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ISO/DIS 3297:2019(E)

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).

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).

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 meaning of the voluntary nature of standards, 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

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation*, Subcommittee SC 9, *Identification and description*.

This sixth edition cancels and replaces the fifth edition (ISO 3297:2017).

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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, system 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 ISSN is an opaque identifier where no meaning is to be inferred from the code itself.

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 which is the intergovernmental organization comprising ISO 3297 Registration authority and ISO 3297 Registration Agencies to which some Registration services have been delegated, including ISSN assignment.

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. The scope of the fourth edition was broadened to cover serials and other continuing resources. The fifth edition removed any reference to the business model from the standard. This sixth edition responds to sector requests by establishing the ability to group related resources into clusters identified by specific ISSNs. Furthermore, the standard specifies richer metadata elements to allow the communication of additional characteristics of a resource.

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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 whether print or electronic.

This document also allows for grouping related resources into clusters identified by specific ISSNs.

ISSNs are applicable to serials and to other continuing resources, whatever the medium of production and irrespective of whether the serial is from the past, the present or is planned for the foreseeable future. Continuing resources include:

- serials such as newspapers, periodicals, journals, e-journals, magazines, continuing monographic series, annual reports, and,
- ongoing integrating resources in print or electronic medium that are continually updated like loose-leaf publications, websites, ongoing directories and databases.

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](#) and [Annex D](#)).

2 Normative references

ISO 4:1997, *Information and documentation — Rules for the abbreviation of title words and titles of publications*

ISO 8:1977, *Documentation — Presentation of periodicals*

ISO 9:1995, *Information and documentation — Transliteration of Cyrillic characters into Latin characters — Slavic and non-Slavic languages*

ISO 233-2:1993, *Information and documentation — Transliteration of Arabic characters into Latin characters — Part 2: Arabic language — Simplified transliteration*

ISO 233-3:1999, *Information and documentation — Transliteration of Arabic characters into Latin characters — Part 3: Persian language — Simplified transliteration*

ISO 259:1984, *Documentation — Transliteration of Hebrew characters into Latin characters*

ISO 639-2:1998, *Codes for the representation of names of languages — Part 2: Alpha-3 code*

ISO 843:1997, *Information and documentation — Conversion of Greek characters into Latin characters*

ISO 2108:2017, *Information and documentation — International Standard Book Number (ISBN)*

ISO 2709:2008, *Information and documentation — Format for information exchange*

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ISO 3166, *Country Codes*

ISO 3602:1989, *Documentation — Romanization of Japanese (kana script)*

ISO 5127:2017, *Information and documentation — Foundation and vocabulary*

ISO 7098:2015, *Information and documentation — Romanization of Chinese*

ISO 9984:1996, *Information and documentation — Transliteration of Georgian characters into Latin characters*

ISO 9985:1996, *Information and documentation — Transliteration of Armenian characters into Latin characters*

ISO/IEC 10646:2017, *Information technology — Universal Coded Character Set (UCS)*

ISO 11940:1998, *Information and documentation — Transliteration of Thai*

ISO 11940-2:2007, *Information and documentation — Transliteration of Thai characters into Latin characters — Part 2: Simplified transcription of Thai language*

ISO/IEC 15420:2009, *Information technology — Automatic identification and data capture techniques — EAN/UPC bar code symbology specification*

ISO 15919:2001, *Information and documentation — Transliteration of Devanagari and related Indic scripts into Latin characters*

ISO 26324:2012, *Information and documentation — Digital object identifier system*

ISO 27729:2012, *Information and documentation — International standard name identifier (ISNI)*

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: 97-2021

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>

— IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1 continuing resource

publication or group of publications intended to bear a stable common title, in any specific medium, that is issued over time with no predetermined conclusion and made available to the public.

Note 1 to entry: A continuing resource is published in successive or integrating issues which generally have numerical and/or chronological designations.

Note 2 to entry: The French term is *ressource continue*.

3.2 integrating resource (ongoing)

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

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

3.3

ISSN

International Standard Serial Number

identifier assigned by the ISSN network to a continuing resource or to a group of such resources.

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

Note 2 to entry: The term eISSN is informally used to refer to the ISSN assigned to continuing publications distributed over digital networks.

Note 3 to entry: The term ISSNs can be used to refer to several ISSN.

3.4

ISSN metadata

descriptive data recorded as part of the ISSN assignment process, and updated when needed by the ISSN network, that provides elements by which the continuing resource is identified and distinguished from other continuing resources.

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

3.5

ISSN Manual

document published by the ISSN Registration authority which complements the standard by providing technical guidelines for its implementation.

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

3.6

ISSN Register

official registration database of ISO 3297 Registration authority containing all ISSN and associated metadata records for the ISSN identifying continuing resources

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

3.7

ISSN-L

Linking ISSN

the specific ISSN designated by ISO 3297 Registration authority 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*.

3.8

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. Refer to the ISSN Manual.

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

3.9

publisher

organization or individual whose predominant activity is to commission, create, collect, validate, host and distribute information in printed and/or in electronic form.

Note 1 to entry: The French term is *éditeur*.