN" and "ISBN" or another appropriate prefix.

When a single continuing resource bears more than one ISSN in relation to different continuing resource titles, for example the titles of a main series and its subseries, each ISSN shall appear on the continuing resource and each shall be distinguished by either adding the full or abbreviated title in parentheses after the relevant number, or by printing each ISSN as close as possible to the relevant title.

When a continuing resource contains another continuing resource as an insert with a separate title page, the ISSN for the insert shall be printed on its title page, or in some other appropriate place on the insert.

When serials or other continuing resources are produced in different media for which different ISSN and key titles are assigned, the related ISSN may also be displayed on or in the serials or other continuing resources, each with additional, distinguishing information.

#### EXAMPLES

ISSN 1562-6865 (Online)

ISSN 1063-7710 (Print)

or

Online version: ISSN 1562-6865

Print version: ISSN 1063-7710

NOTE For printing and display of ISSN-L, see [Annex C](#).

## 8.2 Display of ISSN on printed continuing resources

The ISSN shall be printed in a prominent position on each printed issue of a continuing resource in the following order of preference: front cover, title page, caption, masthead, back cover, colophon or editorial pages.

The ISSN shall, whenever possible, appear in the top right-hand corner of the front cover. In the case of *tête-bêche* publications (i.e. when two resources, each with its own ISSN, are bound together in inverted relation to each other), the ISSN pertaining to each resource should be printed in the preferred location (cover, etc., as above) on each resource.

## 8.3 Display of ISSN on electronic continuing resources and on other non-print media

On a continuing resource published in an electronic medium (e.g. online continuing resource, CD-ROM), the ISSN shall appear on the title screen or, in the absence of a title screen, on the main menu, and, if applicable, on any labels permanently affixed to the publication. If it is not possible to display the ISSN on the item or its label, the ISSN shall be displayed on the container.

For online continuing resources using embedded metadata element sets, the ISSN shall be included in the "Identifier" or equivalent element of such metadata.

On a continuing resource published on microfiche, the ISSN shall be entered in the identification area of the header of the microfiche and/or the labels.

## 9 Metadata

### 9.1 ISSN metadata

The ISSN records in the *ISSN Register* contain a common core set of descriptive metadata that is maintained by the ISSN centres (see [Annex B](#)).

The list of metadata elements may be augmented with additional elements if needed for national, regional or international purposes.

### 9.2 Metadata required for ISSN assignment

Metadata are required, in addition to copies of or access to continuing resources, for the assignment of ISSN (see [Annex B](#)).

## 10 Copyright

No copyright shall subsist in the assignment of ISSN or in its use in association with, or in place of, the resources they represent.

## 11 Administration of the ISSN system

The Registration Authority for this document shall be the ISSN International Centre<sup>1)</sup>. The ISSN Network shall be supervised, coordinated and administered by the ISSN International Centre.

The principal tasks of the ISSN International Centre and of ISSN national and regional centres are specified in [Annex D](#).

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1) ISSN International Centre, 20, rue Bachaumont, 75002 Paris, France. Telephone: (+33 1) 44 88 22 20. Fax: (+33 1) 40 26 32 43. E-mail: [issnic@issn.org](mailto:issnic@issn.org). Web site: <http://www.issn.org>.

## Annex A (normative)

### Check digit for ISSN

The check digit helps guard against errors resulting from improper data transcription. The check digit is particularly effective in detecting transposition errors. The check digit used in the ISSN is calculated on a Modulus 11 basis using weights 8 to 2, as indicated in Table A.1.

**Table A.1 — Procedure for calculating the ISSN check digit**

Procedure		Example
Step 1	Take the first seven digits of the ISSN (the check digit is the eighth and last digit).	0 3 1 7 8 4 7
Step 2	Associate the following constant weighting factors (8 to 2) to each digit.	8 7 6 5 4 3 2
Step 3	Apply each constant weighting factor by multiplying each digit by its associated weighting factor (e.g. $0 \times 8$ ; $3 \times 7$ ; $1 \times 6$ ; etc.).	× 0 3 1 7 8 4 7 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
		= 0 21 6 35 32 12 14
Step 4	Sum the products of these multiplications.	$0 + 21 + 6 + 35 + 32 + 12 + 14 = 120$
Step 5	Divide this sum by the modulus 11 to find the remainder.	$120 \div 11 = 10$ and a remainder of 10
Step 6	Subtract the remainder from 11 to generate the required check digit. If the check digit is 10, generate a check digit of X. If there is no remainder, generate a check digit of 0 (zero).	$11 - 10 = 1$ Check digit = 1
Step 7	Place the check digit at the end of the first seven digits to create the eight-digit International Standard Serial Number (ISSN).	ISSN 0317-8471

