

ISSN INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

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ISSN INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

REPORT TO CDNL 2003

1. ISSN : THE NETWORK AND THE REGISTER (DECEMBER 2002)

- 75 Member Countries
- 1,072,023 records
- + 40,000/50,000 records / year
- 17,400 electronic resources

2. ISSUES OF RELEVANCE TO CDNL

a) Harmonization of cataloguing rules (AACR, ISBD and ISSN)

Following the harmonization of cataloguing rules between the AACR, ISBD and ISSN communities, the new ISSN Manual was published. The actual implementation of this new set of rules by the ISSN network is to be discussed in September 2003 with the ISSN national Centres.

A majority of ISSN national Centres are hosted by National Libraries. In this respect, the harmonisation of cataloguing rules represents an important improvement as it will enable a wider re-use of records.

b) Formats

In the framework of the implementation of a completely new computer system at the ISSN International Centre, the ISSN network is revising its bibliographic format. Both UNIMARC and MARC21 will be accepted by the new system, and provided to the users of the ISSN Register. This should facilitate the data exchange between the ISSN National Centres and the ISSN Register.

The implementation of the new system is planned for 2003-2004.

c) ISSN Standard Revision

The ISSN standard (ISO 3297) is up for its five-year review in 2003. The review ends on June 30th, 2003. An update on this point will be orally provided.

d) Identification and bibliographic control

The harmonisation of cataloguing rules should enable the National Libraries hosting an ISSN National Centre to save resources in the cataloguing process. Therefore, the identification of a larger number of continuing resources should be possible, and more continuing resources should be assigned an ISSN.

e) Persistent identification on the Internet

An important challenge regards the role National Libraries will take in the information infrastructure. In this respect, the assignment of persistent identifiers

such as the ISSN to the largest number of electronic resources should comfort their place, and be part of their strategy.

f) *Broadening of the ISSN Network*

Some countries still do not have a National ISSN Centre. The National Libraries of these countries are strongly encouraged to host the ISSN National Centre, and should not hesitate to contact the ISSN International centre (tel: (33) 1 44 88 22 20, fax (33) 1 40 26 32 43, e-mail issnic@issn.org).

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