

How to Obtain ISSN

- ISSN are assigned to serials, including journals, newsletters, annuals and ongoing series. Separate ISSN are required for serials issued in multiple physical formats such as print and online. Individual books and articles cannot be assigned ISSN. [The following statement has not been fully implemented yet: Certain other continuing resources such as updating databases, updating Web resources, and updating loose-leaf services may also be eligible for ISSN.]
- It is preferred that ISSN be requested by the publisher, although ISSN requests can be submitted by secondary services and certain other ISSN users.
- ISSN is a national (NISO Z39.9) and international (ISO 3297) standard.
- ISSN requests should be directed to the ISSN center in the country listed as the first place of publication on the serial or other continuing resource. In the U.S., the ISSN center is the National Serials Data Program located at the Library of Congress: lcweb.loc.gov/issn
Contact information for the 75 ISSN centers worldwide can be found at www.issn.org.
- U.S. requests for ISSN require submission of the application form found at lcweb.loc.gov/issn and submission with a sample issue of the serial (for print serials) or the Web address of online serials. There is no charge for an ISSN from the U.S. ISSN center.
- It can take from 6 to 8 weeks for an ISSN request to be processed by the U.S. ISSN center. Time frames for urgent requests can be discussed with ISSN center staff at the contact points listed above.
- Questions about ISSN for U.S. titles can be directed to issn@loc.gov or (202) 707-6452.