

Report on ISNI related activities



April 2015 - April 2016

This is the fifth annual report submitted to the CENL Executive Committee by:

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representatives of the CENL at the ISNI-IA Board of Directors.

The BnF and the BL, as representatives of the CENL in the ISNI-IA (International Agency) are pleased to report on highlights in the development of the ISNI standard for the year 2015-2016

The BnF and the BL, representing the whole CENL libraries community, and more broadly, the community of libraries as such, are core strategic players in the governance of ISNI, with special responsibilities on:

- quality, maintenance and expansion of the central ISNI database;
- open, broad diffusion of ISNI, including in a Linked Data environment;
- R&D activities;
- adaptation of ISNI governance and business model to match libraries' needs;
- advocacy in the library world and its professionally connected networks;
- promotion of a new vision for a global economy of data co-production, sharing, and diffusion.

Statistics

Growth of the ISNI database

Chronology	Numbers of assigned ISNIs
November 2011	1 million (start-up of the publicly accessible ISNI central database)
October 2012	1.5 Million
December 2013	7 Million
April 2015	8.6 Million
April 2016	9.12 Million

Growth of the ISNI network

Nine newcomers from all over the world and diversified professional sectors have joined the ISNI network late 2014 and early 2015. From the comprehensive list of Registration Agencies and Members below it is evident that among the stakeholders from different sectors libraries (in bold) are the most represented.

Registration Agencies

BnF (Bibliothèque nationale de France)

Bibliothèque nationale de Luxembourg
British Library
Cercle de la Librairie
Iconoclaste
Koninklijke Bibliotheek
National Assembly Library of Korea
National Library of Korea
Numerical Gurus
Ringgold

Members

ABES (French Bibliographic Agency for Higher Education)

CDR
CEDRO (Spanish Reproduction Rights Centre)
Copyrus (Russia's copyright society)
FCCN
French National Archives (Archives nationales de France)

Harvard University Library

Irish Copyright Licensing Agency (ICLA)
ISSN International Centre
La Trobe University
Library of Congress

National Library of Finland

National Library of Norway

National Library of New Zealand

Prolitteris
Publishers Licensing Society
University of New South Wales Library

Short and midterm perspectives

Constant new requests for becoming either Registration Agency or Member demonstrate that ISNI is gathering momentum.

Prospective New Members

- Artist ID
- Azerbaijan Authors' Society
- British Film Institute
- Biblioteka Narodowa
- Kunstvallei
- Movielabs
- MvB
- National Library of Poland
- Semantico
- Sevice Interministeriel des Archives de France
- Taylor and Francis/Routledge
- VG Wort

ISNI for a new economy of data production, exchange, diffusion and interconnection - strategic issues for libraries

As ISNI becomes more widely adopted its strategic relationship with traditional approaches to authority control in libraries and other localised identity management approaches are becoming major topics for collaborative discussion and research.

An OCLC Research Partners Task Group has reported on [Addressing the Challenges with Organizational Identifiers and ISNI](#).

OCLC Research Library Partners Task Group on Representing Organizations in ISNI met regularly from the third quarter of 2014 to the end of 2015. The work centred on the evaluation of use case that help define the requirements for organizational identifiers by different stakeholders. The use cases the task group developed follow the format used by the Jisc CASRAI-UK Organisational Identifiers Working Group; the task group adopted several with minor modifications. Chris Brown represented JISC CASRAI on the working group

The task group assessed the system specifically from the viewpoint of the representation of organizations and concluded that extending the existing data model and defining additional data values would improve the representation of organizations within the database. The group also made recommendations concerning displaying and distributing data and necessary new documentation.

Two new technical documents were produced by the group – “ISNI database organisation search guidelines” and “Optimising the Representation of an Organisation in ISNI”.

An outreach document encouraging participation in ISNI aimed at administrators of higher educational organisations was also produced an included as an appendix in the main report.

