ISNI in 2020 – a brief overview

11 November 2020, Webinar: ISNI for Finnish Publishers

Tim Devenport
ISNI-IA & EDItEUR

tim@editeur.org
ISNI: 0000 0004 5913 7837

Scope of ISNI

International Standard Name Identifier: an ISO standard 27729

11.5 million ISNIs have been assigned to date:
  10.5 million – relate to persons or their public personas
  1 million – identify organizations of various kinds (commercial, academic, nonprofit), and include bands from ABBA to ZZ Top

An organization funded and inspired by its membership. At the time of writing:
  32 Registration Agencies and
  32 Regular Member organizations
  Membership is spread over 25 countries

Areas of adoption include:
  National and regional libraries & archives
  Music and publishing industries
  Emerging interest – film & TV, patents, collections & rights

But what is it for?!

Unique identification of parties in the creative supply chain

Disambiguation between party names that look or sound similar

Linking or bridging between other public or proprietary ID schemes

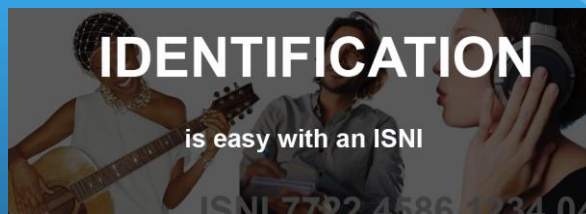Improved attribution of creative works to their creators

ISNI themes in 2020 – Operations

- Maintaining and improving the ISNI assignment service
  - Core purpose – keeping the lights on!
  - ISNI in a Time of COVID – home-working successfully navigated in all key areas of ISNI operations

- Rebuilding our website and migrating to a new hosting supplier
  - An overdue refresh and update! Addressing software obsolescence, improving website security. Offering responsive display and improved facilities for accessibility

- Revising and updating our library of documentation
  - A continuing process – not there yet but significant progress already made

- Enabling real-time ISNI assignment and added value services
  - Working with existing and new Registration Agencies to support API access, real-time user interaction for ISNI search, assignment and metadata enhancement

ISNI themes in 2020 – New Areas

- Strengthening regional and sector consultation
  - Active Nordic and Dutch ISNI interest groups have been formed
  - Regular meetings of a Music Sector consultation group
  - And a steering group of librarians preparing to survey Library needs

- Preparing for the launch of ISNI as open Linked Data
  - Q4 delivery of both single-record and data dump extracts
  - Initially in RDF/XML and JSON-LD linked data formats

- Supporting the pilot venture ISNI in Trade Publishing
  - As described by British Library speakers, active trade involvement
  - A pump-priming exercise and demonstration of feasibility
  - Significant potential overlap with legal deposit workflows

To learn more …

- The ISNI website

- Our News page and our e-newsletter ISNI News

- Drop me a line – tim@editeur.org