I am not a number...
ISNI - A Question of Identity

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ISNI: 0000 0004 5913 7837
ISNI - identifying public personas

- International Standard Name Identifier
- ISO standard 27729
- Identifying ‘parties’, or more generally, the public ‘personas’ of persons or organizational units
- Target: contributors to creative works and those active in their distribution or exploitation very broadly defined
- Thus:
  - Natural persons, pseudonyms, noms de plume, ...
  - Organizations, units thereof, brand names like imprints, music labels, film studios, ...
What are ISNIs for?!

- Resolving problems of name ambiguity in search & discovery
- Attributing published works accurately to their creators
- Acting as a robust bridge identifier across multiple schemes and domains
- Thus becoming a critical component in linked data and semantic web applications
Yes, but practical uses .. ?

- Identify rights-holders
- Protect rights and their management
- Assist in royalty collection and distribution
- Support scholarship
- Help clarify questions of attribution
- Aid cleanup & enhancement of databases
- Act as bridge ID to facilitate cross-walks
Features of an ISNI ID

- The ISNI assigned to a particular persona should be:
  - Unique
  - Persistent
  - Expressed in a standard format
    0000 0001 2099 9104 - Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
  - Accompanied by a minimum basic set of metadata to enable disambiguation

- Additionally, it should:
  - Have its sources of provenance clearly defined
  - Be capable of enrichment with further, extended metadata
ISNI in context

ISNI exists alongside other familiar ISO identifiers:

- ISBN (books)
- ISSN (serials)
- DOI (digital objectives, journal articles, etc.)
- ISMN (music)
- ISLI (links)
- ISAN (films, audiovisual works)
Scale of ISNI assignments to date

- Over 9 million identities have ISNIs assigned
- Of which:
  - > 8.6 million relate to individuals
  - > 600,000 relate to organizations
- Both totals are likely rapidly to increase, as additional Registration Agencies, from both existing and new domains, come on stream
Returning to the Man Who Was Not Just a Number ...

Closer inspection of The Prisoner ‘Number 6’ reveals that he was in fact played by the actor

- Patrick MacGoohan ISNI 0000 0001 0814 7945
- Or should I say Paddy Fitz?
- Or Joseph Serf?
- All of whom turn out to have been the same real person!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ISNI:</th>
<th>0000 0001 0814 7945</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name:</td>
<td>Mac Goohan, Patrick</td>
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<td>MacGoohan, Patrick</td>
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<td>Mc Goohan, Patrick</td>
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<td>Mcgoohan, Patrick</td>
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<td>McGoohan, Patrick</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Joseph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dates:</td>
<td>1928-2009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Creation class

- actor
- contributor
- director
- narrator
- originator
- performer
- screenwriter

### Related identities:

- Fitz, Paddy (other identity, same person)
- Serf, Joseph (other identity, same person)

### Related names

### Titles

### Notes:

### Sources:

- VIAF
- BNE
- DNB
- LC
- NKC
- SUDOC
- ALCS
- BNF
- BOWKER
- IPDA
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mitchell, David (f. 1965-11-08)</td>
<td>derive mortelle images animees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mitchell, David Michael</td>
<td>A 'peculiar' place : the Adelaide Hospital, Dublin : its times, places and personalities, 1839 to 1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mitchell, David (Australian soccer player)</td>
<td>Application of mass spectrometry to the analysis of mixtures, 1989:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Mitchell, David Brian (1948 July 6-)</td>
<td>The art &amp; language group 1966 to 1973</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Mitchell, David (1959-)</td>
<td>Rhododendrons of subgenus Vireya, 2006:</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Mitchell, David C. (1959-)</td>
<td>The message of the Psalter : an eschatological programme in the Book of psalms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mitchell, David (1951-)</td>
<td>Classification by neural network and statistical models in tandem ; does integration enhance performance?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>David Mitchell, (comedian and journalist from the United Kingdom)</td>
<td>This Mitchell and Webb book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mitchell, David (1914-)</td>
<td>Seventh-Day Adventists, faith in action.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sources of information

- ISNI assignments based on hundreds of authority files and databases worldwide
- Assertions of identities are matched and rated algorithmically
- Primary role played by ISNI Member organizations and ISNI Registration Agencies
- Smaller proportions start with self-registration by individuals and small independent players
ISNI Members & RAGs

- Currently 33 member organizations, and growing
- 22 regular Members
- 11 Registrations Agencies or ‘RAGs’
- Based so far in 18 countries
- But coverage is world-wide
- Here are some of them ...
Roles within ISNI’s infrastructure

- ISNI Membership
- ISNI Registration Agencies (RAGs)
- ISNI-IA
  Central coordination, management and direction. Ltd company, not for profit, with independent Board. Operated by EDItEUR day-to-day on behalf of ISNI
- ISNI-AA
  Hosting and development of the ISNI database, interfaces & data input/output. Service provided by OCLC on behalf of ISNI
- ISNI Quality Team
  Crucial QA component. Dedicated staff at BnF and BL
Current activities

- Ringgold considering creating an API to obtain & resolve existing ISNIs (for organizations) mapped to its database

- High-level review underway of relationship VIAF <> ISNI

- PLS, British Library and other collaborating on a project to assign ISNIs to publishers & imprints

- Making available linked data exports from ISNI’s database

- Migrating isni.org website to new host & significantly updating its content
To find out more ...

- Check out the ISNI website: www.isni.org
- Contact the ISNI International Agency: tim@editeur.org
- Watch out for features in the EDItEUR Newsletter
- Look out for and support AGM and open-house events planned for 2017
Thanks for your attention!