A Task Group of the Program for Cooperative Cataloging has recently been set up to address strategic issues and policies for libraries concerning the evolution of identifier management in relation to authority control. Several members of the OCLC research partners group have

joined this new Task Group and ISNI is well represented on it by ISNI members Harvard Library and the British Library.

Plans for the Library of Congress, a new ISNI member since 2015, to upload ISNIs into the NACO (Name Authority Cooperative) file – the shared authority file of hundreds of libraries all around the world – have been delayed and will now be carried forward to implementation in the summer of 2016.

The BnF pursues its overall national strategy with ISNI. ISNI is now integral part of the regular authority control work; it is distributed via data.bnf.fr and via the regular bibliographic and authority data supply to all the BnF patrons. Over summer a major development is expected: the establishment of online automatic workflows with ISNI. In the first place, this will enable real time synchronization between the ISNI central database and the BnF authority files. It will also open new possibilities for the development of the activities of the BnF as ISNI Registration Agency (see below).

ISNI, as a global, standard, cross-domain identifier represents a major opportunity for libraries. It favours working in an open, global environment, sharing data and knowledge, interconnecting and bridging datasets, building partnerships with players from public and private sector, and building new economic models.

Some use cases are presented below to demonstrate how ISNI contributes to innovate the global economy of data production, exchange and diffusion, libraries are integral part of.

ISNI, Libraries and the supply chain (both physical and digital)

- The BnF, in close relationship to its mission of collecting and cataloguing the Legal Deposit, has developed and is about to test an automatic dataflow from publishers to BnF (using ONIX streams) and from BnF to ISNI, and backwards, using the Atom-Pub protocol in order to assign ISNIs to new authors and deliver them back to the publishers. This is a showcase of how ISNI will progressively change the economy of authority data production in collaboration with the book supply chain. It is also an illustration of one of the many possible services a library might build as ISNI Registration Agency.
- Another area is that of the **interoperability with other identifiers**. The ISSN International Agency, an ISNI Member (see list of ISNI members above) works on connecting journals (identified by ISSN) with their publishers (identified by ISNI). This represents an innovating approach and opens new opportunities to automatically interconnect datasets that contain both identifiers.

ISNI for streamlining rights management

Inherent to the supply chain is also rights management.

Last year we reported that ISNI was rated by Linked Content Coalition (LCC)¹ as the first of the ten targets for an efficient rights data digital network.

¹ Linked Content Coalition (LCC) < <http://www.linkedcontentcoalition.org/> > is a recently formed global consortium of standards' bodies aiming to facilitate and expand the legitimate use of content in the digital network through the effective use of interoperable identifiers and metadata.

As part of ongoing discussions with the UK Copyright Hub on potential uses of ISNI to improve interoperability of data for rights management the British Library has begun a project with the Publisher Licensing Society to assign ISNIs to publishers and publisher imprints with a view to improving the infrastructure for tracking usage and rights clearance.

ISNI, Libraries and the academic sector

The scientific and technical information sector is much concerned by the identification of researchers and research structures (laboratories, research institutions, etc.)

The ISNI database contains already **2.6 Million researchers** (a figure in constant growth due to data loads by academic libraries and other research information datasets). ISNI serves university libraries as a unique global identifier for authors of both scientific and other types of publications and interconnect

The British Library has assigned ISNIs to authors of journals' articles (represented in BL's electronic Table of Contents – ETOC database) and authors of theses (EThOS database).

As a follow up to the study conducted by a Jisc CASRAI-UK² working group on Organisational Identifiers which recommended the use of ISNI as the authoritative unique identifier for UK research organisations, the British Library has begun a project with the Research Councils UK to assign identifiers to academic institutions and funding bodies. This is a first step to establishing ISNI as a core component organisational identifier for the research management landscape in the UK.

In France, ISNI will be used as one of the main building blocks of a future national authority file. In this respect, a pilot project is launched jointly by the BnF and the ABES (French Bibliographic Agency for Higher Education).

ISNI and ORCID

Dialogue with ORCID is a permanent item on the ISNI-IA agenda.

