

ISSN ACTIVITY REPORT FOR 2012

0. Introduction

In 2012, the coverage of the ISSN database increased, the ISSN network was active and involved in various professional groups. The network did not enlarge as no new country joined the ISSN system.

The work carried out for the preparation of a new Strategic Plan by a Working Group including several members of the Governing Board and of the International Centre, with the support of external consultants, was one of the fundamental activities of the year.

1. The ISSN Network

1.1. Coverage and extension of the Network

Two Working Agreements were signed with Colombia and Indonesia. At the end of 2012, the ISSN network comprised 88 member countries.

1.2. Activities of the ISSN Network

1.2.1. ISSN meetings

The ISSN General Assembly convened at UNESCO House in April 2012. A new Governing Board was elected (Argentina, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Finland, Germany, Montenegro, Romania, Turkey, the UK, the USA, plus France and UNESCO). USA and Croatia were elected Chair and Vice-Chair of the Governing Board.

Two Governing Board meetings took place immediately before and after the General Assembly meeting. A meeting of the Consultative Committee was held in April 2012.

The meeting of the Directors of ISSN National Centres was hosted by the National Library of Portugal in Lisbon in October 2012. The meeting included a seminar organized by the National Library with invited speakers, who made presentations on various topics of interest to the ISSN community, regarding in particular the serials publishing sector and the cataloguing services of the Library.

The Directors meeting was also preceded by a meeting of the Virtua client users' Group and by a meeting of the ISSN Review Group.

1.2.2. Activities of the ISSN International Centre (ISSN IC)

- Bibliographic work: In addition to the usual bibliographic activities within the network, the ISSN IC, with members of the network, worked on the updating of

the ISSN Manual and the extension of the FRBR model for serial resources. ISSN IC participated in EURIG and in activities related to ISBD and RDA. These activities were supported by the ISSN Review Group that was established in 2012 (see further).

- Communication: The ISSN Newsletter was launched in 2011 and got very positive feedback. In 2012, its audience increased. Preliminary studies for the implementation of a new ISSN Web site were led in 2012.
- IT system: A significant part of the activity of the IT section was devoted to the replacement of the servers located on the ISSN IC premises. Carefully planned and managed, this replacement, vital for the IC, was successful.
- Sales: In a context of worldwide economic crisis, the income derived from sales remained stable.

2. ISSN database – Management and development

2.1. ISSN Register

2.1.1. Statistics

64,709 new records were added in the ISSN Register in 2012. The improvement of database coverage remains one of the main strategic goals of the ISSN Network. At the end of year 2012, there were approximately 1,688,000 records in the database. 33 countries use the Virtua client, thus updating the Register on a daily basis. The number of files received from member countries also increases, improving the quality of the database.

The identification of electronic resources makes good progress: at the end of 2012, 113,092 electronic titles had been assigned an ISSN.

2.1.2. Data input - Activity of the International Centre

The cataloguing activity of the International Centre increases slightly this year: 4086 records were created, 4457 ISSNs were assigned corresponding to 4966 requests.

2.1.3. New actions and projects

- “Fake” publications or “predatory Open Access publishers”: it is an important issue for the ISSN network as requests are more and more numerous, especially for electronic publications. Criteria are being defined to sort out this issue.
- A working group including staff from the BnF and ISSN IC, plus international experts dealt with the application of the FRBR models to serial resources.
- A permanent ISSN Review Group was created in order to deal with bibliographic standardization issues and ISSN assignment policy.
- The KEEPERS project was successful and got support from JISC. The services will soon be available online.
- The ISSN IC has also taken part in the project regarding the improvement of the ABES requests workflow.

2.2. IT system

In 2012, the servers located on ISSN IC premises were replaced.

3. International cooperation and promotion

3.1. Standardization

The International Centre took part in various standardization meetings:

- ISBN Annual meeting (Chisinau, Moldova, September 2012)
- IFLA Committee on standards (February 2012 – August 2012)
- TC 46 Plenary week (Berlin, Germany, May 2012)
- IFLA, cataloguing section meetings (Helsinki, August 2012)
- IFLA, FRBR review group meetings (Helsinki, August 2012)
- IFLA, ISBD review group meetings (Helsinki, August 2012)
- EURIG meetings.

3.2. Communication and promotion

The ISSN Newsletter was revamped. A preliminary study for a new website was carried out.

A visit to the Frankfurt Book Fair was scheduled in order to prepare the participation of ISSN IC that will rent booth in 2013.

An excellent follow-up of our customers was carried out by the Sales section. This is a crucial aspect for our communication and promotion strategy.

3.3. ISSN Award

The “ISSN Award” created in 2007 by the ISSN Governing board was granted for the fifth time in 2012. This award was established “*to support and encourage ISSN member countries to participate in ISSN training sessions and meetings. The objective of the award is to provide financial support to a country that is making a consistent effort to participate in ISSN activities that would enable them to attend a training session and/or ISSN meeting*”. The purpose of the award is to recognize special efforts made by a country in the ISSN field, and to provide and incentive to improve the coverage of the ISSN register.

The award was granted to Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2012.

4. Conclusion

2012 was a fruitful year for the ISSN. The ISSN network, including of course the International Centre, was active and involved in various professional groups. Support to the ISSN network gained efficiency.