Results of a Survey on International Standard Name Identifier (ISNI) Conducted by the National Diet Library, Japan

Purpose

The National Diet Library, Japan (NDL) conducted a questionnaire survey of national libraries and bibliographic agencies around the world to obtain detailed information on their motives for introducing International Standard Name Identifier (ISNI) and what changes in the management of data on the authors of domestic publications or in the creation of bibliographic sources have come about due to the introduction of ISNI.

Method

The survey was conducted via an online questionnaire platform, with requests for participation sent by e-mail.

Period

March 17, 2021 to April 30, 2021

Valid Answers

12 (2 of which were from the same institution)

Notes

For questions 2 to 8, the number of libraries or institutions that selected each option is provided as the numerator of a fraction in which the denominator is the eligible respondents. For example, if the number of answers for a certain option is 2/4, it means that out of four eligible respondents, two chose that option

---

1) Preliminary question

Please tell us the name of the institution you are representing [Required]

Answers	Participation to ISNI	Number of Answers
British Library (BL)	Registration Agency (RAG)	1
Casalini Libri (CL)	RAG	1
KB The National Library of the Netherlands (KB)	RAG	1
National Assembly Library of Korea (NAL)	RAG	1
Library of Congress, USA (LC)	Member	1
National Library of New Zealand (NLNZ)	Member	1
The National Library of Norway (NLN)	Member	1
German National Library (DNB)	Non-member	1
National Library Board Singapore (NLB)	Non-member	1
National Library of Australia (NLA)	Non-member	2
Swiss National Library (SNL)	Non-member	1

2) Question on participation in ISNI

Does your affiliated institution participate in ISNI? [Required]

Options	Number of Answers
Yes, it is a RAG of ISNI.	4/12
Yes, it is a Member of ISNI.	3/12
No.	5/12 * Two answers from the NLA

3) Questions for RAG

A. For what reason(s) did your affiliated institution become a RAG? (Select all that apply.) [Required]

Options	Number of Answers

To manage and promote distribution of information on creators as a national/regional bibliographic agency.	4/4
To use ISNI for copyright management within the nation/region.	1/4
To create authority records more efficiently.	3/4
To respond to the broadening scope of library collections.	2/4
Other (Specify)	1/4

Specific Answer for "Other (Specify)"

Respondent	Answer
BL	To work with the publishing supply chain in the UK

B. What parties is your institution authorized to assign/allocate ISNIs to? (Select all that apply.) [Required]

Options	Number of Answers
Persons and organizations that contributed to creating content published within a specific area (e.g. nation, state)	2/4
Persons and organizations that contributed to creating content of a specific type of media (e.g. books, academic texts, musical compositions)	0/4
Persons and organizations that contributed to creating content in a specific language	0/4
Other (Specify)	3/4

Specific Answers for "Other (Specify)"

Respondents	Answers
NAL	In my understanding, our library is authorized to allocate ISNIs to any persons and organizations.
BL	Persons and organizations connected to content in our collections and any persons and organizations who use our BL ISNI Registration Service. Bulk load requests can be processed via negotiation
CL	Persons and organizations that contributed to creating content published not only within a specific area

C. How does your institution use ISNI identifiers and services in its products and business? (Select all that apply.) [Required]

Options	Number of Answers
It started a new service targeting publishers, right holders, or content distributors.	2/4
It refers to data made available through the ISNI database in creating authority records.	4/4
It registers ISNI identifiers in a specific field of its catalogs.	3/4
It uses ISNI as institutional identifiers.	2/4
It has not yet started implementing ISNI in its products and business.	0/4
Other (Specify)	0/4

D. How are ISNIs allocated? (Select all that apply.) [Required]

Options	Number of Answers
ISNIs are allocated to authors and/or contributors in response to applications from persons and/or organizations.	3/4
ISNIs are allocated to authors and/or contributors in response to bulk requests from publishers.	2/4
ISNIs are allocated to authors and/or publishers of library materials that are within the scope of legal deposit or included in the national bibliography.	2/4
ISNIs are allocated as part of the process of creating authority records.	2/4

Other (Specify)	1/4

Specific Answer for "Other (Specify)"

Respondent	Answer
NAL	ISNIs are mainly allocated to researchers active in Korea.

