International Standard Name Identifier
ISNI - ISNI.org

For Authors, Researchers, Inventors, Performers, Organizations, and Other Contributors

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What is ISNI

- ISO-certified global standard (ISO 27729)
- Numerical representation of your name for linking accuracy (transliteration, same names)
- Identifies contributors to content creation
  - Researchers
  - Inventors
  - Institutions
  - Authors
  - Publishers
  - Musicians
  - Composers
  - Political figures
  - Actors
  - Music/film studios
  - Bloggers
  - Any person or organization who contributes to or is the subject of content
Interoperability with ORCID

• ORCID numbers are a subset of ISNI’s database
• There is ISNI representation on the ORCID Technical Steering Group
• At this stage, a researcher may have both an ORCID and an ISNI, but the two organizations are working on aligning towards single assignment
What does ISNI do?

• Unambiguously identifies a public identity
• Assigns a *persistent* and *unique* identifier
• Provides link resolution between disparate data sets
ISNI links

- Standard identification of researcher names
- Bridge identifier linking disparate data sets
Who is ISNI?

- IFFRO
- OCLC
- British Library
- Bibliothèque Nationale Français
- CISAC
- ProQuest – the only for-profit organization on the board.
Why Should I Use ISNI?

• Data quality
  – ISNI applications are systematically reviewed, merged, de-duped
  – Manual correction is part of the process as needed (teams from British Library and Bibliothèque Nationale)
  – Deprecated ISNIs remain linked and resolve to current ISNIs
Why Should I Use ISNI?

• Link to larger web
  – Bridge identifier across multiple domains (music professor, e.g., linking across academic and music databases)
  – Critical component in Linked Data and Semantic Web applications
  – Pseudonym functionality if you want to publish your work that way
Who is getting ISNIIs?

- JISC Names
- British Library Theses
- ProQuest Theses
- MLA
- Worldcat Theses
- ZETOC
- Books in Print
- Ringgold
- CISAC
- Many other data sets
Who is using ISNIs?

- Wikipedia/Wikidata
- VIAF
- Access Copyright
- ProQuest’s Scholar Universe
- British Library
- JISC
- Worldcat
- Musicbrainz
- Booknet Canada (piloting)
- PLUS (piloting)
How many names in the ISNI database?

• 6,800,000 assigned
• 10,112,931 provisional (awaiting a match from another data set for corroboration)
• You may well already have an ISNI! For free! [http://www.isni.org/search](http://www.isni.org/search).