

The Wonderful World of ISNI



What is ISNI?

ISNI = International Standard Name Identifier

- an ISO standard
- 16 digits

Uniquely identifies the public identities of:

- persons
- fictional characters
- legal entities (i.e., organizations)

Parties can have more than one public identity (e.g., authors who use pseudonyms)

What does an ISNI Do?

- Disambiguates names that might otherwise be confused
 - helps clarify royalty and licensing payments, ensuring that the correct payment gets to the correct person
- The unique ISNI number can be linked to any of the numerous other identifiers floating around in the linked data world
 - authors' works present in multiple databases can be linked together



Pete Townsend

ISNI: 0000 0001 1556 1378

VIAF: 197831

MusicBrainz: fb147b8f-0144-4418-
acaa-90b2d9779840

LC Name Authority File:
n85093204

Not to be confused with Peter Townsend, a university professor in England, born in 1948, who writes about jazz.

ISNI and NACO

ISNI is not an authority file

Differences between NACO and ISNI work

NACO	ISNI
Headings must be unique	Not trying to create a unique access point, but an identifier for an entity that can have different forms of the name
Based on preferred form of name and established as the authorized form	None of the forms of name are considered the preferred or authorized form
Info is usually based on a piece in hand and on resources owned by the library	Often don't have a piece in hand and material may be found outside of the library
Info needs to be justified	Not all info needs to be justified

Similarities between NACO and ISNI work

- Searching is very important to prevent the creation of duplicate ISNIs!

ISNIs and ORCIDs

ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID) identifiers are a reserved block of ISNI identifiers for scholarly researchers.

With ORCID, control lies with individual researchers.

Individuals must claim their ORCID ids, while ISNIs can be assigned independently of any action by a researcher or group.

ISNI covers a broader range of entities that includes publishers, databases, and rights management organizations.

An initiative is currently underway to integrate ORCID functionality into the ISNI database, allowing ORCID ids to be added to the ISNI record, and vice versa.

Who Creates ISNIs?

The ISNI database is created from the databases of many agencies worldwide (<http://www.isni.org/content/data-contributors>)

- universities
- national libraries
- OCLC
- trade organizations
- rights management organizations
- international authority files (e.g., VIAF)

Matching algorithms are used to identify and link together the same entity.

ISNIs are assigned when there is a high level of confidence in matching new names to existing names in the database.

And soon, we'll be creating ISNI records too!

PCC ISNI Pilot Project

The Why

The Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC) is seeking to become more engaged in the linked data ecosystem.

Aligns with PCC's strategy of providing "leadership for the shift in authority control from an approach primarily based on creating text strings to one focused on managing identities and entities."

Leverages PCC members' expertise in creating high-quality metadata.

Benefits ISNI by providing a large group of trusted libraries who can contribute authoritative metadata and assist with database maintenance

PCC ISNI Pilot Project

The What

A year-long (July 2017-July 2018) project to:

- develop an understanding of ISNI tools and systems
- to create PCC documentation and training for its members
- to put in place member supports for cost-effective scaling of broader PCC involvement in ISNI.

Pilot participants will:

- conduct independent identifier projects to create new ISNIs and modify existing ones for persons and organizations using ISNI member tools
- establish the batch template and batch workflow processes that can be used by other PCC members
- contribute to best practices that will be documented for the PCC umbrella membership in ISNI

PCC ISNI Pilot Project

The Who

Participating PCC Libraries

Brown University

Columbia University

Cornell University

Harvard University

Michigan State University

Stanford Libraries

Stony Brook University

Texas A & M Libraries

University of California Davis

UCLA

University of Chicago

University of Colorado Boulder

University of Wisconsin-Madison

PCC ISNI Pilot Project

The Who

Our People

Policy Contact: Paul Moeller

Technical Contact: Fred Schumacher

Faculty Affairs Liaison: Matt Ramey

Practitioner Contact: Chris Long

Practitioners:

Helen Baer

Emily Fidelman

Carole Griffin

Donna Hamilton

Jim Kalwara

Emily Semenoff

Meri Willett

Laura Wright

PCC ISNI Pilot Project

Our Initial Project

Searching for and modifying as needed existing ISNI identifiers, and creating new ISNI identifiers for the faculty and organizations of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences



And yes, even Mickey has an ISNI!

shortlist	title data	search history	1
results	search [and] (Any Phrase (APH:))	mickey mouse	1 hits

labels	sources data	marc21
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Please help us improve this record

If you have any supplemental information about the identity listed here, please click in this box to go to the contribution form.

Thank you in advance!



ISNI: 0000 0003 5932 6542
Name: **Mickey Mouse**
Mickey Mouse (personnage fictif)
Micky Maus
Mickymaus
Mouse, Mickey
Related names: Disney, Walt (1901-1966; see also from)
Notes:
Sources: VIAF DNB SUDOC XA
BOWKA