
**Information and documentation —
International Standard Identifier for
Libraries and Related Organizations (ISIL)**

*Information et documentation — Identifiant international normalisé pour
les bibliothèques et les organismes apparentés (ISIL)*

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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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

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.

ISO 15511 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Technical interoperability*.

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Introduction

Communication and resource sharing among libraries and related organizations, including archives, museums, government agencies, educational institutions and businesses, have dramatically increased. This new collaboration has created a need for a structured, standard identifier for organizations, especially libraries.

Due largely to the implementation of ISO 2709:1996, *Information and documentation — Format for Information Exchange*, millions of bibliographic records are now available to users all over the world through the Internet, in virtual union catalogues and through other cooperative information systems. Holdings data linked to bibliographic records provide direct access to records and documents and to the services supplied by libraries and related organizations and agencies. A standardized identifier for the originating or holding source will effectively facilitate access to this information.

Organizational identifiers are widely used in many countries. This International Standard utilizes a flexible structure that can accommodate existing identifiers and be used to create new identifiers. This common framework will enable organizations in the same sector and organizations in parallel sectors to collaborate.

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Information and documentation — International Standard Identifier for Libraries and Related Organizations (ISIL)

1 Scope

The purpose of this International Standard is to define and promote the use of a set of standard identifiers for the unique identification of libraries and related organizations with a minimum impact on already existing systems.

An ISIL identifies an organization, i.e., a library or a related organization, or one of its subordinate units, which is responsible for an action or service in a bibliographic environment (e.g. creation of machine-readable information). It can be used to identify the originator or holder of a resource (e.g. library material). The ISIL is intended for use by libraries and agencies doing business with libraries, such as suppliers and publishers. An ISIL identifies an organization or one of its subordinate units, throughout its life. In some cases, such as when an organization has moved or undergone a significant administrative change (e.g. a merger with another organization), particularly one that results in a name change, more than one ISIL identifier may be assigned.

Since this International Standard allows the use of existing codes to be incorporated into the ISIL, it is possible that a given organization may have more than one ISIL, however, the intent of this standard is to minimize the number of codes.

Any library or related organization, library administrative unit or subordinate unit, acting autonomously, which is engaging in international library or booktrade communication, may be assigned an ISIL.

An ISIL is not intended to be used to classify organizations or their services and holdings.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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 3166-1, *Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions — Part 1: Country codes*

ISO 3166-2, *Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions — Part 2: Country subdivision codes*

ISO/IEC 10646-1:2000, *Information technology — Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set (UCS) — Part 1: Architecture and Basic Multilingual Plane*

3 Terms and definitions

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

- 3.1 administrative unit**
any independent library, or group of libraries, under a single director or a single administration
- 3.2 country code**
the code that represents the current names of countries, dependencies and other areas of particular geopolitical interest, on the basis of lists of country names obtained from the United Nations
- 3.3 country subdivision**
the code that represents the name of the principal administrative divisions, or similar areas, of the country, etc.
- 3.4 library**
organization, or part of an organization, the main aim of which is to maintain a collection and to facilitate, by the services of a staff, the use of such documents as are required to meet the informational, research, educational or recreational needs of its users

NOTE These are only the minimum requirements for a library and do not exclude any additional kind of documents and services.

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- 3.5 related organization**
information-related organization or one of its subordinate units, other than a library, which is responsible for an action or service in a bibliographic environment (e.g. creation of machine-readable information): agency, archive, business, educational or government institution, museum or other body of a cooperative nature, and units subordinate to such a body that are capable of providing a service, producing a product, conducting a program or holding resources in the documentary/bibliographic/information field

NOTE Programs and projects administered by an organization are excluded.

4 Structure, elements and characteristics of the ISIL

4.1 General

The ISIL is a variable length identifier. The ISIL consists of a maximum of 16 characters, using digits (Arabic numerals 0 to 9), unmodified letters from the basic Latin alphabet and the following special marks solidus (/), hyphen-minus (-) and colon (:). Latin letters modified with one or more diacritics and letters from alphabets other than Latin cannot be used in the ISIL. Each ISIL identifier shall be unique in accordance with the repertoire of characters specified in ISO/IEC:10646-1 without regard to case.

When an ISIL is written, printed, or otherwise visually presented, it shall be preceded by the letters ISIL separated from the identifier by a space. An ISIL is made up by two components: a prefix and a library identifier, in that order, separated by a hyphen-minus. The hyphen-minus is a mandatory character in the ISIL string. See Annex A for examples.

