

# Revising the ISSN Standard: The challenge of change

Regina Romano Reynolds  
Library of Congress Booth  
ALA Midwinter, January 2016





In an ever-changing world...

Reynolds



# STANDARDS

Standards have everything to do with change. They hold change in check by fixing certain parts of a technology. They also allow innovation to happen in a controlled way by creating an area of certainty around which change can happen.

*Karen Coyle*

A photograph of white cherry blossoms in bloom, with a blurred building in the background. The text "Winds of change" is overlaid in blue.

# **Winds of change**

Linked Data



**New  
Formats**

PRESS00

BIBFRAME

**ONIX**

More versions

More editions



# ANSI Z39.9

## American National Standard Identification Number for Serial Publications (SSN)

American National Standard  
Identification Number for Serial Publications

Secretariat  
Council of National Library Associations

Approved November 25, 1970  
American National Standards Institute, Inc



read 2

<MESSAGE: 2 150 LINES>  
 Date: Fri, 15 Jan 88 08:10 EST  
 To: LG369TEUNDMAIL2,FDMNRA,IKAF600@INDYCM3,XQWG6E,  
 X9H7YP,LCB00WEUNDMAIL2,LJTR59@UNDMAIL2,CUL.Pearce@CU20B.Columbia.EDU,  
 L8KMP8@UNDMAIL2, LRY6SE@UNDMAIL2  
 From: JBH <X9H7YP>  
 Subject: JBH Online 1

**ISSN start  
 being assigned  
 to online serials**

Today is Friday, 15 January 1988.  
 Welcome to issue 1 of

**1988**

JJJJJ	BBBBBBBB	HHH	HHH
JJJ	BBB BBB	HHH	HHH
JJJ	BBB BBB	HHH	HHH
JJJ	BBBBBBBB	HHHHHHHHHH	
JJJ	BBB BBB	HHH	HHH
JJJ JJJ	BBB BBB	HHH	HHH
JJJJJ	BBBBBBBB	HHH	HHH

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OOOOO	NNNNN	NNN	LLL	III	NNNNN	NNN	EEEEEEE
OOO OOO	NNNNNN	NNN	LLL	III	NNNNNN	NNN	EEE
OOO OOO	NNN NNN	NNN	LLL	III	NNN NNN	NNN	EEEEEEE
OOO OOO	NNN NNN	NNN	LLL	III	NNN NNN	NNN	EEE
OOO OOO	NNN NNNNN	NNN	LLLLLLLL	III	NNN NNNNN	NNN	EEEEEEE
OOOOO	NNN NNNNN	NNN	LLLLLLLL	III	NNN NNNNN	NNN	EEEEEEE

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# 2007

# Major revision of the ISSN International Standard ISO 3297

INTERNATIONAL  
STANDARD

ISO  
3297 : 2007

Third edition  
2006-11-01

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**Information and documentation —  
International Standard Serial Number (ISSN)**

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



Reference number  
ISO 3297:2007(E)

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# ISSN Today

- Over 1.8 million titles in the ISSN Portal
- 88 ISSN national centers, plus ISSN International Centre, Paris
- Over 60,000 new ISSN records/year
- Used by libraries, publishers, rights management agencies, postal services, archiving agencies, knowledge bases (OpenURL), serials supply chain, and many others
- Positioned for linked data environment

# What Can ISSN Become?



# Possible Revision Issues

INTERNATIONAL  
STANDARD

ISO  
3297

Third edition  
2006-11-01

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**Information and documentation —  
International Standard Serial Number (ISSN)**

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



Reference number  
ISO 3297:2006(S)



