

[The Library of Congress](#) > [Publishers, Authors](#) > U.S. ISSN Center

International Standard Serial Number (ISSN)

If the ISSN did not exist, someone would have to invent it!

|| About the U.S. ISSN Center ||

The U.S. ISSN Center, part of the international ISSN Network, assigns International Standard Serial Numbers (ISSN) to serials published in the U.S. The ISSN is a standard identifier for serials (e.g., journals, magazines, newsletters, newspapers, annuals) whether published in print, online or other media. Each medium version is assigned a separate ISSN.

➔ [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)

|| ISSN General Information ||

[View our new brochure explaining the resources of the U.S. ISSN Center](#) (PDF, 916 KB)



[ISSN is for Serials](#)

The ISSN explained in detail, including:

[Advantages to using the ISSN](#)

|| ISSN Application Forms ||

The ISSN application is a "fillable" pdf form. Once completed, it should be emailed, faxed, or mailed to the Library of Congress for processing. Full instructions and a link to the form are provided on the application forms page.

ISSN Application Spreadsheet A spreadsheet that can be used under certain circumstances to request ISSN for multiple titles already in publication is now available. Please read the instructions on the application forms page carefully to learn about when and how to use the spreadsheet.

➔ [Application forms/instructions](#)

|| News ||

PIE-J Now Available A recommended practice on the presentation & identification of e-journals from the National Information Standards Organization (NISO) contains detailed guidance for publishers and platform providers about title presentation, accurate use of ISSN, and citation practices. Extensive examples and detailed information about ISSN are included.

Resources

[PIE-J document](#)

Reynolds, Regina Romano. [Article: "PIE-J, Presentation and Identification of E-Journals: What's the Point?"](#) *Insights: The UKSG Journal* 26.3 (2013): 311-314.

ROAD Now Available ROAD Directory of Open Access Scholarly Resources, a portal to selected and enhanced ISSN records, is now freely available.

Resources

ROAD Portal: road.issn.org

[PowerPoint presentation](#) from ALA Annual 2014, by Regina Romano Reynolds.

[Read more news](#) »

 **DISCLAIMER**

[Instructions for obtaining an ISSN](#)

[Definition of a serial](#)

ISSN for Electronic Serials

A separate ISSN is required for each medium. To date, thousands of ISSN have been assigned to serials on computer disk, CD-ROM and online electronic serials.

What's in a Name?

Presentation guidelines for serial publications (prepared by the Serials Section of ALCTS, American Library Association).

|| Special Topics ||

Searching in WorldCat

Your publication is now searchable by the title or the ISSN number as soon as the ISSN has been assigned.

 [Read more about searching](#)

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