This year, the British Library has been working on Project THOR (technical and Human infrastructure for Open Research) and is responsible for a workpackage on technical interoperability between the ISNI and ORCID identifiers. This workpackage has identified a set of user requirements for an improved interface and lookup service between ORCID and ISNI and these improvements will primarily be made to the ISNI Assignment System by OCLC under contract to the BL as part of this project.

Leveraging ISNI to build partnerships with other sectors

The cross-domain nature of the ISNI identifier has drawn the attention of other sectors.

As a follow up of last year's recommendations of the Ministry of Culture and Communication (MCC) in France³, ISNI is being integrated in the architecture of a variety of repositories.

² Consortia Advancing Standards in Research Administration Information: <http://casrai.org/>

³

http://www.culturecommunication.gouv.fr/var/culture/storage/pub/feuille_de_route_metadonnees_culturelles_et_transition_web_3_0_janvier_2014/files/docs/all.pdf

Far more than a simple identifier ISNI is becoming a tool for stimulating cooperation and on specific areas regarding description and identification of persons and corporate bodies between different kinds of institutions. The BnF, the French National Archives and the Direction for legal and administrative information (DILA) are thus joining their efforts to share work for identifying public agencies and administrations in France. For DILA, this project is all the more relevant as they lead the European project “Open Law Europa” aiming at identifying legislative texts and case laws at the European level.

ISNI-IA

Adapting the ISNI business model to match the user’s needs

The success of a vast, international initiative such as ISNI is also measured by its capacity to adapt to the business needs of its current and potential members. Over the last months ISNI-IA has focused on revising its membership model.

Increasingly, libraries and other institutions that share objectives join their efforts by building operational alliances, networks or cooperatives in order to share workload and costs, to build efficient services for their users and to empower innovation.

“**Federated ISNI Registration Agency**” is a new ISNI membership model that has been devised to respond to such an evolving context. The purpose is to enable networks of institutions that share objectives and responsibilities with respect to identity management work with ISNI not in isolated ways but as organised networks, in a shared environment.

This model is particularly interesting for networks of libraries. The Royal Library of Netherlands (KB) along with twelve other university libraries in Netherlands, that already share authority work (identity management), is joining ISNI as a Federated Registration Agency, under the leadership of the KB. In France the BnF and the ABES (French Bibliographic Agency for Higher Education) are keen to adopt this model as well.

ISNI-IA has revised and consolidated its contractual licence to cover 3 types of membership: Member, Registration Agency and Federated Registration Agency.

Financial status

The goal of ISNI-IA is to ensure the financial health of the ISNI system. The founding members are committed to financially support ISNI until the system can rely on its own revenues – based on annual fees of Members and Registration Agencies, and on ISNI assignment related transaction fees. The rapid growth of the network of parties that join ISNI is a key factor to achieving this goal.

As a reminder the annual contribution of a founding member is € 12,500. The BnF and the BL contribute € 6,250 each, as they represent one founding member – the CENL -and share one seat at the ISNI-IA Board of Directors⁴.

⁴ Resolution of the CENL “International Standard Name Identifier (ISNI) International Agency – Delegated Responsibilities”, approved by the CENL Executive Committee on 13 December 2010

Quality of data – the cornerstone of the ISNI system

At the heart of the quality infrastructure is the “**ISNI Quality Team**” - a permanent instance composed of experts from the BnF and the BL - that has full authority on the ISNI database quality and coherence as a whole.⁵ The strong commitment of both libraries to accomplishing this task on a day-to-day basis is key factor for the growing reputation of ISNI as a trustful identifier.

The ISNI Quality Team works hand in hand with the **ISNI Assignment Agency** (run by OCLC - that manages the ISNI database and performs operations related to the assignment of the identifier)

The ISNI Quality Team advises the **ISNI Technical Advisory Committee** for data policy decisions to be then taken by the ISNI-IA Board of Directors. The ISNI Technical Advisory committee, in addition to dealing with the ISNI system roadmap, enables the dialog among the different members and data contributors

Crowdsourcing is the last, but not the least, source of data curation. ISNI enables end users to give feedback via the public web interface. Numerous suggestions from authors, researchers, and institutions are daily received by the Quality Team and handled in a timely way.

