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Information and documentation — International standard identifier for libraries and related organizations (ISIL)

Information et documentation — Identifiant international normalisé pour les bibliothèques et les organismes apparentés (ISIL)

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Contents

Page

Foreword ..... **iv**
Introduction ..... **v**
1 Scope **1**
2 Normative references **1**
3 Terms and definitions **1**
4 Structure, elements and characteristics of the ISIL **3**
4.1 General 3
4.2 Prefix 4
4.2.1 General 4
4.2.2 Country code 4
4.2.3 Non-country code prefixes 4
4.3 Unit identifier 4
5 Administration of the ISIL system **4**
Annex A (informative) **Examples of ISIL** **5**
Annex B (normative) **Administration of the ISIL system** **6**
Bibliography **7**

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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 of 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 www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Technical interoperability*.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO 15511:2011), of which it constitutes a minor revision. The changes compared to the previous edition are as follows.

— The contact information for the Registration Authority has been updated.

— The case sensitivity in ISIL codes has been clarified.

— The usage of characters in ISIL codes has been made clearer.

— The URI of the ISO 3166 country codes has been updated. The new link is to the ISO Online browsing platform.

— The terms and definitions have been aligned with ISO 5127:2017 when applicable, and the term *organization* and its definition has been added.

— The text “libraries, archives, museums, and related organizations” have been changed to “libraries and related organizations, such as museums and archives”, in accordance with current ISO rules for wording in standards.

— The term “ISIL identifier” has been changed to “ISIL” or in one place “ISIL code”.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user’s national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

This corrected version of ISO 15511:2019 incorporates the following corrections:

— correction of 4.1, paragraph 3.

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Introduction

Communication and resource sharing among libraries and related organizations, including archives, museums, government agencies, educational institutions and businesses, have dramatically increased. This new collaboration has created a need for a structured, standard identifier for organizations, especially libraries.

Due largely to the implementation of common standards which specify the formats for information exchange within the library, archival or museum communities, millions of bibliographic records are now available to users all over the world. They can be accessed through the internet, in virtual union catalogues, virtual archives and museums and through other cooperative information systems, or linked to, in whole or in part, through secondary internet services. Holdings data linked to descriptive records provide direct access to records, to surrogates of the documents, archival records and artefacts and to the services supplied by libraries and related organizations such as museums and archives and agencies. A standardized identifier for the originating or holding source will effectively facilitate access to this information.

Organizational identifiers are widely used in many countries. This document utilizes a flexible structure that can accommodate existing identifiers and can be used to create new identifiers. This common framework enables organizations in the same sector and organizations in parallel sectors to collaborate.

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Information and documentation — International standard identifier for libraries and related organizations (ISIL)

1 Scope

This document specifies the International Standard identifier for libraries and related organizations (ISIL), which comprises a set of standard identifiers used for the unique identification of libraries and related organizations such as museums and archives with a minimum impact on already existing systems.

An ISIL identifies an organization, i.e. a library or a related organization, or one of its subordinate units, which is responsible for an action or service in an informational environment (e.g. creation of machine-readable information). It can be used to identify the originator or holder of a resource (e.g. library material or a collection in an archive). The ISIL is intended for use by libraries and related organizations such as museums and archives and agencies doing business or interacting with these organizations (e.g. suppliers, publishers, and government institutions). An ISIL identifies an organization or one of its subordinate units throughout its life. In some cases, such as when an organization has undergone a significant administrative change (e.g. a merger with another organization), particularly one that results in a name change, a new ISIL can be allocated.

Since this document allows the use of existing codes to be incorporated into the ISIL, it is possible that a given organization can have more than one ISIL. However, it is the intention of this document to minimize the number of codes.

Any library or related organization, administrative unit or subordinate unit, acting autonomously, can be allocated an ISIL.

An ISIL is not intended to be used to classify organizations or their services and holdings.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 3166-1, *Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions — Part 1: Country codes*

ISO/IEC 10646, *Information technology — Universal Coded Character Set (UCS)*

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 https://www.iso.org/obp

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

3.1
administrative unit
any independent *library* (3.5), group of libraries, *archives* (3.2), *museum* (3.6) or other related organization, under a single director or a single administration

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