



**Information and documentation—
International standard serial
number (ISSN)**

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AS ISO 3297:2018

This Australian Standard ® was prepared by IT-019, Information and Documentation, Information Technology - Learning, Education, Training and Research. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 23 January 2018.

This Standard was published on 9 February 2018.

The following are represented on Committee IT-019:

Australian Computer Society
Australian Library and Information Association
Charles Darwin University
CSIRO
Education Services Australia
Institute for Metadata Management
Northern Territory Library
NSW Department of Education
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This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR AS/NZS ISO 3297:2017.

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ISBN 978 1 76035 990 4



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First published as AS ISO 3297:2018.

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Preface

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee IT-019, Information and Documentation, Information Technology — Learning, Education, Training and Research.

After consultation with stakeholders in both countries, Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand decided to develop this Standard as an Australian Standard rather than an Australian/New Zealand Standard.

The objective of this standard is to define and promote the use of a standard code (ISSN) for the unique identification of serials and other continuing resources.

This Standard is identical with, and has been reproduced from, ISO 3297:2017, *Information and documentation — International standard serial number (ISSN)*.

As this document has been reproduced from an International Standard, a full point substitutes for a comma when referring to a decimal marker.

Australian or Australian/New Zealand Standards that are identical adoptions of international normative references may be used interchangeably. Refer to the online catalogue for information on specific Standards.

The terms 'normative' and 'informative' are used in Standards to define the application of the appendices or annexes to which they apply. A 'normative' appendix or annex is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an 'informative' appendix or annex is only for information and guidance.

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html

This document was prepared by ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation*, Subcommittee SC 9, *Identification and description*.

This fifth edition cancels and replaces the fourth edition (ISO 3297:2007), of which it constitutes a minor revision with the following changes:

- Clause 10, which covered fees for ISSN, has been deleted since the notion of fees should not be mentioned in this document.

Introduction

The need for a brief, unique and unambiguous identification code for serials and other continuing resources is internationally recognized. The exchange of information among libraries, abstracting services and other content users, suppliers, distributors and other intermediaries, and publishers and other content producers imposes the requirement for a standard code. Communication between the different organizations transcends national boundaries and therefore requires an international code which is numeric, since no single alphabet is used by the majority of producers and users of serials. In response to these requirements, the International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) was established as the identification code for serials.

The International Serials Data System (ISDS) was established as an inter-governmental organization within the framework of the UNESCO/UNISIST program to be the designated authority for controlling the assignment of ISSN. In 1993, the ISDS became the ISSN Network.

The first three editions of this International Standard pertained only to serials. However, in 2002 a new category of resources, "continuing resources", was defined by the library community to encompass new kinds of resources, such as updating databases, as well as traditional serials. The scope of the fourth edition was broadened to cover serials and other continuing resources.

Australian Standard[®]

Information and documentation—International standard serial number (ISSN)

1 Scope

This document defines and promotes the use of a standard code (ISSN) for the unique identification of serials and other continuing resources.

Each International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) is a unique identifier for a specific serial or other continuing resource in a defined medium. This document also describes a mechanism, the “linking ISSN (ISSN-L)”, that provides for collocation or linking among the different media versions of the same continuing resource.

ISSN are applicable to serials and to other continuing resources, whether past, present or to be published or produced in the foreseeable future, whatever the medium of publication or production.

Individual monographs, sound and video recordings, printed music publications, audiovisual works and musical works have their own numbering systems and are not specifically mentioned in this document. Such items may carry an ISSN in addition to their own standard numbers when they are part of a continuing resource.

More detailed operational guidance is provided in the *ISSN Manual* available from the Registration Authority for this document (see [Clause 11](#)).

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1

continuing resource

publication, in any medium, that is issued over time with no predetermined conclusion and made available to the public

Note 1 to entry: Such a publication is usually issued in successive or integrating issues which generally have numerical and/or chronological designations.

Note 2 to entry: Continuing resources include serials such as newspapers, periodicals, journals, magazines, etc., and ongoing integrating resources such as loose-leaf publications that are continually updated and Websites that are continually updated.

Note 3 to entry: The French term is *ressource continue*.