

Identifiers: People, Places and Organizations

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Wikipedia Definition

- An identifier is a unique expression in a written format either by a code, by numbers or by the combination of both to distinguish variations from one to another among a class of substances, items, or objects. For living organisms and the structural identifications of objects, identifiers could be more complicated.
- In computer science, Identifiers (IDs) are lexical tokens that name entities. The concept is analogous to that of a "name." Identifiers are used extensively in virtually all information processing systems. Naming entities makes it possible to refer to them, which is essential for any kind of symbolic processing.

Wikipedia Examples

- Australian Business Number
- Product batch number
- CAS registry number
- CODEN
- Digital object identifier
- E number
- EC number
- Global Trade Item Number
- International Chemical Identifier
- International Standard Book Number
- International Standard Serial Number
- Library of Congress Control Number
- Personal identification number (Denmark)
- Serial Item and Contribution Identifier
- Serial number
- Service batch number
- Tax File Number
- Group identifier

Introduction - 1

- From this collection of identifiers it is clear that identifiers, like all standards, have to be different depending on the business they are involved in.
- All standards have to have a business case, otherwise they will never be implemented (and they are many out there that fail for that reason)
- In the information supply chain space there are very different parts of the business that need definitions, these include:
 - Production
 - Delivery
 - Period
 - Payment
 - Content definition
 - Rights/Terms
 - Cost
 - Reconciliation
- This presentation focuses on non-content identifiers that are needed to get information (or content) from one place to another, accurately, efficiently and economically

Types of Identifiers (in our space)

- People
 - ISNI
 - Researcher ID
 - Scopus Author Identifier
 - ORCID
- Places
 - GLN
 - SAN
 - UN LOC
- Organizations
 - D-U-N-S
 - ... and many tax related identifiers
 - ISIL
 - ISNI
 - MARC Org Code
 - OCLC Symbol

What is the need?

- **Places**
 - Delivery of physical objects
 - Tax regime
- **People**
 - Rights payments
 - Author affiliation (ownership)
 - Disambiguation
- **Organizations**
 - Delivery and entitlements
 - Access rights
 - Hierarchy
- **Usually comes down to MONEY**

Places

- **GLN (Global Locator Number)**
 - Physical location
 - Legal entity
 - Maintained by GS1 (formerly EAN International)
- **SAN (Standard Address Number)**
 - Specific street address
 - ANSI/NISO standard
 - Maintained by Bowker
- **UN LOC (United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations)**
 - Trade locations (e.g. airports, ports)
 - Coordinates
 - Maintained by UN Economic Commission for Europe

People

- **ISNI (International Standard Name Identifier)**
 - “Names” include people and organizations
 - Initial emphasis rights holders
 - Maintained by International ISNI Agency (consortium of national libraries and bibliographic utilities)

- **Virtual International Authority File**
 - Jointly run by LC, BnF, DNB and OCLC
 - Implemented and hosted by OCLC
 - ~20 files from around the world
 - 13 million name records
 - 10 million clusters
 - Plan to include other names
 - Corporations, works, geographics, families, imaginary characters, etc.
 - Not topical subject headings

More People

- **Proprietary Author Identifiers**
 - Scopus (Elsevier)
 - Scholar Universe (COS)
 - Researcher ID (Thomson Reuters)
 - RePEc (Research Paper in Economics)
- **ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID)**
 - Open version of Thomson Reuter's Researcher ID
 - Most 'social'
 - Claiming IDs
 - Interactive verification of associated works
 - Pulling together several current initiatives
 - Driven by STM, university communities
 - Primarily interested in researchers
 - Large number of participants
 - Mostly concerned with present and future names

Organizations

- D-U-N-S and many tax related identifiers
 - Related to corporate entities
- ISIL (International Standard Identifier for Libraries - ISO 15511)
 - Libraries only
 - National agencies
- MARC Org Code
 - Library identifier
 - Maintained by LC
- OCLC Symbol
 - Library identifier
 - Maintained by OCLC
- ISNI (International Standard Name Identifier – ISO 27729)
 - Recently adopted
 - Emphasis on individuals
 - Central registry
 - Registration agencies

More organizations

- **OCLC WorldCat Registry ID**
 - Library identifier
 - Voluntary registration and maintenance
- **NISO I2**
 - International Institutional Identifier
 - Hierarchical structure with relationships
 - Identifies “licensing units”
 - May be a sub-registry of ISNI, still to be decided
- **Ringgold Identifier**
 - 200,000 institutions or institutional entities
 - Worldwide, all categories
 - Used by over 40 publishers and agents

Existing Identifiers Investigated for use with I2

Identifier Name	Current Status
ISIL (ISO 15511)	International Standard
OCLC symbol	OCLC specific
OCLC WorldCat Registry ID	OCLC specific
MARC organization code	MARC standard
ISNI (ISO 27729)	Final Committee draft
SAN Standard address number	NISO standard Z39.43-1993
GLN Global location number	GS1 (formerly EAN international)
DUNS Data Universal Numbering	Dun and Bradstreet
International Standard for Describing Institutions with Archival Holdings Information (ISDIAH)	New standard 2008 – International Council on Archives

What is next for I2?

- **NISO Working Group**
 - Publishers
 - Agents
 - Distributors
 - Libraries
 - Hosting services
 - Institutional Repositories

- **Scenarios**
 - Electronic supply chain
 - Consortia
 - Research funding
 - Inter-library loan

- **Implementation**

Thank you

Questions?

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