E. Does your institution accept requests for ISNIs from individuals? [Required]

Options	Number of Answers
Yes.	3/4
No.	1/4

F. Does your institution charge fees for allocating ISNIs? [Required]

Options	Number of Answers
Yes.	2/4
No.	2/4

G. Does your institution cooperate with other institutions in implementing and promoting the use of ISNI? (Select all that apply.) [Required]

Options	Number of Answers
It cooperates with publishers.	2/4
It cooperates with other libraries with which it has formed a consortium.	2/4
It cooperates with other libraries but has not formed a consortium.	3/4
It does not cooperate with other institutions.	0/4
Other (Specify)	3/4

Specific Answers for "Other (Specify)"

Respondents	Answers
NAL	It cooperates with research institutes and university libraries with which it has formed sort of a consortium.
BL	ISNI Music Consultation Group and ISNI Libraries Consultation Group
CL	PCC

H. If your institution has formed or joined a consortium, please tell us why.

Respondents	Answers
NAL	Sharing data and promoting the use of ISNIs.
BL	Training, support and developing best practice for legal deposit workflows (6 legal deposit libraries in the UK and Ireland who have a shared cataloguing programme)
CL	Casalini supports the SVDE initiative to promote the sharing of data and services according to the linked open data paradigm

I. If your institution has joined VIAF, why does it participate in both VIAF and ISNI? (Select all that apply.)

Options	Number of Answers
The authors and/or contributors that your institution allocates ISNI identifiers to are different from those your institution creates authority data about, which are to be provided to VIAF.	0/4
To use data only accessible to ISNI RAG.	1/4
To increase the quality of the institution's own authority data by participating in both ISNI and VIAF.	0/4
Other (Specify)	1/4

Specific Answer for "Other (Specify)"

Respondent	Answer

BL	Can't work directly with VIAF as it only harvests data whereas ISNI is an interactive database.

4) Questions for Members

A. For what reason(s) did your affiliated institution become a Member? (Select all that apply.) [Required]

Options	Number of Answers
To manage information on creators as a national/regional bibliographic agency.	2/3
To use ISNI for copyright management within the nation/region.	0/3
To create authority records more efficiently.	1/3
To respond to the broadening scope of library collections.	1/3
Other (Specify)	0/3

B. Does your institution plan to become a RAG in the future? If yes, please tell us why.
    No respondent answered "yes" to this question.

C. How does your institution use ISNI identifiers and services in its products and business? (Select all that apply.) [Required]

Options	Number of Answers
It started a new service targeting publishers, right holders, or content distributors.	0/3
It refers to data made available through ISNI databases in creating authority records.	1/3
It registers ISNI identifiers in a specific field of its catalogs.	0/3
It uses ISNI as institutional identifiers.	0/3
It has not yet started implementing ISNI in its products and business.	2/3
Other (Specify)	0/3

D. If your institution has joined VIAF, why does it participate in both VIAF and ISNI? (Select all that apply.)

Options	Number of Answers
The authors and/or contributors that your institution allocates ISNI identifiers to are different from those your institution creates authority data about, which are to be provided to VIAF.	0/3
To use data only accessible to ISNI Members.	0/3
To increase the quality of the institution's own authority data by participating in both ISNI and VIAF.	3/3
Other (Specify)	0/3

5) Questions for non-members

A. Has there been any consideration of participating in ISNI in the future at your affiliated institution? [Required]

Options	Number of Answers
It is considering becoming a RAG.	0/5
It is considering becoming a Member.	1/5
No consideration has been made.	2/5 * One answer from the NLA
It decided not to participate.	2/5 * One answer from the NLA

