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**Information and documentation —  
International standard link  
identifier (ISLI)**

*Information et documentation — Identification de connexion  
standard international (ISLI)*



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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](http://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](http://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 meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [Foreword - Supplementary information](#)

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation*, Subcommittee SC 9, *Identification and description*.

## Introduction

Developments in technology have already provided a reliable foundation to set up links between resources, whether these are stored in digital or traditional form. The developments have, in particular, reinforced the ability to link resources of different types. This allows users to experience rich media content, such as audio files or video files, more easily. Further, they not only provide traditional users with enriched information, but also improve accessibility of textual material to individuals who are visually impaired and extend the capabilities of educational materials.

Technologies providing such capabilities have typically been hardware dependent or enclosed within a particular ecosystem. To provide improved interoperability and better access to these technologies and services, the International Standard Link Identifier (ISLI) defines connections between these resources. The approach taken in this International Standard comes from experience in several different projects, but it allows a general way of identifying links which enables new applications in more fields, such as multimedia. The link built by ISLI makes resources more readily available, and thus creates more value through their use.



# Information and documentation — International standard link identifier (ISLI)

## 1 Scope

This International Standard specifies an identifier of links between entities (or their names) in the field of information and documentation. These entities can be documents, media resources, people, or more abstract items such as times or places.

The ISLI system identifies links between entities that are related to each other so that, for instance, they can be rendered jointly. It does this by registering each link identifier with information (metadata) that specifies the link. The ISLI does not change the content, ownership, right of access, or existing identification of these entities.

This International Standard does not specify the technology used to represent the identifier or realize the link. It enables applications to be built which use the interoperable ISLI system for the identification of links.

## 2 Terms and definitions

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

### 2.1

#### **entity**

something capable of being uniquely identified

Note 1 to entry: Entities include material objects, electronic representations of content, abstract items (such as times, places), parties (human and corporate), as well as anything else that can be identified uniquely.

Note 2 to entry: A defined fragment of an entity is itself an entity.

### 2.2

#### **ISLI code**

International Standard Link Identifier assigned in accordance with the specifications of this International Standard

### 2.3

#### **link**

directed relationship between two *entities* (2.1) in the field of information and documentation

### 2.4

#### **name**

string of characters that identifies an *entity* (2.1), possibly (but not necessarily) in the form of an identifier specified in an International Standard

### 2.5

#### **registrant**

party requesting the assignment of an *ISLI code* (2.2) to a *link* (2.3)

### 2.6

#### **service**

class of *links* (2.3) with a common application between typed *sources* (2.7) and typed *targets* (2.8)

### 2.7

#### **source**

*entity* (2.1) which is the origin of a *link* (2.3)