While the BnF and BL experts constitute the ISNI Board Quality Team, responsible for the overall coherence of the ISNI database, other experts from other ISNI members are performing quality work, especially on areas that fall under their expertise. The aim is to build a distributed international network of experts for the data curation in the ISNI central database, with at the centre the ISNI Board Quality Team, and the other experts as Associated Quality Team - another illustration of how ISNI changes ways of collaborating at international scale to consolidate identities for the benefice of all.

ISNI - VIAF interoperation

The interoperation between ISNI and VIAF remains one of the permanent concerns of the BnF and BL, as both libraries are strongly engaged in both projects. The VIAF-ISNI taskforce has enabled significant achievements, including the amelioration of the stability of VIAF clusters as well as the priority given to assertions made by ISNI in case of identification conflicts. Note that the ISNI Quality Team has played a particular role in analysing issues and making recommendations.

Outreach - Publications and presentations

(in inverse chronological order)

ANGJELI, Anila (2016) « ISNI : des identifiants pérennes pour l'identification unique et pérenne des producteurs d'archives » In : **Forum de l'AAF**, Troyes, 1 April 2016

⁵ Detail of activities performed by The Quality Team: ongoing evaluation of the database; analysis and advise on automatic matching processes, on merging criteria, on de-duplication strategy; evaluation of specific ISNI assignment policies and strategies; draft of data policy documentation; recommendations to the Technical Advisory Committee to take to the ISNI-IA Board for decision.

ANGJELI, Anila (2016) « Que peut apporter ISNI à l'histoire de l'art : pour un écosystème mondial d'identification ». In : *Les lundis numériques de l'INHA*, Paris, INHA, 11 January 2016

[en ligne] <http://fr.slideshare.net/AnilaAngjeli/pour-un-cosystme-mondial-didentification>

ANGJELI, Anila (2015) « The assets of an international identifier for persons and corporate bodies : a strategic vision for a new global ecosystem ». In : *CISA Conférence internationale supérieure d'archivistique*, Paris, November 2015

ANGJELI, Anila (2015) « Managin identities, interconnecting research and other domains ». In : *DataCite and EPIC conference : Persistent Identifiers: Enabling Services for Data Intensive Research*, Paris, Institut Henri Poincaré, 21 septembre 2015

[en ligne] accessible depuis la page : <https://zenodo.org/record/31782#.VwEUez82YgF>

ANGJELI, Anila (2015) « Identification, référencement, citabilité, affiliation ... ». In : *Journée d'étude Affiliations dans les publications scientifiques françaises*, Paris, École nationale des Chartes, 19 juin 2015,

[en ligne] <http://urfist.enc.sorbonne.fr/sites/default/files/mdb/ISNI-Journ%C3%A9Affiliations-19juin2015.pdf>

ANGJELI, Anila (2015). "Les enjeux de l'ISNI". Presentation at: *Atelier du numérique Enjeux de l'identité numérique, l'ISNI et les identifiants HAL*, 20 February 2015 - Aix en Provence, Maison méditerranéenne des sciences de l'homme

MAC EWAN, Andrew, CHOUGNET, Pauline, GATENBY, Janifer (2014). "ISNI, VIAF, and the Future of Authority Control". *Workshop at Harvard University Library*, 18 November 2014. <Presentations can be accessed online from slideshare>

ANGJELI, Anila (2014). ISNI – "Les enjeux d'un identifiant international pour les personnes et les organismes". Presentation at : *Outils, méthodes, corpus : la modélisation des données en SHS : journée d'étude sur le web de données et les sciences humaines et sociales*, 17 November 2014 - Paris, Institut national d'histoire de l'art. Accessible online at : <<http://fr.slideshare.net/invisu/outilsmethodescorpus-in-visuisni20141117angjeli>>

ANGJELI, Anila. "ISNI consolidating identities, connecting nodes", in *International Journal of Knowledge and Learning*, Vol. 9, No. 4, 2014. (Special issue: Towards Trust Persistent Identifier Infrastructures).