## Annex B (normative)

### Metadata

#### B.1 General

**B.1.1** ISSN centres shall supply the *ISSN Register* with metadata about the resource to which the ISSN is assigned. The metadata associated with each ISSN assignment shall be maintained by the ISSN centre.

**B.1.2** The specifications concerning the type and format of this metadata shall be established by the ISSN International Centre in cooperation with the individual ISSN centres and shall be published in the *ISSN Manual*.

#### B.2 Metadata required for ISSN assignment

ISSN assignment and registration are based primarily on the first or earliest issue of serials or on the current iteration of ongoing integrating resources. Copies or surrogates of the resources are required for ISSN assignment in addition to the metadata shown in Table B.1.

**Table B.1 — Metadata to be supplied by ISSN requestors**

Data element
Title
Country of publication
Medium of publication
Language of publication
Publisher's name and location
Date(s) of publication (year of the first issue and, if applicable, year of the final issue)
Publication status (e.g. currently published, discontinued, unknown)
Frequency
<b>The following elements should be supplied if applicable and available:</b>
Electronic location and access (i.e. URL for online resources)
Additional physical form title or ISSN
Preceding title or ISSN
Succeeding title or ISSN
Supplement parent title or ISSN
Supplement/special issue title or ISSN
Main series title or ISSN
Subseries title or ISSN
Nonspecific relationship title or ISSN
Other edition title or ISSN
Varying form of title

### B.3 ISSN metadata

The ISSN metadata, established and maintained by the ISSN International Centre and national or regional ISSN centres, shall include the applicable elements shown in Table B.2. The definition and application of the data elements (mandatory and optional) are described in the *ISSN Manual*.

**Table B.2 — Metadata to be established and maintained by ISSN centres**

Data element
ISSN
ISSN-L
Key title
Country of publication
Medium of publication
Language of publication
Publisher's name and location
ISSN centre code
Date(s) of publication (year of the first issue and, if applicable, year of the final issue)
Classification
Title proper
Name of issuing body
Electronic location and access
Additional physical form title and ISSN
Preceding title and ISSN
Succeeding title and ISSN
Supplement parent title and ISSN
Supplement/special issue title and ISSN
Main series title and ISSN
Subseries title and ISSN
Nonspecific relationship title and ISSN
Other edition title and ISSN
Original language entry and ISSN
Abbreviated key title
Varying form of title
Publication status (e.g. currently published, discontinued, unknown)
Frequency
Type of continuing resource
Specific material designation
Script of original title
Coden and other codes
Citation/references note

## Annex C (normative)

### Linking ISSN (ISSN-L)

**C.1** A Linking ISSN shall be designated only by a centre of the ISSN Network.

**C.2** The first ISSN assigned, in the *ISSN Register*, to any medium version of a continuing resource shall be designated by default to function also as the linking ISSN and shall apply to all other media versions of that resource identified in the *ISSN Register*.

**C.3** The linking ISSN shall be included as a separate data element on each of the metadata records to which it pertains in the *ISSN Register*. Each metadata record in the *ISSN Register* will therefore carry the medium-specific ISSN assigned to the resource described in the record and the designated linking ISSN as separate data elements.

**C.4** A linking ISSN shall be designated for each continuing resource identified in the *ISSN Register*, even if the continuing resource exists in only one medium.

**C.5** Only one linking ISSN shall be designated regardless of how many different media versions of a continuing resource exist.

**C.6** When a continuing resource to which an ISSN has been assigned undergoes a major change and is therefore assigned a new ISSN (major change in title or other major change as defined in the *ISSN Manual*), the relevant linking ISSN shall be designated and recorded in the new metadata record that was created with the new ISSN assignment.

