

# History and experience of ISSN national centers in Latin America

## **Lillian Alvares**

Brazilian Science and Technology Information Institute (Ibict), Ministry of Science and Technology  
MCTI), Brasília, Brazil.  
E-mail: lillianalvares@ibict.br

## **Juliana Bueno**

ISSN Brazilian National Center, Brazilian Science and Technology Information Institute (Ibict), Brasília, Brazil.  
E-mail: juliana@ibict.br

## **Nathalie Cornic**

Deputy Head of the Data, Network and Standards Department, ISSN International Centre, Paris, France.  
E-mail: cornic@issn.org

## **Abstract**

This article presents an overview of the ISSN national centers in Latin America, the region of the Americas where mostly Latin derived languages are spoken, especially Spanish and Portuguese. The ISSN presence in the region is low. Only ten out of twenty countries have national centers. Bolivia, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and Peru resort to the international center to request support on obtaining the code. Of the countries which have a national center, five of them are in national libraries: Colombia, in the National Library of Colombia; Costa Rica, in the National Library of Costa Rica (La Biblioteca Nacional Miguel Obregón Lizano); Dominican Republic, in the Central Library of the Pedro Henríquez Ureña National University; Uruguay, in the National Library of Uruguay and Venezuela, in the National Library of Venezuela. The others are in public institutions connected to Science, Technology and Education like Argentina, in the Argentine Center of Scientific and Technological Information (CAICYT); Brazil, in the Brazilian Science and Technology Information Institute IBICT); Chile, in the National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICYT); Ecuador, in the Board of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation and Mexico, in the National Institute of Copyright.

**Keywords:** International Standard Serial Number (ISSN). Latin America. National libraries. Public institutions connected to Science, Technology and Education.

## ***História e experiência dos centros nacionais do ISSN na América Latina***

### **Resumo**

*Apresenta o panorama dos centros nacionais do ISSN na América Latina, região do continente americano que engloba os países onde são faladas línguas derivadas do latim, sobretudo, espanhol e português. A presença do ISSN na região é baixa. Dos 20 países, apenas 10 tem centros nacionais. Bolívia, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicarágua, Panamá, Paraguai e Peru recorrem ao Centro Internacional para solicitar apoio na obtenção do código.*

*Dos que têm, cinco estão nas bibliotecas nacionais: Colômbia, na Biblioteca Nacional de Colômbia; Costa Rica, na Biblioteca Nacional Miguel Obregón Lizano; República Dominicana, na Biblioteca Central de la Universidad Nacional Pedro Henríquez Ureña, no Uruguai, na Biblioteca Nacional del Uruguay e Venezuela, na Biblioteca Nacional de Venezuela. As demais estão em órgãos públicos ligados à ciência, tecnologia e educação como Argentina, no Centro Argentino de Información Científica y Tecnológica (Caicyt); Brasil, no Instituto Brasileiro de Informação em Ciência e Tecnologia (Ibict); Chile, na Comisión Nacional de Investigación Científica e Tecnológica (Conicyt); Ecuador, na Secretaría de Educación Superior, Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación e México, no Instituto Nacional del Derecho de Autor.*

**Palavras-chave:** *Número Internacional Normalizado para Publicações Seriadas (ISSN). América Latina. Bibliotecas nacionais. Órgãos públicos de educação, ciência e tecnologia.*

## **Historia y experiencia de los centros nacionales del ISSN en América Latina**

### **Resumen**

*Proporciona una visión general de los Centros Nacionales del ISSN en América Latina, la región de América que abarca los países donde se hablan especialmente las lenguas derivadas del latín: español y portugués. La presencia del ISSN en la región es baja. De los 20 países, sólo 10 tienen centros nacionales. Bolivia, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haití, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panamá, Paraguay y Perú recurren al Centro Internacional para solicitar ayuda para obtener el código. De los que cuentan con un centro, cuatro están en bibliotecas nacionales: Colombia, en su Biblioteca Nacional; Costa Rica, en la Biblioteca Nacional Miguel Obregón Lizano; República Dominicana, en la Biblioteca Central de la Universidad Nacional Pedro Henríquez Ureña, y Venezuela, en la Biblioteca Nacional de Venezuela. El resto se encuentra en los organismos públicos relacionados con la ciencia, la tecnología y la educación como Argentina, en el Centro Argentino de Información Científica y Tecnológica (CAICYT); Brasil, en el Instituto Brasileño de Información en Ciencia y Tecnología (Ibict); Chile, en la Comisión Nacional de Investigación Científica y Tecnológica (CONICYT); Ecuador, en la Secretaría de Educación Superior, Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación; México, en el Instituto Nacional del Derecho de Autor, y Uruguay, en el Centro Nacional de Documentación Científica, Técnica y Económica (CNDCTE).*

**Palabras clave:** *Número Internacional Normalizado para Publicaciones Seriadas (ISSN). América Latina. Bibliotecas nacionales. Órganos públicos de educación, ciencia y tecnología.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

This paper presents an overview of the national International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) centers in Latin America. The term Latin America does not refer only to the spoken language, as it evolved and designates a set of cultural, ethnical, political, social and economic characteristics of the region.

