INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO
15511

Third edition
2011-09-01

Information and documentation — International standard identifier for libraries and related organizations (ISIL)

Information et documentation — Identifiant international normalisé pour les bibliothèques et les organismes apparentés (ISIL)

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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.

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 15511 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Technical interoperability*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 15511:2009), of which it constitutes a minor revision.

Introduction

Communication and resource sharing among libraries and related organizations, including archives, museums, government agencies, educational institutions and businesses, have dramatically increased. This new collaboration has created a need for a structured, standard identifier for organizations, especially libraries.

Due largely to the implementation of common standards which specify the formats for information exchange within the library, archival or museum communities, millions of bibliographic records are now available to users all over the world. They can be accessed through the internet, in virtual union catalogues, virtual archives and museums and through other cooperative information systems, or linked to, in whole or in part, through secondary internet services. Holdings data linked to descriptive records provide direct access to records, to surrogates of the documents, archival records and artefacts and to the services supplied by libraries, archives, museums and related organizations and agencies. A standardized identifier for the originating or holding source will effectively facilitate access to this information.

Organizational identifiers are widely used in many countries. This International Standard utilizes a flexible structure that can accommodate existing identifiers and be used to create new identifiers. This common framework will enable organizations in the same sector and organizations in parallel sectors to collaborate.

Information and documentation — International standard identifier for libraries and related organizations (ISIL)

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies the International Standard identifier for libraries and related organizations (ISIL), which comprises a set of standard identifiers used for the unique identification of libraries, archives, museums and related organizations with a minimum impact on already existing systems.

An ISIL identifies an organization, i.e. a library, an archive, a museum or a related organization, or one of its subordinate units, which is responsible for an action or service in an informational environment (e.g. creation of machine-readable information). It can be used to identify the originator or holder of a resource (e.g. library material or a collection in an archive). The ISIL is intended for use by libraries, archives, museums and agencies doing business or interacting with these organizations (e.g. suppliers, publishers, and government institutions). An ISIL identifies an organization or one of its subordinate units throughout its life. In some cases, such as when an organization has undergone a significant administrative change (e.g. a merger with another organization), particularly one that results in a name change, a new ISIL identifier can be allocated.

Since this International Standard allows the use of existing codes to be incorporated into the ISIL, it is possible that a given organization can have more than one ISIL. However, it is the intention of this International Standard to minimize the number of codes.

Any library, archive, museum or related organization, administrative unit or subordinate unit, acting autonomously, can be allocated an ISIL.

An ISIL is not intended to be used to classify organizations or their services and holdings.

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 3166-1, *Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions — Part 1: Country codes*

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

3 Terms and definitions

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

3.1
administrative unit
any independent library, or group of libraries, under a single director or a single administration

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