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**Information and documentation —  
Presentation and identification of  
periodicals**

*Information et documentation — Présentation et identification des  
périodiques*





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ISO copyright office  
CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8  
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva  
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11  
Fax: +41 22 749 09 47  
Email: [copyright@iso.org](mailto:copyright@iso.org)  
Website: [www.iso.org](http://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](http://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](http://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 on 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 the following URL: [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

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

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 8:1977), which has been technically revised. The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- the scope has been expanded to include digital publishing, and recommendations applicable to all possible media.

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](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

## Introduction

Periodicals, whatever their medium, play a critical role in the information society, and more specifically in the global information infrastructure. Citations to articles in scholarly journals, whether in print or in electronic journals, form the basis for much scholarly research. Popular trade magazines as well as newsletters are used by authors, researchers, and students of all ages. Search, discovery, and use of the wide range of today's periodicals require that they provide reliable identification and display of key information by following standardized principles and procedures.

When ISO/R 8-1954, the predecessor to ISO 8, was published, there was no digital publishing, nor were there identification standards such as ISSN or ISBN. The evolution of the publishing market in recent decades, the use of media other than paper, and the evolution of identification standards have made it necessary to revise ISO 8 to include recommendations applicable to all possible media.

This document is based in part on the first edition of ISO 8 for its recommendations pertaining to print periodicals, and on NISO RP-16-2013<sup>[1]</sup>, for its recommendations concerning digital periodicals.

# Information and documentation — Presentation and identification of periodicals

## 1 Scope

This document establishes the minimum characteristics required for the presentation and identification of periodicals including not only the obvious traditional elements that print periodicals typically display (e.g. title, ISSN, publisher, date), but also the “footprints” of periodicals published on digital dynamic media that enable them to be traced along the path of their history, such as changes of URL and publisher or content provider. Furthermore, this document provides information about persistent identifiers, using ISSN, and citation of periodicals (especially when published online or digitized and when titles have changed). It also makes specific recommendations for presentation and identification aspects of retrospective digitization of periodicals.

This document is applicable to a subcategory of continuing resources identifiable as “periodicals” (see [Clause 3](#)).

NOTE 1 For the purposes of this document, newspapers are not considered to be periodicals; therefore, specialized information relevant only to newspapers is not included.

This document does not specifically address or apply to books, including series of books, nor to content that is continuously updated such as loose-leaf services, databases, online reference works, and most websites.

NOTE 2 For information about series titles, see ISO 7275.

This document focuses only on elements of periodicals — printed, born-digital or retrospectively digitized — that relate to the presentation of title and supporting descriptive information, as well as practices related to title identification and content access over time. Therefore, this document is not concerned with the overall design of the periodical, except where that design affects the presentation of the title and has unintended consequences for resource discovery and access to earlier content. Neither is it concerned with the technical specifications for print, born-digital or digitized periodicals. The recommendations might not apply in all circumstances, and do not always accommodate certain artistic, technical or advertising considerations.

This document contains recommendations intended to enable editors and publishers of periodicals to identify and present key information in a form that will help users discover, cite and access their information over time and through any changes. This benefits all stakeholders of the periodical supply chain: publishers, content providers, authors, librarians, and researchers.

The recommendations address the following:

- display of periodical title(s) and other critical identifying information: issues, numbering systems, pagination, etc.;
- retention of title and citation information under which articles were originally published;
- display of title histories, i.e. changes in titles over time together with their dates of coverage;
- specification of appropriate metadata for digital periodicals;

NOTE 3 This document concentrates on metadata elements which are applicable at the title-level and does not provide guidelines for complete article-level metadata.

- display of correct ISSN, including different ISSN for each format, language edition, and for changed titles;