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Information and documentation — International standard link identifier (ISLI)

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ISO copyright office
Ch. de Blandonnet 8 • CP 401
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva, Switzerland
Tel. +41 22 749 01 11
Fax +41 22 749 09 47
copyright@iso.org
www.iso.org

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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).

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For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: Foreword - Supplementary information

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation*, Subcommittee SC 9, *Identification and description*.

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Introduction

Developments in technology have already provided a reliable foundation to set up links between resources, whether these are stored in digital or traditional form. The developments have, in particular, reinforced the ability to link resources of different types. This allows users to experience rich media content, such as audio files or video files, more easily. Further, they not only provide traditional users with enriched information, but also improve accessibility of textual material to individuals who are visually impaired and extend the capabilities of educational materials.

Technologies providing such capabilities have typically been hardware dependent or enclosed within a particular ecosystem. To provide improved interoperability and better access to these technologies and services, the International Standard Link Identifier (ISLI) defines connections between these resources. The approach taken in this International Standard comes from experience in several different projects, but it allows a general way of identifying links which enables new applications in more fields, such as multimedia. The link built by ISLI makes resources more readily available, and thus creates more value through their use.

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Information and documentation — International standard link identifier (ISLI)

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies an identifier of links between entities (or their names) in the field of information and documentation. These entities can be documents, media resources, people, or more abstract items such as times or places.

The ISLI system identifies links between entities that are related to each other so that, for instance, they can be rendered jointly. It does this by registering each link identifier with information (metadata) that specifies the link. The ISLI does not change the content, ownership, right of access, or existing identification of these entities.

This International Standard does not specify the technology used to represent the identifier or realize the link. It enables applications to be built which use the interoperable ISLI system for the identification of links.

2 Terms and definitions

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

2.1
entity
something capable of being uniquely identified

Note 1 to entry: Entities include material objects, electronic representations of content, abstract items (such as times, places), parties (human and corporate), as well as anything else that can be identified uniquely.

Note 2 to entry: A defined fragment of an entity is itself an entity.

2.2
ISLI code
International Standard Link Identifier assigned in accordance with the specifications of this International Standard

2.3
link
directed relationship between two *entities* (2.1) in the field of information and documentation

2.4
name
string of characters that identifies an *entity* (2.1), possibly (but not necessarily) in the form of an identifier specified in an International Standard

2.5
registrant
party requesting the assignment of an *ISLI code* (2.2) to a *link* (2.3)

2.6
service
class of *links* (2.3) with a common application between typed *sources* (2.7) and typed *targets* (2.8)

2.7
source
entity (2.1) which is the origin of a *link* (2.3)

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