The region comprises almost all of the countries of South and Central America, with the exception of the South American countries Guyana and Surinam, and the Central American Belize. From North America, only Mexico is considered a part of the group. Therefore, the Latin American countries are Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Figure 1 - Linguistic divide in the Americas



Figure 2 - Political and geographical division of Latin America



## A SMALL PART OF THE ISSN NETWORK

The ISSN presence is low. Of the 20 countries, only ten have national centers, five being hosted by national libraries: Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Uruguay. The other centers are hosted by public institutions linked to science, technology and education, such as Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador and Mexico.

## A HETEROGENEOUS ACTIVITY AMONG THE 10 NATIONAL CENTERS

The majority of national centers were created in the 70's, Brazil's being the oldest, created in 1975, and Costa Rica's the youngest, in 1995. Brazil's Center

Table 1 – Comparativetable of assignment number

Country	Assignments [Absolute Value]	Assignments [%] <sup>1</sup>	Country
Brazil	39,153	41.89	Brazil
Argentina	15,967	17.08	Mexico
Colombia	14,845	15.88	Colombia
Mexico	4,737	5.07	Argentina
Venezuela	4,485	4.80	Venezuela
Uruguay	3,273	3.50	Peru
Chile	2,930	3.13	Chile
Peru <sup>2</sup>	2,128	2.28	Ecuador
Cuba	1,363	1.46	Guatemala
Costa Rica	1,262	1.35	Cuba
Ecuador	1,068	1.14	Bolivia
Panama	492	0.53	Dominican Republic
Bolivia	393	0.42	Haiti
Dominican Republic	299	0.32	Honduras
El Salvador	246	0.26	Paraguay
Paraguay	232	0.25	El Salvador
Guatemala	204	0.22	Nicaragua
Nicaragua	167	0.18	Costa Rica
Haiti	147	0.16	Panama
Honduras	84	0.09	Uruguay

Source: From the authors, based on data from the ISSN Portal (2015)

<sup>1</sup> Continent's total

<sup>2</sup> In italic, countries without national centers.

is the most active, with assignments corresponding to nearly 40% of ISSN in Latin America, followed by Argentina (17.08%) and Colombia (15.88%). A second group can be observed, with ISSN assignment between 1% and 5% of the continent's total. Finally, the last group, with a percentage of assignment is less than 1%.

Before bringing the experiences in Latin America, a briefing on the type of resources is presented: serial publications - Publications issued over time with no predetermined conclusion and made available to the public<sup>1</sup>. The media is not important, as they may be published in print, electronic or digital media, among others. If a serial publication is published in more than one media, an ISSN number is required for each format in which it is published.

The types of resources include scholarly journals, magazines, newspapers, yearbooks (such as book of the year, yearly reports and directories), conference proceedings, and monographic series. Serials are republished as issues with numerical or chronological designation, in predetermined intervals (frequency), for undetermined period, with the collaboration of several people, dealing with a multitude of subjects, within a defined editorial policy.

## METHODOLOGY

The data was collected within the Latin America ISSN national centers portal, a questionnaire sent directly to each National Center Director (Appendix 1), and a registration form accessible from the ISSN International Center website. An inferential

statistical analysis was adopted to identify the relationship between variables that represented or not cause and effect relations. From descriptive statistics, data collection was obtained from the questionnaire, the organization and presentation of data. The main information collected was about hosting institutions, ISSN centers history, staffing, and bibliographic practices. The statistics are issued from the ISSN register, and the numbers of ISSN assignments are an average on the last 3 years (2011 to 2013) Also, a superficial analysis of the national center headquarters institution and of the country was introduced, revealing some **similarities and differences** in specific national center groups.

## ISSN CENTERS IN NATIONAL LIBRARIES

### COLOMBIA

The Colombian National Library, placed under the Ministry of Culture, has been responsible for ISSN assignment in the country since 2012. From 1976 to 2011, the responsibility was of the Colombian Institute for Education Evaluation (ICFES), under the Ministry of Education of said country, which was also responsible for evaluation services of education in all levels. In particular, it supports the National Ministry of Education in the research about factors affecting the quality of education, providing pertinent and timely information to contribute to learning improvement.