**C.7** When printed or otherwise displayed in applications involving collocation of all media versions of a continuing resource, the linking ISSN shall be clearly distinguished as such by use of the label ISSN-L. In such cases, the label ISSN-L shall be written in upper case and a space shall precede the 8 digits of the linking ISSN.

#### EXAMPLE

ISSN-L 0251-1479

**C.8** The linking ISSN can be used as a component in other global identifiers and mechanisms (see examples in [Annex E](#)). In such cases, specific syntax requirements may apply for the display of the linking ISSN within the syntax of such other identifiers or mechanisms.

## Annex D (normative)

### Roles and responsibilities of the ISSN centres

#### D.1 General

The Registration Authority for this document shall be the ISSN International Centre<sup>2)</sup>.

The ISSN system shall be composed of national and regional ISSN centres coordinated by the ISSN International Centre. The international, national and regional ISSN centres are referred to collectively as the ISSN Network and shall operate in accordance with the specifications outlined in [D.2](#) and [D.3](#).

#### D.2 ISSN International Centre

The ISSN International Centre shall perform the following functions and services:

- a) establish agreements governing the creation and operations of ISSN national and regional centres with the institutions hosting such centres, and revoke such agreements as necessary;
- b) allocate blocks of ISSN to national or regional centres;
- c) maintain and make available a central register of all ISSN assignments in a timely manner;
- d) assign and register ISSN, as necessary, for the serials and other continuing resources published by international organizations or in countries where no national or regional ISSN centre exists;
- e) establish and maintain common rules, standards, policies and procedures for the ISSN Network in close cooperation with ISSN national and regional centres;
- f) designate and make available, as necessary, the linking ISSN (ISSN-L);
- g) coordinate, supervise and promote the policies and operations of the ISSN Network in compliance with the specifications of this document;
- h) review and decide on appeals of decisions made by ISSN national and regional centres in such matters as:
  - 1) rejection of ISSN applications,
  - 2) disputes concerning the appropriateness of assignments of ISSN to publications;
- i) assist national and regional ISSN centres with training and other technical assistance as required;
- j) develop, maintain and make available documentation for ISSN national and regional centres and for users of the ISSN system;
- k) develop, maintain and make available promotional material and communication tools for ISSN national and regional centres and for users of the ISSN system;
- l) ensure close coordination and cooperation between the ISSN Network and other organizations in related fields, and represent the interests of the ISSN Network to other relevant organizations.

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2) ISSN International Centre, 20 rue Bachaumont, 75002 Paris, France. Telephone: (+33 1) 44 88 22 20. Fax: (+33 1) 40 26 32 43. E-mail: [issnic@issn.org](mailto:issnic@issn.org). Web site: <http://www.issn.org>. The Statutes of the ISSN International Centre are available on its Web site.

### D.3 ISSN national and/or regional centres

ISSN national and regional centres shall perform the following functions and services:

- a) undertake sole responsibility for the assignment of ISSN and the associated registration of serials and other continuing resources published in their respective countries;
- b) provide ISSN services to publishers and other users upon request and in a timely manner;
- c) build and maintain a national register of metadata related to each ISSN assignment within their area of operation;
- d) contribute metadata for each assigned ISSN to the central register of the ISSN Network in a timely and accurate manner and in accordance with the specifications of the ISSN International Centre;
- e) cooperate with the ISSN International Centre and with other ISSN national and regional centres in the registration of serials and other continuing resources;
- f) cooperate with the ISSN International Centre and with other ISSN national and regional centres in the designation of the linking ISSN (ISSN-L);
- g) adhere to the policies and procedures established by the ISSN International Centre in compliance with the specifications of this document;
- h) carry out their functions in accordance with the operational policies of the ISSN Network in compliance with the specifications of this document;
- i) communicate with publishers and other users on all matters relating to ISSN;
- j) promote the ISSN system and the use of ISSN;
- k) cooperate in the continuing development of the ISSN system and its procedures, formats and standards through active participation in the ISSN Network.

