

ISNI - Identifying Parties in Creative “Supply Chains”

Tim Devenport
Executive Director, ISNI-IA

tim@editeur.org

ISNI: 0000 0004 5913 7837

ISNI - identifying public personas

- International Standard Name Identifier
- ISO standard 27729
- Identifying ‘parties’, or more generally, the public ‘personas’ of persons or organizational units
- Target: contributors to creative works and those active in their distribution or exploitation very broadly defined
- Thus:
 - Natural persons, pseudonyms, noms de plume, ...
 - Organizations, units thereof, brand names like imprints, music labels, film studios, ...

What are ISNIs for?!

- Resolving problems of name ambiguity in search & discovery
- Attributing published works accurately to their creators
- Acting as a robust bridge identifier across multiple schemes and domains
- Thus becoming a critical component in linked data and semantic web applications

Yes, but practical uses .. ?

- Identify rights-holders
- Protect rights and their management
- Assist in royalty collection and distribution
- Support scholarship
- Help clarify questions of attribution
- Aid cleanup & enhancement of databases
- Act as bridge ID to facilitate cross-walks

Features of an ISNI ID

- The ISNI assigned to a particular persona should be:
 - Unique
 - Persistent
 - Expressed in a standard format
0000 0001 2099 9104 - Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
 - Accompanied by a minimum basic set of metadata to enable disambiguation
- Additionally, it should:
 - Have its sources of provenance clearly defined
 - Be capable of enrichment with further, extended metadata

ISNI in context

ISNI exists alongside other familiar ISO identifiers:

- ISBN (books)
- ISSN (serials)
- DOI (digital objectives, journal articles, etc.)
- ISMN (music)
- ISLI (links)
- ISAN (films, audiovisual works)
- ISWC (musical and other works)
- ISRC (recordings)

Scale of ISNI assignments to date

- Approximately 9.5 million identities have ISNIs assigned
- Of which:
 - > 8.8 million relate to individuals
 - > 660,000 relate to organizations
- Both totals continue significantly to increase, as additional Registration Agencies, from both existing and new domains, come on stream

ISNI 0000 0001 0871 1294



ISNI: 0000 0001 0871 1294
Name: Kasner, **Angela**
Merkel, Angela
Merkel, Angela Dorothea
Merkel-Kasner, **Angela**
Sauer-Merkel, **Angela**

Dates: 1954-

Creation class: cre
Language material
Text

Creation role: author
contributor
creator
editor

Related identities: [Kasner, Angela Dorothea](#) (Frueherer Name; other identity, same person)

⊕ **Related names**

⊕ **Titles**

Notes: Berlin, Akad. d. Wiss. d. DDR, Diss. A, 1986 (Nicht f.d. Austausch)
Berlin, Akad. d. Wiss. d. DDR, Diss. A, 1986 (Nicht f.d. Austausch)

Sources: [VIAF](#) [VIAF](#) [DNB](#) [LC](#) [NKC](#) [NUKAT](#) [SUDOC](#)
[BNF](#)
BOWKER
NTA
[OCLCT](#)
TEL

ISNI 0000 0001 2148 628X

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- Robert Galbraith, ISNI 0000 0003 9509 0901
- Newt Scamander, ISNI 0000 0000 7049 5783
- Kennilworthy Whisp, ISNI 0000 0000 6918 1891

Related identities: Galbraith, Robert (other identity, same person)
Scamander, Newt (other identity, same person)
Whisp, Kennilworthy (other identity, same person)

Sources of information

- ISNI assignments based on hundreds of authority files and databases worldwide
- Assertions of identities are matched and rated algorithmically
- Primary role played by ISNI Member organizations and ISNI Registration Agencies
- Smaller proportions start with self-registration by individuals and small independent players

ISNI Members & RAGs

- Currently about 38 member organizations, and growing
- 25 regular or founding Members
- 14 Registrations Agencies or ‘RAGs’
- Based so far in 18 countries
- But coverage is world-wide
- Here are some of them ...





casalini**libri**



NATIONAL LIBRARY
OF POLAND



Program for
Cooperative Cataloging

BIBCO / CONSER / NACO / SACO

КОПИРУС



National Library of Korea



BRILL



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY LIBRARY



Carleton
UNIVERSITY

Canada's Capital University

Roles within ISNI's infrastructure

- ISNI Membership & RAGs
- ISNI-IA
Central coordination, management and direction. Ltd company, not for profit, with independent Board. Operated by EDItEUR day-to-day on behalf of ISNI
- ISNI-AA
Hosting and development of the ISNI database, interfaces & data input/output. Service provided by OCLC on behalf of ISNI
- ISNI Quality Team
Crucial QA component. Dedicated staff at BnF and BL

Current priorities

- Exciting times for ISNI!
- A serious 'buzz' – prospects from legacy library sector but also from other domains – especially music but also film and games
- Preparing to make core ISNI metadata available in the form of Linked Open Data
- Transitioning part of database to an ISNI Organizations Registry (leveraging expertise in area and >650k orgs already having ISNIs assigned)

The ISNI Organizations Registry

- Segmentation of the organization records and respective ISNI IDs into an environment with a searchable user interface
- ISNI Organization IDs and associated core metadata available to all under a CC0 licence
- Regular data downloads of the entire ISNI Organizations Registry
- An API for retrieval of ISNI IDs and records with the ability to resolve an existing ISNI ID
- An online form for organizations to supply updates to their own records
- A new Advisory Board with representatives of the scholarly communications community to guide the efforts of the Registry

ISNI: under the hood

- And of course the serious ‘plumbing’ activities needed to sustain all of this ...
- Upgrading our API facilities to permit easier and faster access
- Regular data dumps to encourage wider use and cross linking
- Implementing provisions of forthcoming GDPR legislation
- Looking to expand ISNI’s Quality Team

To find out more ...

- Check out the ISNI website: www.isni.org
- Contact the ISNI International Agency: tim@editeur.org or info@isni.org
- Watch out for features in the *EDItEUR Newsletter* and its soon-to-be launched *ISNI Newsletter* counterpart
- Thanks for your attention!