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Additional information:

REQUESTED ACTION

Circulated to P- and O-members, and to technical committees and organizations in liaison for:

- information
- discussion at SC9 plenary meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, May 14, 2009
[venue/date of meeting]
- comments by
[date]
- voting (P-members only by:

[date]

P-members of the technical committee or subcommittee concerned have an obligation to vote.



May 2009

Report of the International ISBN Agency Registration Authority for ISO 2108

New agencies

There are now 178 countries in the international ISBN system covered by 150 national or group agencies. The most recent applicants for national ISBNs agencies are Syria, Oman, Aruba and Liberia.

Digital publications

The International ISBN Agency and its national agencies continue to attempt to ensure that publishers of digital monographic publications, especially audiobooks and eBooks, use separate ISBNs for each separately available digital format - a problem where formatting is carried out by third parties unused to the system.

Retrospective assignment

The International ISBN Agency has set up a working group to investigate the feasibility of assigning ISBNs to the tens of millions of books published before the introduction of ISO 2108 in 1970.

Training and software

In the year ahead, regional training courses for ISBN Agencies are planned for the Balkan and Arabic speaking countries. The International ISBN Agency will also be developing further software to help smaller national agencies assign ISBNs, collect metadata from publishers and build title-level databases.

Systematic review

ISO 2108:2005 was confirmed in the systematic review carried out during the last year, although new manuals for agencies and FAQs for users are being published to take account of recent developments in digital and on-demand publishing.

Introduction of 979 prefix

The first 979 prefixed group identifier (979-10) has been assigned to the French ISBN agency and will come into use during the autumn of 2009. Since there are still plenty of 978-prefixed group identifiers for countries requiring smaller quantities of ISBNs, the two ranges will run in parallel for the foreseeable future.

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