## Annex E (informative)

### Use of ISSN and linking ISSN (ISSN-L) with other identification and linking systems

#### E.1 General

DOI<sup>3)</sup>, OpenURL, URN and EAN bar codes are examples of systems that will use ISSN and linking ISSN (ISSN-L). The information below is provided for the convenience of users of this document to illustrate the interoperability of the ISSN system with these systems. The list of examples given is not exhaustive. ISO does not endorse any of the systems named and this annex does not provide complete or authoritative information on these systems. The relevant governing organizations and documents should be consulted for further information on DOI, OpenURL, URN and EAN bar codes.

New identifier standards and URI schemes, such as the INFO URI, will continue to emerge, and updated information as to the uses of ISSN and ISSN-L in such systems is maintained and made available on the Website of the ISSN International Centre at <http://www.issn.org/>.

ISSN and ISSN-L can be incorporated into other identification and linking systems, including, but not limited to, those listed in E.2 to E.6. The use of ISSN in such systems should be for the purpose of identifying or linking to a specific medium version of a continuing resource, e.g. the print version, the online version, the CD-ROM version, as illustrated below. In cases where identifying and linking to a continuing resource is desired without regard to medium (such as in the resolution of OpenURLs where results sets might include links to either online full text or the location of a print copy through a library's catalogue), the ISSN-L should be used.

#### E.2 DOI

##### E.2.1 Overview

The Digital Object Identifier (DOI) is a system for identifying objects in the digital environment. DOIs are persistent, unique names assigned to any entity for use on digital networks. DOIs are used to provide current information, including where entities (or information about the entities) can be found on the Internet. DOIs are both persistent identifiers and actionable links. The International DOI Foundation makes no recommendations as to the format of a suffix other than that it follows correct syntax. Further information can be found at <http://www.doi.org>.

##### E.2.2 DOI and ISSN

###### E.2.2.1 Syntax and examples

The DOI syntax is defined by NISO Z39.84–2005. Any existing identifier string can be expressed in a form suitable for use within the DOI system. A DOI is composed of a prefix and suffix:

- the DOI prefix is assigned to an organization by a DOI Registration Agency;
- the suffix for a DOI is created by the organization depositing the DOI for a content item in the DOI system.

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3) DOI<sup>®</sup> is an example of a suitable product available commercially. This information is given for the convenience of users of this International Standard and does not constitute an endorsement by ISO of this product.

Relevant information as to the identity of the referent is included in the metadata associated with the DOI.

An ISSN can be the DOI suffix to identify manifestations of continuing resources (e.g. the print version of a journal). Note also that an ISSN-L can be the DOI suffix to identify a continuing resource irrespective of medium version, see E.2.3.

The ISSN can be incorporated into a DOI in a variety of ways. Thus DOIs may include ISSN in forms such as the following example.

**EXAMPLE**

doi: 10.1087/095315105463219

Learned publishing = ISSN 0953-1513

To construct a DOI suffix using an ISSN, precede the ISSN (including the hyphen) with the lowercase letters “issn” and a period, as in the hypothetical example shown below of a DOI for the print version of *Nature*.

**EXAMPLE**

doi: 10.1038/issn.0028-0836

**NOTE** This example illustrates syntax only; *Nature* has not been assigned a DOI at the journal level.

Once a DOI is assigned, the DOI string is considered to be opaque (i.e. no meaning should be read into the number) for the purposes of the DOI System.

### **E.2.2.2 Usage scenario**

Linking from specific manifestations of a journal (print, online, CD-ROM) to information about the manifestation, or related information, can be accomplished using a DOI with embedded ISSN.

**EXAMPLE** The John Wiley and Sons journal *Environmental and Molecular Mutagenesis* has been assigned the following DOI using the ISSN for the online version of the journal:

doi: 10.1002/(ISSN)1098-2280

[http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/\(ISSN\)1098-2280](http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/(ISSN)1098-2280)

The DOI resolves to the journal homepage.

## **E.2.3 DOI and ISSN-L**

### **E.2.3.1 Syntax and example**

An ISSN-L can be the DOI suffix to identify a continuing resource irrespective of medium version.

To construct a DOI suffix using an ISSN-L, begin with the lowercase letters “issnl” and a period, then embed the ISSN-L number (retaining the hyphen).

