

# ISSN RESOURCES

**CONSULTATIONS:** We can answer questions about the application process, ISSN eligibility and how to use ISSN. Contact us via email at [issn@loc.gov](mailto:issn@loc.gov), or by telephone at (202) 707-6452 weekdays between 9:00 am and 6:00 pm Eastern time.



**THE ISSN PORTAL**, an international subscription database available from the ISSN International Centre, [www.issn.org](http://www.issn.org), contains more than 1.8 million ISSN and their metadata records.

## U.S. ISSN CENTER

**ISSN** INTERNATIONAL  
STANDARD  
SERIAL  
NUMBER  
UNITED STATES



2241-5017

2255-3398

2228-3552

1607-6516

1512-0384

0254-5969



1852-8171

0799-1339

1319-447X

0134-4889

1503-0733



### HOW TO CONTACT US

THE U.S. ISSN CENTER WEBSITE [www.loc.gov/issn](http://www.loc.gov/issn) includes ISSN application forms and detailed instructions, information about ISSN policies, FAQs, and specialized information such as ISSN use in bar codes and ISSN use by the U.S. Postal Service. Also included are links to the website of the ISSN International Centre and to other relevant websites.

Library of Congress  
U.S. ISSN Center  
101 Independence Ave., S.E.  
Washington, DC 20540-4284

Tel.: (202) 707-6452  
Fax: (202) 707-6333  
Email: [issn@loc.gov](mailto:issn@loc.gov)



# “If the ISSN did not exist, someone would have to invent it”

## What is an ISSN?

An **International Standard Serial Number (ISSN)** is an 8-digit identification code without any inherent meaning used for serials and other continuing resources. Serials include journals, magazines, newspapers, annuals, and monographic series, whether print or electronic. ISSN also identifies online continuing resources such as updating databases and certain updating websites that are intended to continue indefinitely. Continuing resources, whether past, present, or to be produced in the foreseeable future whatever the medium of production, can be assigned an ISSN.

The ISSN is strictly an identifier and does not provide any rights to a title, nor does it guarantee the quality, content, or validity of the resource.

### ABOUT THE U.S. ISSN CENTER

The **U.S. ISSN Center** is part of the international ISSN Network of 88 national centers worldwide. We assign ISSN to serials and other continuing resources published in the U.S. We also assign ISSN to continuing resources published by certain multinational publishers, in accordance with ISSN Network agreements.



#### Our Mission:

- Assign ISSN to the nation's continuing resources.
- Provide services to publishers and other ISSN users.
- Maintain a national register of ISSN metadata.
- Contribute metadata to the international ISSN Register.
- Communicate about ISSN and promote its use.
- Assist in the development of the ISSN system and related standards.

## How to Obtain an ISSN



Application forms and instructions for U.S. publishers are on the U.S. ISSN Center website, [www.loc.gov/issn](http://www.loc.gov/issn). If in doubt as to whether you are eligible for an ISSN from the U.S. ISSN Center, please contact us.

In addition to the completed application form, documentation is required in the form of a recent sample issue of print publications or a URL where the title screen, tables of contents, and publishing information for the online resource is freely accessible. If it is not possible to provide a sample print issue, our website contains instructions for providing a surrogate. The website also provides instructions for cases where the required online information is not freely accessible.

**If a continuing resource is published in different media versions, e.g. print and online, a separate ISSN is required for each version.**

### WHEN TO APPLY FOR A NEW ISSN

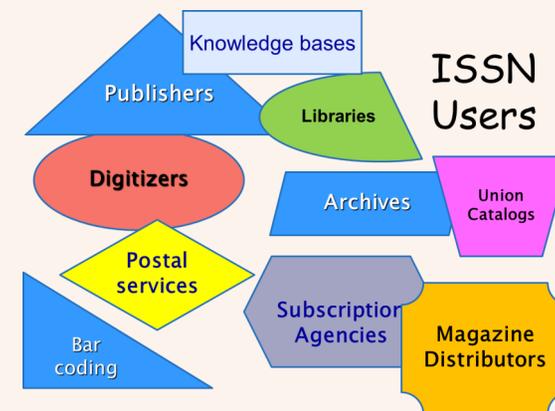
#### Apply for a new ISSN in the following cases:

- When you launch a new version of an existing publication in a different medium.
- When you change the title of an existing publication or plan to change it in the near future.
- When you change the medium of an existing publication, e.g., you cease publishing a magazine in print and begin publishing it online only.

## Advantages of Use

ISSN advantages are abundant, and the more the number is used, the more benefits will accrue:

- ISSN facilitates accurate access in databases, interoperability between databases and systems, OpenURL resolution, and the migration, retrieval, and transmittal of metadata.
- ISSN is a key element in the serials chain of trade, helping ordering and distribution to be more accurate and efficient.
- ISSN use results in accurate citing by scholars, researchers, abstracters, and librarians.
- ISSN facilitates library activities such as serials check-in, database searching, interlibrary loan, offsite storage, digitizing and archiving, and union catalog and registry reporting and listing.



- The ISSN is an integral component of the journal article citation used to monitor payments to the Copyright Clearance Center, Inc.
- All ISSN registrations are maintained in an international database and are made available via products from the ISSN International Centre, [www.issn.org](http://www.issn.org).
- ISSN is positioned to become a key identifier in the linked data environment.