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Library and Archives Canada's implementation of the 13-digit ISBN

ISO 2108:2005, "Information and documentation -- International Standard Book Number (ISBN)", was published on 30 May 2005 increasing the length of the ISBN from 10 to 13 digits. The date for the publishing community to fully implement the 13 digit ISBN was January 1, 2007 after a two year phase-in period (2005-2006). During 2005 and 2006 publishers printed both 10 and 13 digit numbers on a single manifestation. From January 1, 2007 onward publishers print only 13 digit ISBNs. Library systems and processes were converted to accommodate 13 digit numbers. ISBNs are transcribed in LAC bibliographic records as found on the manifestation.

Implementation in AMICUS and in LAC catalogue records Before January 2007:

During this interim period, LAC transcribed a 10 digit number or both the 10 and 13 digit numbers to reflect what the publisher has printed on the manifestation.

Bibliographic records residing in AMICUS from external contributors may contain either one or both the 10 and 13 digit numbers to reflect what the publisher has printed on the manifestation.

After January 2007:

Publishers should supply only 13 digit numbers on new imprints published on or after January 1, 2007. LAC's bibliographic records carry the numbers printed on the manifestation.

Searching by ISBNs on AMICUS Web

LAC planned for a long term searching strategy on AMICUS by which users would be able to search by either a 10 or a 13 digit number to find a manifestation regardless of which version of a number was transcribed in the bibliographic record. Implementation of this strategy has been indefinitely delayed. Users are advised to search both versions of a number.

Cataloguing-in-Publication

As early as November 2004, LAC Cataloguing-in-Publication program records created for manifestations to be published after January 2005 could have carried both 10 and 13 digit numbers at the request of the publisher. The two ISBNs were transcribed in the bibliographic record in separate MARC 020 fields. The ISBNs appeared in the CIP data printed on the verso of the title page.

Publishers applying for Cataloguing-in-Publication data for manifestations to be published after January 1, 2007 should supply LAC with the 13 digit ISBN.

Canadian ISBN Agency

Prior to full implementation in January 2007:

During this "dual numbering" period, the Canadian ISBN Agency assigned blocks of 10 digit ISBNs and publishers printed the ISBN on their publications as usual. Some publishers prepared for full implementation by converting blocks of unused 10 digit numbers to 13 digit numbers and printed both numbers on manifestations.

Full implementation in January 2007:

Unused blocks of 10 digit numbers remaining in the ISBN Agency's supply were converted to blocks of 13 digit numbers with the 978 prefix. The Canadian ISBN Agency began supplying blocks of 13 digit numbers.

Items published from January 2007 onward should only carry the 13 digit ISBN. It is the publisher's responsibility to convert unused 10 digit numbers to 13 digit numbers and to ensure that their publications carry only 13 digit numbers.

For more information:

<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/iso/tc46sc9/isbn.htm>

<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/isbn/s11-303-e.html>

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