**EXAMPLE** The use of an ISSN-L in a DOI to identify all media versions in the journal *Nature*:

doi: 10.1038/issnl.0028-0836

**NOTE** This is a hypothetical example to illustrate syntax only; *Nature* has not been assigned a DOI at the journal level.

Relevant information as to the identity of the referent is included in the metadata associated with the DOI.

### E.2.3.2 Usage scenario

For reference linking in systems such as Cross Ref, a DOI using the ISSN-L as the DOI suffix will allow linking to a particular journal irrespective of format. Publishers of continuing resources such as serials can use the ISSN-L as the DOI suffix so that the DOI will resolve to general information about the different media versions that are available.

## E.3 OpenURL

### E.3.1 Overview

OpenURL is an enabling technology that uses a Web-based request to link metadata for resources to services for that resource. OpenURLs transport identifiers and/or descriptive metadata, along with contextual information, from a metadata source to a link server. When resolving the OpenURL request initiated by a user, the user's link resolver interprets the incoming resource metadata, taking into account the electronic holdings and access privileges of the user's institution. The link resolver then generates Web links to services to which the user has access, including, for example, the online full text of an article. Currently, resource metadata and context information are transported using URLs (the "OpenURL").

The OpenURL framework is defined in ANS I/NISO Z39.88-2004 hereafter referred to as the OpenURL Z39.88-2004 and is available at [http://www.niso.org/standards/standard\\_detail.cfm?std\\_id=783](http://www.niso.org/standards/standard_detail.cfm?std_id=783).

In the NISO OpenURL framework, OpenURLs can be created using approved "community profiles" defined in a registry external to the standard. These profiles support various metadata formats (including books, journals, dissertations and patents).

The NISO Z39.88-2004 OpenURL registry can be found at <http://www.openurl.info/registry>.

An earlier implementation and de-facto standard of OpenURL (OpenURL 0.1) is, however, still actively being used during the transitional period. Details of OpenURL 0.1 can be found at <http://www.openurl.info/registry>.

The two versions of OpenURL have significant differences in the way the metadata are encoded and are therefore described separately in [E.3.2](#) and [E.3.3](#), below.

An ISSN-L can be used in an OpenURL to find or link to a continuing resource irrespective of medium version.

It is recommended that the ISSN-L be used in OpenURL linking whenever possible because ISSN-L give link resolvers the maximum flexibility to resolve to whichever medium-specific versions of a continuing resource are in the knowledge base, see [E.3.4](#). Use of ISSN-L can also enable the link resolver to return information about multiple medium-specific versions of a continuing resource if the knowledge base contains such information.

The OpenURL metadata element "issn" as opposed to "issnl" should only be used when medium-specific access or linking is desired.

### E.3.2 OpenURL Z39.88-2004 and ISSN

#### E.3.2.1 Syntax and examples

In OpenURL Z39.88-2004, resource metadata and context information can be transported as either "by value" OpenURLs or "by reference" OpenURLs. The key value pairs in "by value" OpenURLs can be encoded by two methods:

- a) KEV format;
- b) XML format.

ISSN is included in the “journal” metadata formats, which are defined in the OpenURL Registry.

**EXAMPLE 1** The KEV journal metadata format (info:ofi/fmt:kev:mtx:journal) in which the ISSN would be encoded as:

```
http://... &rft.issn = 0987-5432&
```

**EXAMPLE 2** The XML journal metadata format (info:ofi/xml:xsd:journal) in which the ISSN could be encoded as an XML element:

```
<rft:issn>9876-5432</rft:issn>
```

### E.3.3 OpenURL 0.1 and ISSN

#### E.3.3.1 Syntax and example

The OpenURL 0.1 syntax encodes metadata using a series of key-value pairs separated by an ampersand (&) character. Metadata element names differ, however, from the key-value pairs found in the OpenURL Z39.88-2004 standard in that they are not prefixed by a token that denotes the entity.