B. Why is your institution considering of participating in ISNI? (Select all that apply.) [Required]

Options	Number of Answers
To manage and promote distribution of information on creators as a national/regional bibliographic agency.	1/1
To use ISNI for copyright management within the nation/region.	0/1
To create authority records more efficiently.	1/1

To respond to the broadening scope of library collections.	1/1
Other (Specify)	1/1

Specific Answer for "Other (Specify)"

Respondent	Answer
DNB	We'll have a close cooperation with a Registration Agency / Service Provider in the book industry for registration of new ISNIs

C. For what reason(s) is your institution not a RAG or Member of ISNI? (Select all that apply.) [Required]

Options	Number of Answers
Another institution(s) in the same field or area is already participating in ISNI.	2/4 * One answer from the NLA
It already participates in other project(s) with a similar concept.	1/4
Other (Specify)	1/4 * One answer from the NLA

Specific Answer for "Other (Specify)"

Respondent	Answer
NLA	Benefits to our user community do not equal the value of resourcing required to support participation

D. Does your institution use ISNI services? (Select all that apply.) [Required]

Options	Number of Answers
It refers to information made public by ISNI in creating authority records.	3/5 * One answer from the NLA
It registers ISNI identifiers in a specific field of its catalogs.	0/5
It does not use ISNI.	1/5
Other (Specify)	1/5 * One answer from the NLA

Specific Answer for "Other (Specify)"

Respondent	Answer
NLA	ISNI is accepted from participating partner libraries but the number is very small

6) Questions on ISNI implementation

A. What did you gain by implementing ISNI? (Select all that apply.) [Required]

Options	Number of Answers
The data creating process became more efficient due to sharing the same identifiers with libraries, publishers and distributors.	3/7
It became possible to uniquely identify authors and contributors of collections for which authority control had not been thorough.	4/7
It became easier to convert the institution's own data into Linked Open Data.	2/7
Copyright management became easier.	1/7
Other (Specify)	3/7

Specific Answers for "Other (Specify)"

Respondents	Answers
BL (RAG)	All processes not fully implemented yet but this is the direction we are travelling in.
LC (Member)	no notable gains so far
NLNZ (Member)	We have not yet had the staffing capacity in our metadata team to consider how best to implement ISNI

B. How is ISNI-related work staffed? (Select all that apply.) [Required]

Options	Number of Answers
We added new staff dedicated to work related to ISNI membership as a RAG or Member.	3/7
We added new staff dedicated to work related to ISNI as the ISNI Quality Team.	2/7
ISNI-related work was added to the responsibilities of an existing job.	4/7
Other (Specify)	3/7

Specific Answers for "Other (Specify)"

Respondents	Answers
NLN (Member)	We have so far only added ISNIs to existing records in the Authority File by exporting data to the ISNI database.
LC (Member)	no changes to staffing to handle ISNI
NLNZ (Member)	It was hoped to add responsibility for this to the work of our Name Authority Record Co-ordinator, but that person does not have capacity to undertake additional work.

C. Were there any new works brought up by participating in ISNI? If yes, please specify.

Respondents	Answers
NAL (RAG)	To establish a new process and system for allocating ISNIs and handling data.
BL (RAG)	Formed the Quality Team as a Founding Member to provide services to the ISNI-IA. Quality Team duties such as answering user queries, training other members, data sampling
CL (RAG)	Enhanced and improved our cataloging module (Olisuite/Wecat of @Cult)
NLN (Member)	Yes, extracting records from the Authority File and sending them to the ISNI database.
LC (Member)	No

D. How many staff members are involved in ISNI-related work? [Required]

Respondents	Answers
KB (RAG)	10
NAL (RAG)	One and a half
BL (RAG)	9
CL (RAG)	We started with 3 but we plan to increase to 6
NLN (Member)	3, but only part time.
LC (Member)	none
NLNZ (Member)	The plans (not yet implemented) were for one staff member to have this added to their responsibilities.

