

Summary of decisions of the 4th ISO/TC 46/SC 9/WG 5 meeting
3-4 February 2005, Elsevier's building, Amsterdam (NL)

DRAFT

Participants : Françoise **PELLÉ** (Chairperson; ISSN IC); David **BARON** (BSI); David **BUCKLEY** (EAN International/GS1); Robina **CLAYPHAN** (BSI); Yvette **DIVEN** (ANSI); Frédérique **FLAMERIE de la CHAPELLE** (AFNOR); Elizabeth **GAZDAG** (MSZT); Agneta **HOLMENMARK** (SIS); Eva **JERABKOVA** (Czech Republic); Zofia **JOHANSEN** (Norway); Paul **MOSTERT** (Elsevier); Ed **PENTZ** (ANSI); Regina **REYNOLDS** (ANSI); Alain **ROUCOLLE** (ISSN IC); Davis **THOMAS** (PPA/IFPP); Rollo **TURNER** (ASAI); Jasenka **ZAJEC** (Croatia).

Observers: Pierre **GODEFROY** (ISSN IC); Adriaan **LEMMEN** (Royal Library, the Netherlands).

1. **Designation of the rapporteur**

The ISSN IC will prepare a summary of the decisions that will be taken during the meeting (no comprehensive minutes of the meeting).

2. **Adoption of the agenda**

The proposed agenda is adopted without changes.

3. **Update on questions related to the revision**

3.1. **Users' Group.** *Presentation by J. Zajec.*

The 1st meeting of the ISSN users' group will be held on 27 April 2005 (just before the ISSN Governing Board meeting) at the ISSN IC in Paris. Representatives of the users' group will be invited to join the first part of the GB meeting (28 April 2005).

The ISSN IC will :

- Send invitations to all members of WG5 who are not libraries, and to all professional organisations representing ISSN users outside the Libraries world. A representative of the union lists will also be invited. The Chair of the ISSN Governing Board, the vice-chair, the director of the ISSN IC will also attend the meeting, as well as the two members of the ISSN Governing Board who prepared the launching of the users' group.
- Set up a discussion list to prepare the agenda of this first meeting.

3.2. **EAN International / ISSN IC Contract.** *Presentation by David Buckley.*

The draft contract will have to be finalized prior to approval by EAN/GS1 General Assembly and ISSN Governing Board.

The draft contract will have to include the scope definition (to be finalized in the draft standard) and to the annex of the standard regarding the general principles for the assignment of ISSN.

3.3. ISO / ISSN IC Contract. *Presentation by Françoise Pellé.*

Jane Thacker has provided a first document, and indicated that this document was provided as an example of the ISO contracts. Such contracts usually refer to the standard itself : therefore it will have to be worked out once the draft standard is almost ready.

The document provided by Jane Thacker will be circulated on the mailing list.

4. **Scope.** *Presentation by Elizabeth Gazdag. See documents N21(<http://www.lac-bac.gc.ca/iso/tc46sc9/wg5/wg5n21.pdf>) and N24 (<http://www.lac-bac.gc.ca/iso/tc46sc9/wg5/wg5n24.pdf>).*

It is reminded that the ISSN system has to answer the various needs of its various users. It has to be consistent and broad as to its principles (standard level) and flexible as to its assignment policy (manual level), so as to take into account the various national constraints and situations.

After discussion, a majority of participants agreed that, in the standard, the wording of the scope should remain broad. It should cover both serials and integrating resources. It should not include exclusion or inclusion principles.

Principles regarding the assignment policy will be included in the ISSN Manual. Among those principles, registration upon request is an important one that has to be kept and re-stated. A minimum set of metadata should be defined in the standard.

It was suggested to try and find a wording in the scope definition to mean that not all serials should be assigned an ISSN.

The ISSN IC will propose a wording.

To take into account the issue of the resources in the ISSN Centres, the ISSN IC will try and look at the feasibility of setting-up a self-registration tool, that might be used by applicants, possibly upon delivery of an authorization by National Centres.

It was also suggested that fees be applied for those registrations ; however participants felt that this might create problems at another level.

