Highlighting ISSN key trends from 2013 onwards

Dr. Gaëlle Béquet
Director
ISSN International Centre
ISSN network

– Has been growing steadily since 1975, date of the intergovernmental Treaty between France and Unesco
– Now reaches 88 Member countries – Kenya & Russia to join soon
– Represented by national libraries, book chambers and scientific institutions worldwide
– Coordinated by ISSN International Centre based in Paris
– 2015: 40th Anniversary of ISSN network
– ISSN = ISO 3297 standard that will come under systematic review in 2015
Data production

- Records added: + 64,709 in 2012; + 61,696 in 2013; records are maintained and corrected by national centres
- ISSN IC contribution:
  2012: 4086 records created, 4457 ISSN assigned, 4966 requests.
  2013: 3802 records created, 4553 ISSN assigned, 5652 requests.
- Total number of records in the register: 1,688 mio (2012); 1,749 mio (2013)
- MARC21 format
- 32 centres use VTLS (now Innovative) Virtua client to update the database
- 1,587,422 records for print resources + 132,806 records for online resources (2013)
Standardization activities

- FRBR model for serial resources (Pressoo) completed in 2013 and endorsed by IFLA at WLIC in Lyon (2014) – currently being adapted to RDF
- Participation in various standardization bodies at national and international levels: ISO TC 46 – Information & Documentation, AFNOR CN 46, EURIG (RDA in Europe), IFLA
- ISSN Review Group meets regularly to regulate network cataloguing activities
Sales, Marketing & Communication

- Good level of sales in 2013 in spite of economic turmoil
- ISSN newsletter more widely circulated (+2000 subscribers)
- Social networks: Facebook, LinkedIn, Wikipedia
- New ISSN website, new logo, new brochure, new banners, new goodies in 2013
- Ads in various media (Research information, ALA journal)
IT system

- **2012**: Replacement of servers at ISSN IC
- **2013**: Data back-up improved, preliminary studies for the evolution of the IT system, on-demand tailored ISSN Premium products, semi-automatic ISSN assignments with Italian and French ISSN centre
- **2014**: contract with VTLS-Innovative to enhance main database
ROAD (2013 & 2014)

- Strategic discussion about Open Access took place during the 2013 meeting of the Governing Board
- road.issn.org: beta version launched on Dec. 2013
- Supported by UNESCO in the framework of its Open Access policy
- Services to be enhanced in 2014 (clearer maps, OA national statistics, RDF dump, new updating routines)
ISSN strategy 2015-2017

Trends in the information industry

- Electronic documents will outpace print documents within 15-20 years
- Cataloguing will be more & more automated
- Open access will become dominant with basic and premium offers
- Web services and Application programming interface will link data and allow data exchange and enrichment
- Data will be produced more collaboratively
The value of the ISSN record

- an authority file,
- A « natural key » for continuing resources,
- a well-known, long-lasting and widely used standard,
- implemented by independent, collaborating and nonprofit entities (national centres),
- controlled by international agreement and strong cooperation.
ISSN data ready for change?

- ISSN register is still a data silo
- MARC 21 format is not web-friendly though accurate
- Data exchange is cumbersome
- ISSN IC IT system is not based on open source technology and is aging
ISSN IC faces new competition

- Publishers and service providers develop their own knowledge base and produce serials metadata
- Library catalogues are more and more open on the web and reusable
- Online services disseminate free unchecked serials records and link with content providers
- New identifiers are created.

There will be increasing confusion if ISSN authoritative data is not more readily available.
Goal 1: growing & improving the ISSN Network

Support existing ISSN centres through communication, advising and training

Objective 1.1: Update the ISSN manual
Objective 1.2: Create Webinars and increase the number of training sessions
Objective 1.3: Strengthen cooperation with national centres in Africa, South America, Asia

Encourage the creation of new ISSN centres

Objective 1.4: Invite interested countries’ representatives to the General Assembly, the Directors’ meetings and other international events related to ISSN
Objective 1.5: Get UNESCO’s support to resume negotiations about the creation of an ISSN national centre with countries depending on IC for ISSN assignment
Objective 1.6: Implement measures to recoup the cost of ISSN assignment for countries without ISSN national centre
Goal 2: enhancing ISSN Data, Products & Services

Assess and improve data quality and completeness

Objective 2.1: Develop non-Latin script bibliographic data in addition to transliterated data

Objective 2.2: Produce a data quality scheme for the ISSN Register

Objective 2.3: Enhance Core Resources’ data

Participate actively in standardization processes


Objective 2.5: Participation in ISO TC 46, IFLA (ISBD Review Group, FRBR Review Group, UNIMARC Permanent Committee), IETF (URN)

Enhance services and products

Objective 2.6: Improve the Register (URL Updates, serials family tree, subject indexing)

Objective 2.7: Proceed with the development of ROAD (RDF dump, statistics and maps, classification per subject, resolvable URN)
Goal 3: maintaining and enhancing ISSN IC’s IT Infrastructure

Objective 3.1: Improve the core service for records production

Objective 3.2: Implement the new portal and a web service for open data relying on open source software

Objective 3.2: Upgrade IT tools for office activities
Goal 4: setting up new Partnerships

Improve ISSN coverage

Objective 4.1: Proceed with semi-automatic ISSN assignments either through national centres or directly with third parties

Promote partnerships within innovative projects to spread the use of ISSN

Objective 4.2: Sign new agreements with indexing services and journal indicators to develop ROAD

Objective 4.3: Promote ISSN IC participation in on-going and new projects (The Keepers, Transfer, for example)
Goal 5: improving ISSN IC’s awareness and governance

Towards a better governance
Objective 5.1: Organize an October meeting with members of the Governing Board
Objective 5.2: Develop activity monitoring tools (semi-annual cost benefit analyses, sales monitoring)

Adapt corporate communication
Objective 5.3: Enrich website with annual reports, strategic plan, organizational chart, etc…
Objective 5.4: Adapt communication to different audiences on different media
Objective 5.5: Liaise with UNESCO and other partners to disseminate information about ISSN
Goal 6: To share ISSN data with a larger community

Objective 6.1: Reconcile Open Access and Linked Data with financial revenues drawn from products & services

Objective 6.2: Interact with web-based innovative applications that use ISSN to enhance their data

Objective 6.3: Improve ISSN Register’s data input and output models
Decisions

ISSN Governing Board does not support the idea of keeping the status quo for the registry and ISSN data.

ROAD is a testbed for the evolution of ISSN register toward Open & Linked Data.

Links with other identifiers shall be established: ongoing negotiations with ISNI.

A two-tiered consulting mission is planned to define scenarios for the evolution of ISSN. These scenarios will be presented to the Governing Board meeting in 2015.
Thank you for your attention
….and your questions.

gaelle.bequet@issn.org