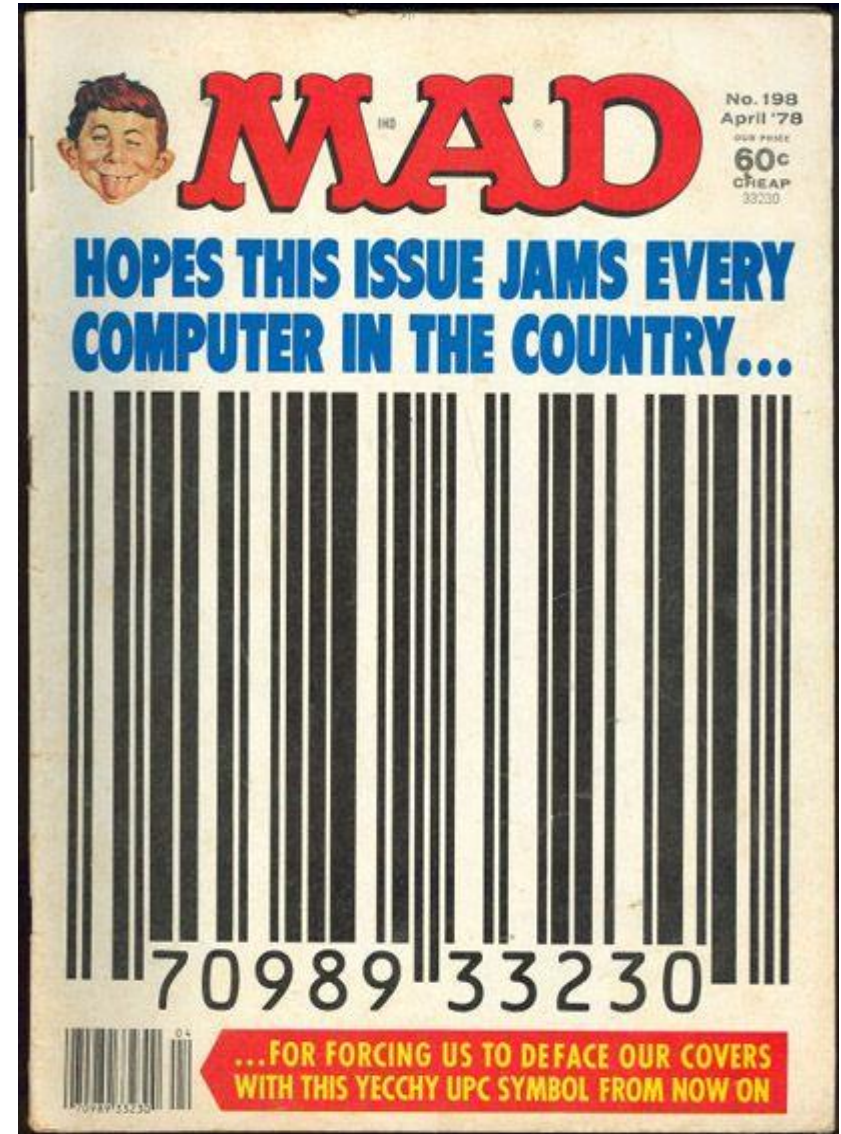
Proposal to remove the statement that  
ISSN are assigned free of charge



# Bibliographic Identification

# Vs. ? Product Identification

Desc	a	SrTp	p	Cont	DtSt	c
010				01015589 #z sc 78002079 #z sn 78004299		
040				UDI #b eng #c UDI #d NSD #d DLC #d NSD #d DLC #d NSD #d DL OCLCQ #d OCL #d LVB #d NLGGC #d SERSO #d DLC #d OCLC		
012				3 #b 3 #e s #i 8503 #k 1 #m 1		
016	7			9875777 #2 DNLM		
016	7			P60540000 #2 DNLM		
016	7			008549589 #2 Uk		
022				0000-0019 #i 0000-0019 #y 000--0019 #2 1		
032				700000 #b USPS		
042				nsdp #a pcc		
043				n-us---		
050	0	0		Z1219 #b .P98		
082	1	0		070 #2 11		
090				#b		
049				DLCC		
210	0			Publ. wkly.		
222		0		Publishers weekly		
245	0	4		The publishers weekly.		
246	1	3		PW #f <2005->		
260				New York : #b F. Leyboldt, #c 1873-		
300				v. : #b ill. ; #c 25-29 cm.		



# Granularity ?

Separate  
ISSN  
for  
Small,  
Medium,  
Large?

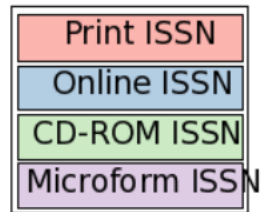


# Digital Formats: Separate ISSN?

- PDF
- HTML
- Epub
- Android
- Kindle
- Etc., Etc.

Note: Separate ISBN are now required for different formats of digital books currently not required for ISSN