5. **Ad-Hoc Groups reports and discussion**

- 5.1. **Ad Hoc Group on "Product level identification".** *Convenor : Cliff Morgan. Presentation by David Baron. See the message circulated on the revision mailing list by Cliff Morgan on 01/26/2005.*

David Baron reported that, after conference calls and exchanges of messages within the AHG in charge of the "product level identification", he had intended to produce a paper but, having read the discussion paper prepared by the ISSN IC (N24), he feels that most topics he intended to cover were already expressed in this paper.

It should be stressed that :

- flexibility in the assignment practices should be maintained, in order to take into account the various national situations and constraints,
- if there is a legitimate need, then an ISSN should be assigned,
- a minimum set of metadata should be defined in the standard,
- this being said, granularity is not an issue any more.

David Baron feels that this AHG has fulfilled its commitments and that there is probably no need for further work on this issue. Confirmation will be provided after consultation with the other members of the AHG.

Decisions : the Metadata Annex of the standard will provide the whole list of metadata elements, and indicate which metadata elements are mandatory and represent the minimum set.

5.2. **Ad Hoc Group on "Link resolution and Lookup service"**. *Convenor and presentation* : Yvette Diven. See document N27 (<http://www.lac-bac.gc.ca/iso/tc46sc9/wg5/wg5n27.pdf>).

All participants agreed that the link resolution and lookup service, as outlined in Document N27, is necessary to meet the needs expressed by the various ISSN users regarding linkage and grouping functions, and to ensure correct title-level identification (*see also below point 5.3*). It was reported that contacts with the library community and OpenURL implementers demonstrated interest in this service.

Identified issues and actions :

- a) Problem of ambiguous titles, or multiple answers to queries (when query is not an ISSN number) : cannot be solved by automatic process. Human decision is needed to select the appropriate answer. The computer-to-computer service, in a first step, will only accept queries based on ISSN numbers.
- b) Lack of some metadata, especially the current publisher : cannot be solved for the time being.
- c) Dates during which a link has been valid : important, and data element missing today. To be taken into consideration and added if/when possible.
- d) Graphical display : would be good. To be studied by the ISSN IC.
- e) A background document will have to be added to the Committee Draft, to describe the services and communicate with users and national standardization organizations before and during the vote period (AHG).
- f) A market study regarding the services has to be made (IC and AHG), pricing will have to be worked out (IC and AHG).
- g) Costs for the setting up of the services have to be estimated and presented to the ISSN Governing Board at its next meeting (IC).
- h) More work has to be done on the details of the services ; the title-level-issn has to be taken into account for the definition of the services (AHG).

5.3. **Ad Hoc Group on "Title level identification"**. *Convenor and presentation* : Robina Clayphan. See documents N25 (<http://www.lac-bac.gc.ca/iso/tc46sc9/wg5/wg5n25.pdf>) and N26 (<http://www.lac-bac.gc.ca/iso/tc46sc9/wg5/wg5n26.pdf>).

It is reminded that the purpose is to enable the collocation of the various medium versions of a given title (very strong need for that level of collocation expressed by various users communities).

It is agreed that title-level identification will be ensured by the, or one of the, ISSN assigned at the present level of granularity.

The wording “title-level” is used deliberately to designate this level of collocation, and to avoid any misunderstanding due to the use of other words such as “work”, “expression” etc.

For the time being, the corresponding ISSN is designated by “tissn”.

The tissn will be a mandatory data element in the ISSN system and records, however its use will be optional (this will have to be stated in the standard).

Identified issues and actions :

