
**Information and documentation —
International standard collection
identifier (ISCI)**

*Information et documentation — Identifiant international normalisé des
collections (ISCI)*



This document is a preview generated by EVS



COPYRIGHT PROTECTED DOCUMENT

© ISO 2012

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and microfilm, without permission in writing from either ISO at the address below or ISO's member body in the country of the requester.

ISO copyright office
Case postale 56 • CH-1211 Geneva 20
Tel. + 41 22 749 01 11
Fax + 41 22 749 09 47
E-mail copyright@iso.org
Web www.iso.org

Published in Switzerland

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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

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.

ISO 27730 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation*, Subcommittee SC 9, *Identification and description*.

Introduction

ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation*, has developed standard identifiers for a wide variety of entities. However, a standard identifier for collections, fonds and (archival) series has not yet been built. In the past there was no need for such an identifier, but the situation has changed. There are now a large number of collections, fonds and series and a broad range of organizations hosting them. These collections, fonds and series can be physical or electronic, partly physical and partly electronic, or virtual; they can be available either online via the Internet or offline.

The need for identifying collections, fonds and series has emerged as libraries and other cultural institutions develop their collections in cooperation with other institutions, as well as developing and maintaining multi-institutional collections, so termed “collective collections”. Collections are analysed and compared, weeded, relocated, digitized in whole or in part and made available for searching and other services via their own interfaces and via machine-to-machine interfaces. Unique identification of collections, fonds and series enables collection parts in different locations to be linked at a “collection level” for maintenance and discovery. The searchable metadata associated with the collection identifier facilitates the discovery of collections and their strengths and availability, which are particularly useful for search engines and metasearch engines. The metadata are also useful for cultural institutions seeking partnerships, whether on a global, regional, national or international scale.

While it is possible to use local identifiers, this is not recommended in an environment where global exchange of this kind of metadata is anticipated. The aim of this International Standard is to establish a system which requires neither a registration authority nor large national/regional centres, even if tens or hundreds of thousands of collections, fonds and series are identified.

Information and documentation — International standard collection identifier (ISCI)

1 Scope

This International Standard establishes the specifications for the International Standard Collection Identifier (ISCI) as a unique international identification system for each collection, fonds and (archival) series, and part(s) of collections, fonds and series. This International Standard establishes the specifications for the structure of an identifier and promotes the use of the identifier with regard to identifying systems that already exist. It also gives a list of recommended metadata elements that describe a collection.

This International Standard does not specify the description of collections, fonds and series, nor the relationships between collections and sub-collections.

The ISCI is intended for use by organizations that manage collections of cultural materials. These include cultural heritage institutions such as libraries, museums and archives, as well as other types of organizations such as publishers operating in the supply chain of cultural materials.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 15511, *Information and documentation — International standard identifier for libraries and related organizations (ISIL)*¹⁾

ISO/IEC 10646, *Information technology — Universal Coded Character Set (UCS)*²⁾

Dublin Core Collections Application Profile, March 2007. Available online at <http://dublincore.org/groups/collections/collection-application-profile/>

NOTE The Dublin Core Collections Application Profile facilitates the description of collections, fonds and series in general by providing a core set of metadata elements for this purpose. These elements form the basis for the recommended metadata elements listed in this International Standard.

3 Terms and definitions

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

3.1

collection

permanent or temporary aggregation of physical and/or digital resources accumulated on the basis of some common characteristic, e.g. by location, by type or form of the items, by source or ownership

NOTE 1 See also **fonds** (3.3).

1) The Registration Authority for ISO 15511 can be found at http://www.iso.org/iso/standards_development/maintenance_agencies.htm; at the time of publication, it was directly available online at <http://biblstandard.dk/isil/>.

2) Unicode 6.0 has the same character code repertoire as ISO/IEC 10646:2011 with the exception of the Indian rupee sign. The Unicode standard, however, imposes additional constraints on implementations to ensure that they treat characters uniformly across platforms and applications. For more on the relationship of ISO/IEC 10646 to Unicode, see the FAQ on the Unicode website at http://unicode.org/faq/unicode_iso.html.