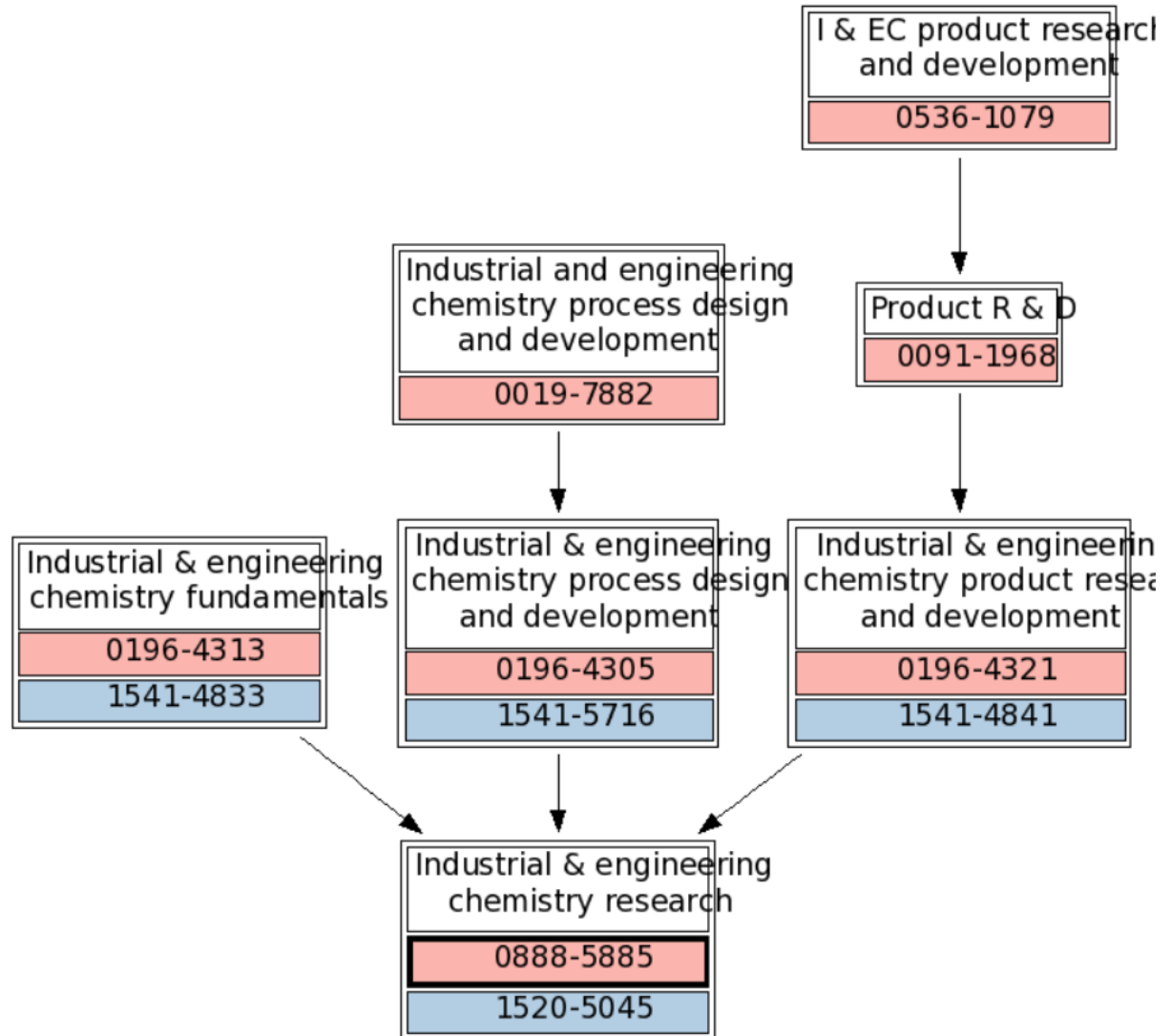
# A New ISSN for Serial Families?



Preceding ISSN

Requested ISSN

Succeeding ISSN



# Align Mandatory ISSN Metadata and Mandatory ONIX Metadata?

- Example:

Numbering (enumeration and/or chronology) is optional for ISSN, mandatory for some ONIX messages

- Benefits for ISSN use in the “chain of trade”

# Expand Information About ISSN Use with Other Identifiers?

- Already have appendices for:

- DOI

- ISBN

- URN

- Add:

- ISNI, others

# Title Changes ??



# Major and Minor Title Changes

- Major = New ISSN
- Minor = retain the old ISSN
- Based on library cataloging rules
- Revised in 2000-2002 and aligned with AACR2 and ISBD CR
- Changes not always obvious to researchers, and even librarians: e.g.  
*Business Week* to *Bloomberg Business Week* = minor

