

Frankfurt Messe

Standard book numbering turns 50!

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In the days before Standard Book Numbering...



Bookseller to wholesaler

I'd like to order:

Charles Dickens: A Tale of Two Cities

Publisher – Nelson Doubleday

Format – hardback with deckle edge pages (blue and cream cover)

10 copies

What is the price?



In the days before Standard Book Numbering....



Wholesaler to bookseller

We have Charles Dickens: A Tale of Two Cities published by **Classics Publishers** in hardback with deckle edge pages with the **red** and cream cover available.

They are \$5 each.

Please quote **our number CP010567** if you want to order this book



In the days before Standard Book Numbering...



Maybe you would get what you wanted, maybe not..

At any rate, it took a long time just to exchange information



Then came SBN

$$T^2 = \left(\frac{4\pi^2}{GM_s}\right)r^3$$

WH Smith pressed for a “standard” book number to enable them to operate a computerised warehouse.

Prof Gordon Foster an ex wartime code breaker devised the calculation method for a 9-digit number

- Publisher identifier
- Publication identifier
- Check digit to validate



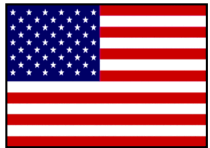
Then came SBN



Quickly taken up in UK

Publishers accepted it – numbering of backlist as well as new titles

Success quickly noted by...



SBN becomes ISBN

To make the system international, SBN changed to 10 digits and became an *International Standard* under ISO:

- Country/regional identifier
- Publisher identifier
- Publication identifier
- Check digit to validate

92-95055-00-4



SBN becomes ISBN

Since 1 January 2007 ISBN has been a 13 digit number:

- Increased capacity of available numbers
- Congruence with GTINs

- GS1 prefix (978 or 979)
- Country/regional identifier
- Publisher identifier
- Publication identifier
- Check digit to validate

978-92-95055-00-1



More countries, more ISBNs



More countries, more ISBNs



More countries, more ISBNs



Today...

151 agencies

200 countries

> 1.5 million publishers

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