

International Standard Book Number (ISBN)

By

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ISBN

- ✗ The **ISBN** is a numeric commercial book identifier which is intended to be unique.
- ✗ Publishers purchase ISBNs from an affiliate of the International ISBN Agency.
- ✗ An ISBN is assigned to each separate edition and variation (except re-printings) of a publication.
- ✗ For example, an e-book, a paperback and a hardcover edition of the same book will each have a different ISBN.
- ✗ The method of assigning an ISBN is nation-specific and varies between countries, often depending on how large the publishing industry is within a country.
- ✗ The initial ISBN identification format was devised in 1967, based upon the 9-digit **Standard Book Numbering (SBN)** created in 1966.
- ✗ The 10-digit ISBN format was developed by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and was published in 1970 as international standard ISO 2108 (the 9-digit SBN code can be converted to a 10-digit ISBN by prefixing it with a zero digit '0').

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- ✖ Since 1 January 2007, ISBNs have contained thirteen digits, a format that is compatible with "Bookland" European Article Number EAN-13.
- ✖ The ISBN identification format was conceived in 1967 in the United Kingdom by David Whitaker (regarded as the "Father of the ISBN") and in 1968 in the United States by Emery Koltay (who later became director of the U.S. ISBN agency R.R. Bowker).

FORMAT



- ✗ **EAN:** European Article Number (Bar code 978 - 979)
- ✗ **Group:** The country of origin or language area code
- ✗ **Publisher:** Information of publishers (the *registrant* element)
- ✗ **Title:** The item number (the *publication* element)
- ✗ **Check digit:** Character as check digit

PROCESS OF ISBNs

- ✗ ISBN issuance is country-specific, in that ISBNs are issued by the ISBN registration agency that is responsible for that country or territory regardless of the publication language. The ranges of ISBNs assigned to any particular country are based on the publishing profile of the country concerned, and so the ranges will vary depending on the number of books and the number, type, and size of publishers that are active.
- ✗ Some ISBN registration agencies are based in national libraries or within ministries of culture and thus may receive direct funding from government to support their services.
- ✗ In other cases, the ISBN registration service is provided by organisations such as bibliographic data providers that are not government funded.

MAJOR ISBN AGENCIES

- ✗ Australia – the commercial library services agency Thorpe-Bowker
- ✗ India – The Raja Rammohun Roy National Agency for ISBN (Book Promotion and Copyright Division), under Department of Higher Education, a constituent of the Ministry of Human Resource Development
- ✗ New Zealand – The National Library of New Zealand;
- ✗ Pakistan – National Library of Pakistan
- ✗ Philippines – National Library of the Philippines
- ✗ South Africa – National Library of South Africa
- ✗ United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland -*Nielsen Book Services Ltd*, part of Nielsen Holdings
- ✗ United States – [R.R. Bowker](#)

ISBN-13 CHECK DIGIT CALCULATION

- ✗ The ISBN-13 check digit, which is the last digit of the ISBN, must range from 0 to 9 and must be such that the sum of all the thirteen digits, each multiplied by its (integer) weight, alternating between 1 and 3, is a multiple of 10.
- ✗ The calculation of an ISBN-13 check digit begins with the first twelve digits of the 13-digit ISBN (thus excluding the check digit itself). Each digit, from left to right, is alternately multiplied by 1 or 3.
- ✗ Subtracted from 10, that leaves a result from 1 to 10.
- ✗ A zero (0) replaces a ten (10), so, in all cases, a single check digit results.

✖ For example, the ISBN-13 check digit of **978-0-306-40615-?** is calculated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} S &= \mathbf{9} \times 1 + \mathbf{7} \times 3 + \mathbf{8} \times 1 + 0 \times 3 + 3 \times 1 + 0 \times 3 + 6 \times 1 \\ &\quad + 4 \times 3 + 0 \times 1 + 6 \times 3 + 1 \times 1 + 5 \times 3 = 9 + 21 + \\ &\quad 8 + 0 + 3 + 0 + 6 + 12 + 0 + 18 + 1 + \\ &\quad 15 = 9393 / 10 = 9 \text{ remainder } 310 - 3 = 7 \end{aligned}$$

EISBN

- ✗ Only the term "ISBN" should be used; the terms "eISBN" and "e-ISBN" have historically been sources of confusion and should be avoided. If a book exists in one or more digital (e-book) formats, each of those formats must have its own ISBN.
- ✗ In other words, each of the three separate EPUB, Amazon Kindle, and PDF formats of a particular book will have its own specific ISBN. They should not share the ISBN of the paper version, and there is no generic "eISBN" which encompasses all the e-book formats for a title.

Thanks