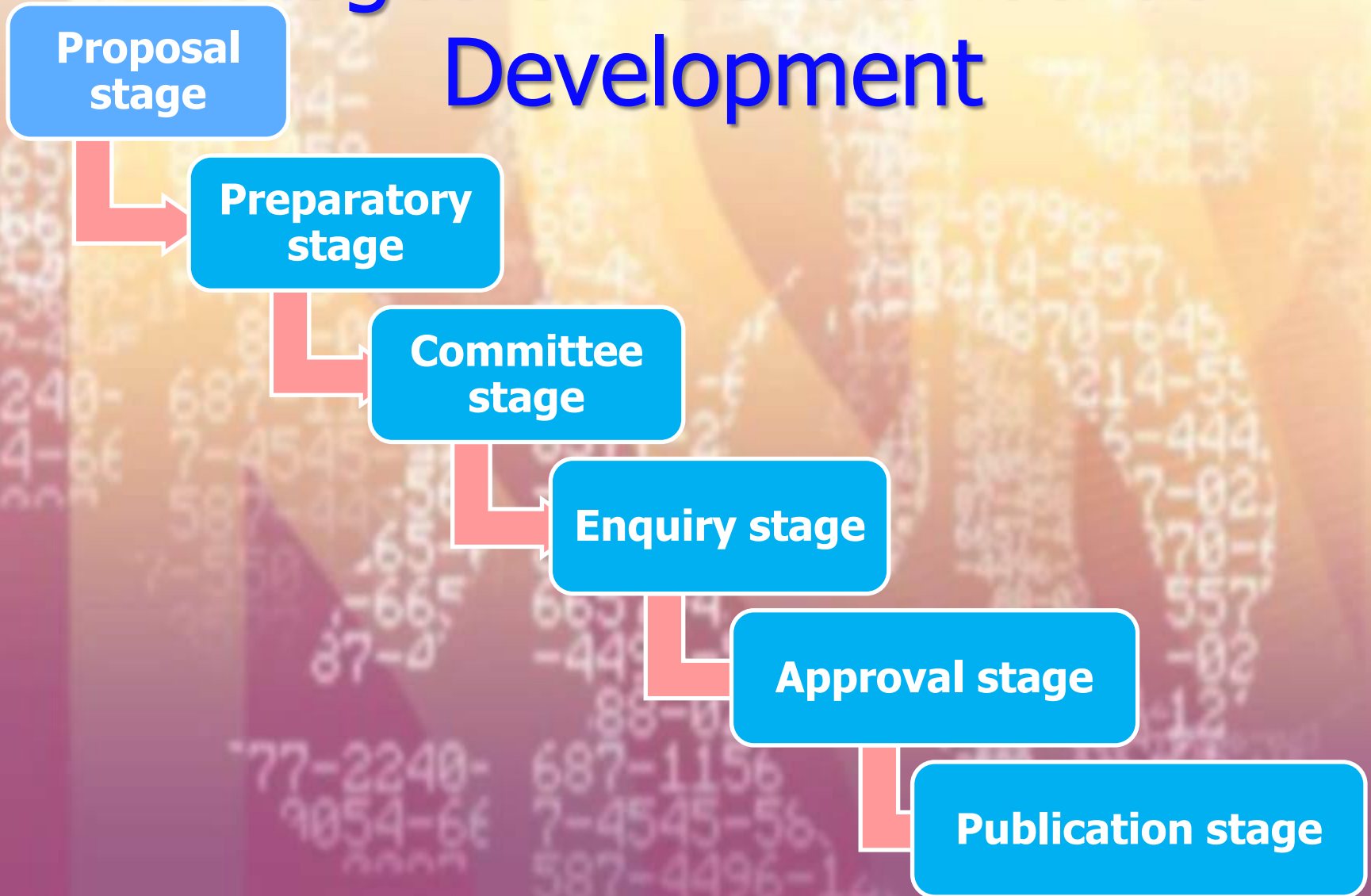


The background of the slide features a world map in a light, semi-transparent color. Overlaid on the map are numerous ISSN (International Standard Serial Number) identifiers in a light, semi-transparent font. These numbers are scattered across the map, with some appearing more prominently than others. The overall color scheme is a warm, golden-yellow to light brown gradient.

# Updating the standard to facilitate ISSN's identification role in a linked data environment



# Stages of ISO Standards Development



# Assembling a Working Group

- Should have broad community representation. E.g.,
  - Publishers
  - Libraries
  - Aggregators
  - Abstracters and indexers
  - Platform providers
  - Representatives from related standards

To become a U.S. member of the ISSN revision working group, contact NISO  
([www.niso.org](http://www.niso.org))



**Phone:** +1.301.654.2512  
**Fax:** +1.410.685.5278

**E-mail:** [nisohq@niso.org](mailto:nisohq@niso.org)  
**URL:** [www.niso.org](http://www.niso.org)

To become a member of another country's working group, contact the appropriate ISO representative

What do *you* think should be changed?



40

TH

ANNIVERSARY

**Thank  
you!**

**[rrey@loc.gov](mailto:rrey@loc.gov)**