4.2 Prefix

The prefix is either a two-character country code or another registered string (non-country code).

4.2.1 Country code

A country code identifies the country in which the library or related organization is located at the time the ISIL is assigned. The country code shall consist of two uppercase letters in accordance with the codes specified in ISO 3166-1. All two-character alphabetic combinations are reserved for possible future assignment as country codes thus may not be assigned as non-country code prefixes.

EXAMPLE 1 GB = United Kingdom

EXAMPLE 2 DE = Germany

EXAMPLE 3 SE = Sweden

When the library has components located in different geographic areas, the country code is based on the location of the main library or of the main administrative unit.

4.2.2 Non-country code prefixes

A non-country code prefix is any combination of Latin alphabet characters (upper or lower case) or digits (but not special marks) as specified in 4.1. The prefix may be one, three, or four characters in length. The prefix is registered at a global level with the ISIL Registration Authority.

EXAMPLE ocl = OCLC, Inc.

4.3 Library identifier

The Library identifier is an alphanumeric element designed to accommodate existing national systems of library identification or newly assigned identifiers for libraries or related organizations. Already existing identifiers, when used in international contexts, will necessarily require the addition of the two uppercase letters of the respective country code, followed by a hyphen-minus character.

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If appropriate when assigning a new identifier to a library or related organization, it is recommended that the Library identifier of the ISIL include the element indicating the geographic subdivision (state, province, region, city, etc.) where the library or the related organization is located. If the geographic subdivision element is used, it is recommended that the element be in accordance with the codes specified in ISO 3166-2.

The Library identifier will have up to 11 character positions, left justified.

5 Administration

For country code prefixes, each country is responsible for the assignment of identifiers for libraries and organizations within its borders. The body responsible for assignment and maintenance of the codes under a country code prefix will be registered with the ISIL Registration Authority. At the national level, the ISIL structure will be administered by appropriate national agencies whose role is widely accepted in the library sector within the country.

For non-country code prefixes, the body responsible for the codes under the prefix will be registered at the ISIL Registration Authority at the time of registration of the prefix.

Annex A (informative)

Examples of ISIL

Full name of library or related organization	ISIL	Note
Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale Vittorio Emanuele II Roma, Italia	IT-RM0267	RM: geographic subdivision code element for Rome
United States Library of Congress Washington, D.C., U.S.A.	US-DLC oclc-DLC	Example of country code prefix and a non-country code prefix using an existing OCLC library identifier.
Indiana University Music Library Bloomington, IN, U.S.A.	US-InU-Mu	
Canadian Broadcasting Corporation Library Montreal, QU, Canada	CA-QMCB	
CSIRO Forestry and Forest Products Tasmania, Australia	AU-TS:RL <small>https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/d4b0bc96-4c0f-47eb-95fd-15bac076b2ab/sist-iso-15511-2005</small>	
Deutsch-Amerikanisches Institut Bibliothek Tübingen, Deutschland	DE-Tue120	
Johns Hopkins University Welch Medical Library Baltimore, MD, U.S.A.	US-MdBJ- W oclc-JHW	Example of country code prefix and a non-country code prefix using an existing OCLC library identifier.
British Library Document Supply Centre Wetherby, West Yorkshire, UK	GB-XY/N-1 oclc-BRI	Example of country code prefix and a non-country code prefix using an existing OCLC library identifier.

Annex B (informative)

Registration Authority for the International Standard Identifier for Libraries and Related Organizations (ISIL)

B.1 Designation of Registration Authority

The International ISIL Agency¹⁾ is the Registration Authority for ISO 15511.

B.2 ISIL Registration Authority responsibilities

The Registration Authority for ISO 15511 shall

- maintain a source of information about ISIL national assignment agencies responsible for assigning codes with the country code prefix,
- register and maintain a source of information about agencies assigning non-country code prefixes,
- promote, coordinate, and supervise the assignment of ISIL identifiers nationally in compliance with the specifications of this International Standard, and
- develop documentation for national ISIL assignment agencies.

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B.3 ISIL National Assignment Agencies

Member bodies implementing this International Standard shall be responsible for the assignment of identifiers for libraries and related organizations within their borders. The ISIL shall be administered by appropriate national agencies whose role is widely accepted in the library sector within the country.

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