- a) Possible difficulties in using 1 ISSN for 2 roles. But also difficulties in creating a new one, and no alternative identified. **Decision:** 1 ISSN will be used for the 2 roles.
- b) No need to incorporate the ‘t’ as part of the number to make the tissn unique : the tissn is a different namespace (tissn is in itself a dumb number) and will be tagged as such in e.g XML. For human understanding it could be designated by tissn in lower case. Further proposals are welcome (as some participants feel that tissn is not the best possible solution : another letter ? another typographic symbol such as # ?)
- c) AHG to draft the texts regarding tissn for the standard. There are 2 types of texts : those which must be in the main body of the standard, and the annexes. Separate informative annexes will be included in the standard for using each type of ISSN (plain ISSN and tissn) with other standards (DOI, OpenURL, InfoURI, URN) – these will be referred to from the standard document.
- d) Rules will have to be added in the ISSN manual - will be done at a later stage.
- e) Will the tissn be allocated in all cases ?
All titles will get a tissn even if it exists in only one medium – even retrospectively. For ongoing assignment work, the tissn will be the first registered of the different media versions – so a new ISSN is automatically considered the tissn unless the cataloguer actively stops it being so, i.e by adding the existing tissn to the record which they will have found in the course of the normal checking process. The rule cannot be to universally use the lowest number for the tissn as the blocks of numbers get out of order within centres or across countries.
- f) Formats :
 - a. MARC21 : field 024 already exists and can be used (with indicator value 7, or 5 or 6) for the tissn purpose. 024 is repeatable.
A proposal has to be drafted (by the IC, with Regina’s help) and sent to the LoC, then will be forwarded to MARBI.
 - b. UNIMARC : Jasenka will investigate, with IC’s help.
- g) Who would assign it? And how ?
The retrospective work could be done by the IC (automatic data processing). The current work could be done by the national centres. A combination of the 2 possibilities might be envisaged (i.e. centres may wish to also do the retrospective work, others may not wish to do the current work), according to the wishes of the NCs : broader input from NCs is needed.

IC will add it automatically where a national centre does not want to do it or misses it in error, according to algorithms such as : if 024 is different from 022a then there must be a 776 Tag. Other option is that 024 is mandatory only when the ISSN in 022 is different from the tissn.

There will be a need for the IC to cope with systems that cannot add an 024. This will be worked out by the IC centre.

- h) Do the national centres have to carry the 024 locally in their metadata?

Ideally yes as it is mandatory but it may be an issue.

Problems :

- a. How will NCs get the 024 back from the Register ?
- b. Introduction of a new field will cause major changes in the database.
- c. How will publisher get the list of what has been assigned to comment on and then send back any errors ?

Action : IC to work on those issues and to discuss with national centres. Another solution is mentioned, where the tissn would be managed in a table outside the records themselves, and automatically allocated by the IC. However participants feel that the tissn is likely to become an important data element and should be included as such in the records.

- i) What happens when the relationship between the print and electronic are no longer equivalent ? For instance : cancelled ISSN, broken links (a family member leaves), tissn ceases, one of the linked titles changes etc.

Answer : not all cases can be solved in advance, however tissn is a new dumb number and those cases will be handled.

- j) Communication and input from user communities : AHG to update background documentation and to solicit input from user communities (informal survey).

AHG and IC to create a communication plan with publishers and all ISSN users to make them aware of the tissn.

- k) Need for collocating different geographic versions and different linguistic editions.

The language and geographic issues are similar to, but also different from the version issue. The methodology developed for the tissn might be seen as extensible and duplicated.

Those language and geographic relationships are complex. For the present revision, the tool which can be used is the ISSN link resolution service from the ISSN centre.

6. **Draft standard (including informational annexes).** *Presentation of the 2nd pre-working draft by Alain Roucolle. See document N23 (<http://www.lac-bac.gc.ca/iso/tc46sc9/wg5/wg5n23.pdf>).*

Please see Annex A : Second Working Draft with revision marks. The revision marks correspond to the comments and suggestions made during the meeting.

The IC will act as secretariat for updating the text of the draft standard.

Members of WG5 are required to send their suggestions for changes, additions, etc. to the ISSN IC.

Updates regarding tissan are expected for the concerned Ad Hoc Group.

7. **Date and place of the next meeting**

Change of dates, due to Users' group 1rst meeting scheduled on 27 April. **The next WG5 meeting will be held on 25 and 26 April in Paris** (the initial dates were 9 and 10 May, in Paris). The BnF had kindly invited WG5 to hold it's meeting in it's premises. F. Flamerie will see if this invitation is confirmed for the new dates. If not, the meeting will be held at the IC (Paris).

8. **Appreciation**

The participants thanked Paul Mostert and Elsevier for their hospitality and efficiency as the hosts and organizers of the February 2005 meeting.