CHOUGNET, Pauline (2014). "L'ISNI prend son essor". *Arabesques*, n°76 October-November-December. <Accessible online at : <<http://www.abes.fr/Arabesques/Arabesques-n-76> - <http://www.abes.fr/Arabesques/Arabesques-n-76>>

ANGJELI, Anila. ISNI (2014): "Consolidate Identities at universal scale". Presentation at *DC-2014, Workshop "Fonds & Bonds: Archival Metadata, Tools, and Identity Management"* - , 8-11 October 2014. Austin, Texas, USA. Accessible online at : <<http://dcevents.dublincore.org/IntConf/dc-2014/paper/view/313>>

CHOUGNET, Pauline (2014). "Retour d'expérience sur le catalogage des autorités et l'implémentation des identifiants ISNI dans les pratiques professionnelles des catalogueurs de

la BnF". Presentation at *Journée du réseau des Correspondants Autorités – ABES-IdRef – 2 October 2014*, Paris, Bibliothèque Universitaire des Langues et Civilisations (BULAC) Accessible online at : <<http://www.abes.fr/Media/Fichiers/IdRef/Presentation-P.-Chougnnet>>

ANGJELI, Anila and MAC EWAN, Andrew and BOULET, Vincent (2014). "ISNI and VIAF – Transforming ways of trustfully consolidating identities". *IFLA WLIC 2014, Libraries, Citizens, Societies: Confluence for Knowledge in Session 86 - Cataloguing with Bibliography, Classification & Indexing and UNIMARC Strategic Programme*, 16-22 August 2014, Lyon, France. Accessible online at: <<http://library.ifla.org/985/>>

CHOUGNET Pauline (2014). "ISNI, une passerelle fiable entre les données". Presentation at : *Journée d'étude AFNOR CN46 / BnF : Métadonnées et confiance : quelles normes pour les échanges entre communautés ? – 27 June 2014*, Paris, Bibliothèque nationale de France. Accessible online at : <http://www.bnf.fr/documents/afnor2014_isni.pdf>

CHOUGNET, Pauline (2014). "Une agence d'enregistrement ISNI à la Bibliothèque nationale de France". *Archimag*, n°274

Annex

ISNI Governance

The ISNI International Agency (ISNI-IA) - a London-based not-for-profit organisation - is responsible for ISNI's administration and governance. Since February 2012, following the signature of an agreement with ISO, ISNI-IA acts as Registration Authority for ISO 27729.

Its Board members are: CISAC, IFRRO, SCAPR, OCLC, Ringgold and the CENL (represented by the Bibliothèque Nationale de France and the British Library).

In compliance with the resolution of the CENL Executive Committee of December, 13th 2010, the BL and the BnF have ever since continued to act on behalf of the CENL on the Board of Directors of the ISNI-IA, taking over the financial commitments of CENL as a founding member as well.

ISNI-IA holds a regular meeting every two months. The current officers are:

- | | |
|------------|---|
| President: | Michael Healy (representing IFRRO) – elected in April 2015 following the 3 years term of chairmanship of Olav Stokkmo.
(M. Healy is currently Executive Director International Relations at CCC, the US RRO) |
| Treasurer: | Laura Cox (representing Ringgold) |
| Secretary: | Andrew MacEwan (BL, representing CENL) |

The other nominees on the Board of Directors are:

- Anila Angjeli (BnF, representing CENL)
- Martin van Muyen (ISNI product manager at OCLC)
- Kaj Christiansen (SCAPR)
- Jose Macarro (CISAC)

Alternate directors:



James Boyd (IFRRO)
Janifer Gatenby (OCLC)
Héloïse Lecomte (BnF)
Corine Déliot (BL)

Instances acting under the authority of ISNI-IA

- ISNI Assignment Agency (run by OCLC that administrates the central database)
 - Technical Advisory Committee
 - Quality Team
 - Communication Committee
 - Pricing Committee
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