E. What were the difficulties in implementing ISNI? (Select all that apply.) [Required]

Options	Number of Answers
Adequate staffing for handling ISNI-related work	3/7
Establishing the ISNI-related business and operations	2/7
Staff training	1/7
System development/refurbishment	4/7
Other (Specify)	2/7

Specific Answers for "Other (Specify)"

Respondents	Answers
NLN(Member)	No
LC(Member)	no formal implementation, yet

F. Are there any skills and competencies that are required in performing ISNI-related work? If yes,

please specify.

Respondents	Answers
KB (RAG)	Yes, only fully skilled cataloguers on authority files are able to perform ISNI-related work
NAL (RAG)	Understanding of authority files.
BL (RAG)	Use of ISNI systems, manipulation of data, managing linked data records
CL (RAG)	We have selected metadata expert catalogers
NLN (Member)	We have so far only added ISNIs to existing records in the Authority File by exporting data to the ISNI database.

G. What kind of costs were incurred in implementing ISNI in addition to the membership fee? (Select all that apply.) [Required]

Options	Number of Answers
System development and operation costs	5/7
Consortium operation costs	0/7
Additional labor costs	3/7
None	2/7
Other (Specify)	0/7

H. What do you consider as future challenges in using ISNI?

Respondents	Answers
NAL (RAG)	To keep data quality high with no duplicate assignments and no wrong merged records.
BL (RAG)	Developing and maturing collaborative work across ISNI member networks
CL (RAG)	Strengthen and shorten the chain from author to publisher
NLN (Member)	Developing a method for automatic update of new ISNIs from our Authority File. To be developed.
LC (Member)	cost of staff involvement
NLNZ (Member)	For us it is finding any capacity to explore and implement the opportunities provided by ISNI. If we cannot find this capacity we will need to reconsider our membership of ISNI.

7) Questions on communication

A. In case of sending inquiries on the content of data, is the contact information clear? [Required]

Options	Number of Answers
Yes.	7/7
No.	0/7

B. To whom and how do you communicate requests for improvements in operations and systems? [Required]

Options	Number of Answers
Requests are sent to designated contact points depending on the type of request.	5/7
Requests are sent to consultation groups.	1/7
Other (Specify)	2/7

Specific Answers for "Other (Specify)"

Respondents	Answers
LC (Member)	none, yet
NLNZ(Member)	We haven't sent any.

8) Questions on authority record creation at your institution

A. For authors of what type of materials are name authority records created at your institution? (Select all that apply.) [Required]

Options	Number of Answers

Books	5/5 * Two answers from the NLA
Periodicals	4/5 * One answer from the NLA
Articles and journals	2/5
Audio-visual materials	3/5 * One answer from the NLA
Other (Specify)	3/5

Specific Answer for "Other (Specify)"

Respondents	Answers
NLA	Manuscripts, Pictures, Oral History recordings, Maps
SNL	Pictures
NLB	Notable local artists and personalities

B. If there is any document on the scope of materials for which authority records should be created, please let us know.

Respondents	Answers
SNL	Works, Places, Corporate Bodies
NLB	NLB's Knowledge Organisation Systems Policy document

C. Where is the created authority data distributed? (Select all that apply.) [Required]

Options	Number of Answers
VIAF	3/5
Public libraries	3/5 * One answer from the NLA
Academic libraries	3/5 * One answer from the NLA
Authority records are made available for free through websites and systems.	5/5 * Two answers from the NLA
Other (Specify)	1/5 * One answer from the NLA

Specific Answer for "Other (Specify)"

Respondent	Answer
NLA	Trove.nla.gov.au

D. Please name any person and/or organization identifiers other than ISNI that are registered in your bibliographic or authority record at your institution.

Options	Number of Answers
ORCID	3/5
National standard identifiers	3/5
Identifiers assigned by publishers	1/5
Other (Specify)	2/5

Specific Answers for "Other (Specify)"

Respondents	Answers
NLA	Information could come into our catalogue via publisher created metadata
NLB	Library of Congress Name Authorities, ISBN, ISSN, ISMN, VIAF