The International Standard Book Number . . . And How It Grew

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Objectives of this Session

- Background Information
- Changes Underway
- OCLC’s Response
- What You Will Need To Do
- What Connexion Will Do
- Demonstration
Debunking the Myths

- Not found on Egyptian hieroglyphic scrolls
- Never used by the Romans
  - Unwieldy in Roman Numerals
- Marco Polo did not bring ISBNs to Europe from China
- Guttenberg Bible does not have ISBN 000000001

The Real Story

- Created in Great Britain in 1966 by the bookseller W.H. Smith
- Originally called Standard Book Number or SBN
- An international standard since 1970
- Ten digits for many years
Official Definition


The Big Change

- On January 1, 2005 the International Organization for Standardization began migrating from the familiar 10-digit ISBN to a thirteen-digit ISBN.
- Why? To increase the numbering capacity of the ISBN system
- Migration deadline: January 1, 2007
ISBN Parts

- Country of Origin or language area code
- Publisher
- Item number
- Check digit

Expansion to 13 digits

- Existing 10-digit ISBNs will be prefixed with “978” (and the check digit recalculated)
- When the “978” ISBNs are exhausted, the “979” prefix will be introduced.
- ISBN-13 is identical to the Bookland EAN
  - International Article Number for Books
What’s OCLC doing about it?

- Changes to support online input and searching for ISBN-13 in the 020 field
- Interim support for ISBN-13
  - 13 digit ISBN stored in 024 first indicator 3
  - Searchable by Standard Number index
- On November 12, 2006 OCLC enhanced the 020 field to accommodate ISBN-13
Conversion

- OCLC has begun a conversion of ISBNs in existing WorldCat records
- You should now be able to use an ISBN index label search (bn:) with a 13 digit ISBN
- If not, try a Standard Number index label search (sn:) for 13-digit ISBNs in 024

Conversion (cont.)

- Moves 13-digit ISBNs as needed
- Generates ISBNs as needed.
Conversion (cont.)

- If the system found the following in field 020:
  - 10-digit ISBN in $a
    - Generates a 13-digit ISBN in 020 $a (if not present)
  - 13-digit ISBN (978) in $a
    - Generates a 10-digit ISBN in 020 $a (if not present)

Conversion (cont.)

- If it found the following in field 020:
  - 13-digit ISBN (979) in $a
    - No action
  - 13-digit ISBN (not 978, 979) in $a
    - No action (Invalid ISBN)
  - 13-digit ISBN in $z
    - If valid, moves it to 020 $a and (if 978) generates 10-digit ISBN in 020 $a (if not present)
    - If invalid, no action
Conversion (cont.)

- Actions involving field 024, first indicator 3:
  - 13-digit EAN (978)
    - Moves it into 020 & generates a 10-digit ISBN in 020 (if not already present)
    - Deletes 024 if it contains only $a
  - 13-digit EAN (979)
  - 13-digit EAN (not 978 or 979)
    - No action (invalid)
  - EAN (not 13 digits)
    - No action

What you should do now

- Put all 10- & 13-digit ISBNs in 020 fields
  - Each will have its own field
  - Valid ISBNs go into subfield $a
  - Invalid ISBNs go into subfield $z

- ISBN-13 can also be placed in field 024 first indicator 3
Here’s what to do

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Field</th>
<th>1st Indicator</th>
<th>2nd Indicator</th>
<th>Subfield</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EAN</td>
<td>024</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>any</td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-digit ISBN</td>
<td>020</td>
<td>blank</td>
<td>blank</td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-digit ISBN</td>
<td>020</td>
<td>blank</td>
<td>blank</td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

13-digit ISBN (put in field 020)
10-digit ISBN (put in field 020)

Bookland EAN
(optionally, put in field 024)

Here’s what Connexion will do

- An equivalent ISBN (if necessary) will be generated when you take the following actions:
  - Replace Record
  - Update Holdings
  - Validate (only while online)
  - Export (if you take the above actions first)
Generating ISBNs

- In 020 $a, if you enter a
  - 10-digit ISBN, a 13-digit ISBN will be generated if not present
  - 13-digit ISBN (978), a 10-digit ISBN will be generated if not present
  - 13-digit ISBN (979), no action will be taken
  - 13-digit ISBN (not 978, 979) no action
    - Invalid ISBN

Demonstration
Sources

- OCLC Technical Bulletin 253
  http://www.oclc.org/support/documentation/worldcat/tb/253/default.htm

- Wikipedia
  http://www.wikipedia.org/

- Bibliographic Formats and Standards
  http://www.oclc.org/bibformats/default.htm

Questions?

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