

The Irish ISSN Centre in the National Library of Ireland has responsibility only for the issuing of ISSNs (i.e. International Standard Serial Numbers) which can only be applied to serials, that is, items which continue indefinitely, such as journals, magazines, newspapers, annual reports.

ISBNs (i.e. International Standard Book Numbers) are applied to books (once-off publications, i.e. monographs). Annual publications, or publications which appear less frequently, may sometimes have either an ISSN or an ISBN or both. The series title of a monographic series may also have an ISSN, while each monograph in the series would have its own distinct ISBN.

ISBNs are issued by the ISBN Agency, 3rd Floor, Midas House, 62 Goldsworth Road, Woking, Surrey, GU21 6LQ. Their phone no. is 00 44 01483 712 215 (9.00am to 5.00pm). Their Fax is 00 44 01483 712 214; their email is isbn.agency@nielsen.com; their website is www.isbn.nielsenbook.co.uk. A registration fee is payable. The practice is to issue a block of ISBNs to a publisher, and the publisher is then responsible for minding that block, assigning ISBNs to future monographs, and notifying the Agency of the details.

An ISBN is a thirteen-digit number beginning with 978 (or 979), followed by a prefix, which indicates the Centre that assigned it, followed by a string of digits assigned by the Centre to identify the publisher, followed by the digit or digits that identify the specific item. The final digit is a check digit, calculated by a computer programme on the basis of the preceding digits, to ensure the number has been correctly transcribed. Before Jan 2007, ISBNs had only ten digits. See the ISBN website at www.isbn.org/ISBN_converter for how to change 10-digit ISBNs, if you have an old block, to the new format.

If you have published any monographs in the (recent) past, you may already have a publisher prefix and/or block of ISBNs, so it might be worth enquiring further from other staff in your organisation if they know anything about this. We understand that a fee is payable for a full list of all assigned ISBNs, complete with check-digits, for second and subsequent blocks.

An ISBN can be used to build a barcode, now desired by many wholesalers and retailers. Appropriate software creates a barcode from the thirteen-digit ISBN. Most printing companies have this software.

The following two companies both produce barcodes, either on microfilm master, disk or label; there may well be others:

Holfeld Graphics, Johnstown Lane, Dun Laoghaire. Tel: (01) 2855233; Fax: (01) 2853061
e-mail: customercare@holfeldgraphics.com Web: www.holfeldgraphics.com

IMS Barcoding Services, Dublin & Cork. Tel.: 021 4294231 / 087 9193689 (priority).
e-mail: imsbarcodes@eircom.net. Skype: [mike_olderen_365](https://www.skype.com/en/contacts/mike_olderen_365) Nationwide. Web: www.imsbarcodes.com.

May we also take the opportunity to remind you of the obligation placed on Irish publishers by the Legal deposit clause (Section 198) of the Copyright and Related Rights Act, 2000, and previously under the Copyright Act, 1963, and related Acts, to send a copy of all publications to this library and to other specified libraries.

For information on barcoding items which do not have ISSNs or ISBNs or for general technical information on barcodes contact:

GS1 Ireland, The Nutley Building, Merrion Road, Dublin 4
Tel: (01) 2080660; Fax: (01) 208 0670; e-mail: info@gs1ie.org www.gs1.ie

For information on International Standard Music Numbers (ISMNs), unique numbers for the identification of all printed music publications from all over the world, whether available for sale, hire or gratis - whether a part, a score, or an element in a multi-media kit see www.mpaonline.org.uk/content/international-standard-music-numbers-ismns.