**EXAMPLE** The encoding of an ISSN in an OpenURL 0.1-formatted URL:

```
http://resolver?... issn = 9876-5432...
```

#### E.3.3.2 Usage scenario for both OpenURL Z39.88-2004 and OpenURL 0.1

Several library system vendors have developed OpenURL resolver systems which rely on linking, via the ISSN, from citations to full-text or to other services to which an institution may have access. At present, many systems allow only one ISSN to be associated with a title in the knowledge base underlying the system. In this case, use of the ISSN-L is recommended. For knowledge bases where multiple ISSN can be associated to a title, the specific manifestation ISSN can be used.

### E.3.4 Open URL Z39.88-2004 and ISSN-L

#### E.3.4.1 Syntax and examples

It is recommended that the ISSN-L be used in OpenURL Z39.88-2004 whenever possible, because in this framework, OpenURLs can be created using approved “community profiles” defined in a registry external to the standard. These profiles support various metadata formats (including books, journals, dissertations, and patents).

The NISO Z39.88-2004 OpenURL registry is available at <http://www.openurl.info/registry>.

In order to accommodate the ISSN-L as defined in this standard, new journal format versions would be registered in the OpenURL registry, and new community profiles would be registered that include these new journal format versions. The new KEV and XML journal formats could include a new element respectively:

```
&issnl = and
```

```
<xs:element name = "issnl" type = "xs:string" minOccurs = "0" >
```

These new elements should be used to indicate that what is being encoded is the ISSN-L, as recorded in the designated field of the *ISSN Register*.

EXAMPLE 1 The KEV Format (info:ofi/fmt:kev) represents the resource metadata and context information as a string of key-value pairs and are separated by an ampersand (&) character. In the new KEV journal metadata format (for example, info:ofi/fmt:kev:mtx:journal2005), ISSN-L would be encoded as:

```
http://... &rft.issnl = 0987-5432&
```

EXAMPLE 2 The XML Format (info:ofi/fmt:xml) represents the resource metadata and context information as an XML document that conforms to a registered XML schema. In the new XML journal metadata format (for example, info:ofi/fmt:xml:xsd:journal2005), ISSN-L could be encoded as an XML element as:

```
<rft:issnl>9876-5432</rft:issnl>
```

#### E.3.4.2 Usage scenario

Library ABC wants to indicate to a link resolver that it should return information about all media versions of a continuing resource in its knowledge base or all versions of a continuing resource that are linked together. Using the ISSN-L in the OpenURL is a way of indicating this to the link resolver rather than using a version-specific ISSN. ISSN-L can also be used to indicate to a link resolver that resolution to any medium-specific version of a continuing resource in the knowledge base is acceptable. Sending a medium-specific ISSN would indicate to the link resolver that only resolution to one medium-specific version of the continuing resource is desired.

#### E.3.5 OpenURL 0.1 and ISSN-L

Use of ISSN-L with the OpenURL 0.1 standard is not recommended. In this standard, metadata are hard coded in the standard itself and the only encoding format is to encode the parameters as key value pairs in the OpenURL itself. Since the metadata elements in OpenURL 0.1 are not extensible, this version of the standard has no element for the ISSN-L. If use of OpenURL 0.1 is unavoidable, ISSN-L might be used in the private identification area (PID) if all parties to a transaction agree on this usage. Details on OpenURL 0.1 standard are available at <http://www.openurl.info/registry>.

### E.4 URN and ISSN

#### E.4.1 Overview

The Uniform Resource Name (URN) is a standardized name for a persistent, location-independent, resource identifier. The URN system is an Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) standard. Further information can be found at <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2141.txt>.

#### E.4.2 Syntax and examples

All URNs include a Namespace Identifier (NID) code and a Namespace Specific String (NSS). The NID indicates the identification system being used for the URN and facilitates the interpretation of the NSS. The NSS is the local code that identifies the individual document (see IETF:RFC 1737 and IETF: RFC 2141). The ISSN is a registered URN Namespace (see IETF:RFC 3044), identified by the NID code ISSN.

#### EXAMPLES

```
urn:ISSN:0259-000X
```

```
urn:ISSN:1560-1560
```

#### E.4.3 Usage scenario

Library ABC wishes to establish a repository for archiving its journal collection. The policy of the repository is to use persistent identifiers expressed as URNs. For each journal in the repository, the library assigns a URN using the ISSN.