

## Activity Report 2022 Executive Summary

### ***A New Metadata Production Tool Launched***

In 2022, the highlight of the year was the launch of the ISSN+ application, which represents the culmination of significant investments and required a major mobilization of the ISSN International Centre team. The National Centres are satisfied with this new tool which considerably assists them to produce higher quality metadata. The satisfactory adoption of the tool by the network is extremely gratifying for the International Centre team.



ISSN+, developed in-house, offers many new custom functionalities compared to the previous cataloguing tool Virtua, including automated management of linking (MARC 21 tags 760 through to 787); submission of lists of ISSNs to extract a tabular file of the most important ISSN data elements, as well as diagnostics concerning the numbers submitted; and error dashboards to access a specific table of error messages attached to National Centres' ISSN records. The MARC 21 reference structure used internally by ISSN+ for the validation of ISSN records and for cataloguing is now published automatically as a web page to be used as a reference tool by ISSN cataloguers.

### ***The 2020-2024 Strategy***

In the third year of the 2020-2024 ISSN IC Strategic Plan much progress was made. The six objectives are described in detail in the full annual report, but some highlights are:

1. Develop the global interoperability of the ISSN Portal by improving the management of ISNIs within the ISSN Portal:
  - A list of 300 multinational publishers in the ISSN Register, their affiliated publishers and related brands was established using an internal ISSN Network wiki, and will now be released monthly in pdf on the ISSN website. The list includes publishers' ISNIs when available.
  - The ISSN International Centre has also been working with the ISNI Library Sector Steering Group to review the current ISNI data schema for publishers as organizations and submit a final report to the ISNI Quality Team for further requirements to track publisher name information.
2. Encourage the creation of new ISSN National Centres to extend the ISSN Network worldwide and encourage underperforming National Centres to improve:

### **Total Numbers at a Glance (% year increase)**

2,287,852 confirmed records (+2%)

346,173 online resource records (+7%)

57,638 open access titles (+9%)

6,727 publishers using the ISSN Portal (+24%)

- A formal document on how to open a National Centre was written to assist several serious candidate host countries in understanding the complex process.
  - All National Centres attended at least one of 21 ISSN+ online training sessions in April-May, and were shown how to use the new ISSN+ error dashboard at the ISSN Directors Meeting in November to ensure better data quality.
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3. Implement the sixth version of the ISSN standard by creating new cluster ISSNs:
    - The ISSN Review Group finalized the definition of the Title History ISSN, ISSN-H, an identifier that will group the successive titles held by a publication over time, and shared a briefing paper with industry leaders.
    - The MARC 21 proposal to create a new field for cluster ISSNs was resubmitted in mid-2023. Initial internal tests using ISSN+ show that the automated creation of ISSN-H will work, however a repeatable and distinct MARC 21 field will be required for effective and broad adoption.
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  4. Implement the sixth version of ISO3297 - ISSN by assigning ISSNs to various types of continuing resources:
    - 6 new and 3 revised codes for additional types of continuing resources (MARC tag 008 position 21) to reflect the full scope of continuing resources covered by ISO 3297 had official network-wide adoption with the launch of ISSN+ in June 2022. In December 2022, the ISSN Review Group provided an advanced release of the revised ISSN Manual chapter to explain how to use the new codes.
  5. Develop interoperability of the ISSN Portal through the management of persistent identifiers and URLs of digital continuing resources:
    - In work done since 2021 in collaboration with the National Library of Finland, two proposals submitted to the MARC Advisory Committee on the enrichment of web archive information have resulted in new subfields in Field 856 in Update No.35 in December 2022, and a new field; Field 857 - Electronic Archive Location and Access should become official with Update No.36 scheduled for June 2023.
    - The ISSN International Centre has set up a URN:ISSN resolver (<https://urn.issn.org/>) and will test the retrieval of archival status data and URLs (operational, past and archival) included in MARC 21 856 and 857 fields with the National Library of Finland. If the test with the National Library of Finland proves successful, the scheme will be extended to all volunteer National Centres.
  6. Promote and develop Keepers Registry to associate new agencies and increase the number of identified archived resources:
    - Two new agencies have been approved to join Keepers Registry, the ZBW-Leibniz-Informationzentrum Wirtschaft (ZBW) in Germany and the National Library of Spain (BNE). There are now sixteen active agencies and two inactive agencies. Keepers Registry is also a partner of DOAJ, CLOCKSS, Internet Archive and Public Knowledge Project in the JASPER project, which aims to reduce the number of unarchived open access journals, and ran a test to preserve diamond access journals in 2022.
    - In-depth Keepers statistics inform the ISSN International Centre's policy regarding the recruitment of new archiving agencies in countries or regions that

are not well covered by existing Keepers. Technical Advisory Committee members suggested the ISSN International Centre develop a policy regarding the inclusion of future agencies according to their specificities (geographical diversity, multilingualism, representativeness).

- Keepers data stored within ISSN+ will be migrated into the new MARC 21 Field 857 - Electronic Archive Location and Access when it is activated in June 2023

## Standard Reviews

The seventh edition of ISO 3297 standard was made available to the public in June 2022 after a minor revision was voted in 2021 to introduce editorial amendments. The ISSN Review Group met 21 times in 2022, for the ongoing work on the ISSN Manual revision. In parallel, two members of the ISSN IC represent ISSN interests in other standard reviews, notably the ongoing ISBD revision, and on the IFLA Advisory Committee on Standards.

## Key numbers

There is a significant decrease in the number of records produced in 2022 by the ISSN network compared to the years 2019 to 2021. This decrease in ISSN assignments may be explained by the overall decrease in publisher revenues in 2022 compared to 2021. The ISSN International Centre contributed 2,387 new ISSNs to the database in 2022, and carried on with several projects to improve data quality with partner services such as DOAJ and Latindex, as well as with publishers such as Springer.

## Outreach

The ISSN International Centre participated in various professional events: UKSG (online), IFLA World Library and Information Congress (WLIC), and the Frankfurt Book Fair. The WLIC was held in Dublin, Ireland, and 3 presentations were managed by the ISSN International Centre. The National Centre of Ireland gave an overview of its activities, followed by an ISSN International Centre presentation “Identifying OA Journals: A Core Business of the ISSN Network”, and the ISSN International Centre Director was the keynote speaker for the Advisory Committee on Standards open session where she presented “Standards Banquet: What happens when IFLA and ISO come to the same table”. The ISSN International Centre focused its communication campaigns on the ISSN Portal, ISSN+, Transfer, and the new ROAD criteria.

For more details and numbers, read the full report on [www.issn.org](http://www.issn.org).

In 2022

165,747 new and updated records from National Centers

2,588 ISSN assigned by ISSN IC

4,880 OA records added to ROAD

5,910 titles added to Keepers

2094 CIDEMIS requests submitted

8,500 daily unique visitors to the ISSN Portal