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National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of ISO 3297:2017. It supersedes BS ISO 3297:2007, which is withdrawn.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee IDT/2/18, Identifiers and metadata.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

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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.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html

This document was prepared by ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation*, Subcommittee SC 9, *Identification and description*.

This fifth edition cancels and replaces the fourth edition (ISO 3297:2007), of which it constitutes a minor revision with the following changes:

— Clause 10, which covered fees for ISSNs, has been deleted since the notion of fees should not be mentioned in this document.

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Introduction

The need for a brief, unique and unambiguous identification code for serials and other continuing resources is internationally recognized. The exchange of information among libraries, abstracting services and other content users, suppliers, distributors and other intermediaries, and publishers and other content producers imposes the requirement for a standard code. Communication between the different organizations transcends national boundaries and therefore requires an international code which is numeric, since no single alphabet is used by the majority of producers and users of serials. In response to these requirements, the International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) was established as the identification code for serials.

The International Serials Data System (ISDS) was established as an inter-governmental organization within the framework of the UNESCO/UNISIST program to be the designated authority for controlling the assignment of ISSN. In 1993, the ISDS became the ISSN Network.

The first three editions of this International Standard pertained only to serials. However, in 2002 a new category of resources, “continuing resources”, was defined by the library community to encompass new kinds of resources, such as updating databases, as well as traditional serials. The scope of the fourth edition was broadened to cover serials and other continuing resources.

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INTERNATIONAL STANDARD **ISO 3297:2017(E)**

Information and documentation - International standard serial number (ISSN)

1 Scope

This document defines and promotes the use of a standard code (ISSN) for the unique identification of serials and other continuing resources.

Each International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) is a unique identifier for a specific serial or other continuing resource in a defined medium. This document also describes a mechanism, the "linking ISSN (ISSN-L)", that provides for collocation or linking among the different media versions of the same continuing resource.

ISSN are applicable to serials and to other continuing resources, whether past, present or to be published or produced in the foreseeable future, whatever the medium of publication or production.

Individual monographs, sound and video recordings, printed music publications, audiovisual works and musical works have their own numbering systems and are not specifically mentioned in this document. Such items may carry an ISSN in addition to their own standard numbers when they are part of a continuing resource.

More detailed operational guidance is provided in the *ISSN Manual* available from the Registration Authority for this document (see Clause 11).

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

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

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at http://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at http://www.electropedia.org/

3.1
continuing resource
publication, in any medium, that is issued over time with no predetermined conclusion and made available to the public

Note 1 to entry: Such a publication is usually issued in successive or integrating issues which generally have numerical and/or chronological designations.

Note 2 to entry: Continuing resources include serials such as newspapers, periodicals, journals, magazines, etc., and ongoing integrating resources such as loose-leaf publications that are continually updated and Websites that are continually updated.

Note 3 to entry: The French term is *ressource continue.*

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3.2
serial
continuing resource issued in a succession of discrete issues or parts, usually bearing numbering, that has no predetermined conclusion

EXAMPLE Journals, magazines, electronic journals, ongoing directories, annual reports, newspapers, monographic series, and also those journals, magazines and newsletters of limited duration that otherwise bear all the characteristics of serials (e.g. newsletter of an event).

Note 1 to entry: The French term is *publication en série.*

3.3
ongoing integrating resource
continuing resource that is added to or changed by means of updates that do not remain discrete and are integrated into the whole

EXAMPLE Databases, Websites and loose-leafs that are updated over time with no predetermined conclusion.

Note 1 to entry: The French term is *ressource intégratrice permanente.*

3.4
ISSN
International Standard Serial Number
eight digit number, including a check digit and preceded by the alphabetic prefix ISSN, assigned to a continuing resource by the ISSN Network

Note 1 to entry: The French term is *ISSN, numéro international normalizé des publications en série.*

3.5
ISSN Network
collective entity comprised of the ISSN International Centre and the ISSN national and regional centres, for the purpose of administering the assignment of ISSN

Note 1 to entry: The French term is *Réseau de l'ISSN.*

3.6
key title
unique name for a continuing resource, established by the ISSN Network and inseparably linked with its ISSN

Note 1 to entry: The key title can be the same as the title of the resource; or, in order to achieve uniqueness, it can be constructed by the addition of identifying and/or qualifying elements such as name of issuing body, place of publication, edition statement, etc.

Note 2 to entry: The French term is *titre clé.*

3.7
ISSN metadata
descriptive data recorded as part of the ISSN assignment process that provides elements by which the resource is identified and distinguished from other resources

Note 1 to entry: The French term is *métadonnées de l'ISSN.*

3.8
ISSN Register
official registration database of the ISSN Network containing metadata records for the ISSN assigned to continuing resources

Note 1 to entry: The French term is *Registre de l'ISSN.*

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