ISNI - Identifying Parties in Creative “Supply Chains”

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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)
- ISWC (musical and other works)
- ISRC (recordings)
Scale of ISNI assignments to date

- Approximately 9.5 million identities have ISNIs assigned
- Of which:
  - > 8.8 million relate to individuals
  - > 660,000 relate to organizations
- Both totals continue significantly to increase, as additional Registration Agencies, from both existing and new domains, come on stream
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>ISNI:</strong></th>
<th>0000 0001 0871 1294</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name:</strong></td>
<td>Kasner, Angela</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Merkel, Angela</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Merkel, Angela</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dorothea Merkel-Kasner, Angela</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sauer-Merkel, Angela</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dates:</strong></td>
<td>1954-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Creation class:</strong></td>
<td>cre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Language material</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Text</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>contributor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>creator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>editor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Related identities:</strong></td>
<td>Kasner, Angela Dorothea (Frueherer Name; other identity, same person)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Related names**

**Titles**

**Notes:**

**Sources:**
- VIAF
- VIAF
- DNB
- LC
- NKC
- NUKAT
- SUDOC
- BNF
- BOWKER
- NTA
- OCLCT
- TEL
ISNI 0000 0001 2148 628X

- Robert Galbraith, ISNI 0000 0003 9509 0901
- Newt Scamander, ISNI 0000 0000 7049 5783
- Kennilworthy Whisp, ISNI 0000 0000 6918 1891

Related identities:  
Galbraith, Robert (other identity, same person)  
Scamander, Newt (other identity, same person)  
Whisp, Kennilworthy (other identity, same person)
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 about 38 member organizations, and growing
- 25 regular or founding Members
- 14 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 & 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 priorities

- Exciting times for ISNI!
- A serious ‘buzz’ – prospects from legacy library sector but also from other domains – especially music but also film and games
- Preparing to make core ISNI metadata available in the form of Linked Open Data
- Transitioning part of database to an ISNI Organizations Registry (leveraging expertise in area and >650k orgs already having ISNIs assigned)
The ISNI Organizations Registry

- Segmentation of the organization records and respective ISNI IDs into an environment with a searchable user interface
- ISNI Organization IDs and associated core metadata available to all under a CC0 licence
- Regular data downloads of the entire ISNI Organizations Registry
- An API for retrieval of ISNI IDs and records with the ability to resolve an existing ISNI ID
- An online form for organizations to supply updates to their own records
- A new Advisory Board with representatives of the scholarly communications community to guide the efforts of the Registry
ISNI: under the hood

- And of course the serious ‘plumbing’ activities needed to sustain all of this …
- Upgrading our API facilities to permit easier and faster access
- Regular data dumps to encourage wider use and cross linking
- Implementing provisions of forthcoming GDPR legislation
- Looking to expand ISNI’s Quality Team
To find out more …

• Check out the ISNI website: [www.isni.org](http://www.isni.org)

• Contact the ISNI International Agency: [tim@editeur.org](mailto:tim@editeur.org) or [info@isni.org](mailto:info@isni.org)

• Watch out for features in the [EDItEUR Newsletter](mailto:tim@editeur.org) and its soon-to-be launched [ISNI Newsletter](mailto:info@isni.org) counterpart

• Thanks for your attention!