Founded in January 9<sup>th</sup>, 1777, the Library was the first public library of the American Continent. Its inaugural collection belonged to the Jesuit priests, expelled from Spain by Carlos III, in 1767. In 1822, it incorporated the library that belonged to the "Royal Botanical Expedition to New Granada"

<sup>1</sup> ISSN manual glossary section 0.1 [viewed 11 June 2015]. Available from: <http://www.issn.org/understanding-the-issn/assignment-rules/issn-manual/>

(1783 to 1816), part of the scientific expeditions launched to the New World in search of knowledge during the XVIII century. It is worthy of highlight the greatness of this archival-scientific collection, composed of nearly 3,000 scientific illustrations of local flora (RUEDA, 2015).

Since 1834, it has held the duty to receive a copy of every printed document published in the country, result from the Legal Deposit Law, enacted by Congress in March 25 1834. With this policy, the National Library becomes the institution delegated to the custody of the bibliographic and serials heritage in any physical support. According to its mission statement, it is also the national entity responsible for the planning and policymaking related to readership and public libraries. Today, it is responsible for the preservation and cataloguing of bibliographic and documentary heritage, making it available to researchers, scholars and the general public (BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL DE COLOMBIA, 2015).

In the National Library, 1,030 ISSN requests per year are handled, based on the average of the last three years. The query can be performed electronically, by phone or in person. With the same dedication, events are organized to disseminate the importance of the ISSN in order to control and monitor the serials editorial activities. Thus, such initiative generates the promotion and use of the ISSN number in the country. For this, it has only one employee with degree in librarianship. It has contact with the national GS1 agency, in order to facilitate the use of the barcode identifier sent to the publishers. To formalize the request, the publisher sends a registration form, the masthead or the title page.

The Colombian ISSN center mostly indentifies scholarly serial publications, published by the Colombian Science and Technology Institute for Development (Colciencias). It uses a commercial Library Management System, with MARC 21 format, to create the ISSN record. The cataloguing rule is the AACR2. The library cooperation is impulse by the National Public Library Network, with cooperative cataloguing initiatives.

The Colombian ISSN center is ranked third in Latin America in terms of ISSN assignments, as Table 1 shows. Specifically, the types of media are presented as: print (14.059),online (733),CD (43)in a total of 14.845 assignments (INTERNACIONAL STANDARD SERIAL NUMBER, 2015).

### **COSTA RICA**

Costa Rica's National ISSN Center is located at the Miguel Obregon Lizano National Library, founded in 1888. At first, it was under the Ministry of Public Education, but, since 1971, it went on to the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports. It is responsible for gathering all the published documental heritage of the country, as well as documents published about Costa Rica abroad. It seeks to possess in its collection the most representative works on universal knowledge. By the end 1990, due to the great Black Rocks Earthquake and reinforced by the following year's Limón Earthquake, the Library was closed for almost two years. The structural damage was repaired and it reopened in 1992.

The National Library coordinates the National Library System (Sinabi), a network of libraries spread across the country, consisting of the National Library, the Network of Public Libraries,

the National Audio Library and the Mobile Library. The Sinabi also manages the National ISBN Agency and publishes the national collective catalogue. Its mission is to promote social and cultural development to strengthen a plural and democratic society; promoting the awareness, education, culture, recreation and diffusion of local and national memory through access to resources, services and information technology (BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL MIGUEL OBREGON LIZANO, 2015).

The ISSN National Center of Costa Rica was created in February 16 1995, and is ranked 10<sup>th</sup> in terms of ISSN assignments in the region, as Table 1 shows. It is the youngest ISSN Center in the American continent, with an average of 50 assignments per year. To accomplish this, it has two employees, one being a librarian. It uses the ISSN International Center Virtua Client, is in contact with the GS1 of the country and provides the barcode to applicants.

The use of ISSN in this country is connected to legal deposit and, because of this, all publication that requests an ISSN must deposit two copies in the respective technical unit of the Library National System. By the way, the legal deposit in Costa Rica follows the Press Act, specifically in relation to the requirement that all print publication be sent to the upper management of the respective institution, within 24 hours of the beginning of circulation of the publication, both cited copies and follows at the same time the Intellectual Property Act, specifically in relation to the fact that any company or individual, private or public, responsible for producing a work in any media, must deposit, in eight days, one copy of the work in the designated locations by Law.

It is important to note that in 2014 the official paper “State of the Nation in Sustainable Human Development” (“Estado de la Nación en Desarrollo Humano Sostenible”) was published, about the cultural production in Costa Rica, with ISSN and ISBN registration records. With the same relevance, the project “La Cuenta Satélite de Costa Rica” can be cited, a publication from the Ministry of Culture and Youth, that presented the first results of the country’s cultural measurement, in the editorial, audiovisual and advertising industries, in the years 2010-2012. In this document, the editorial was produced using the same records.

In detail, follow the ISSN assignments in Costa Rica by type of media: print (1.109), online (143) with 1,262 total assignments (INTERNACIONAL STANDARD SERIAL NUMBER, 2015).

## **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

Dominican Republic’s ISSN National Center is located at the Central Library of Pedro Henríquez Ureña National University (UNPHU), the library being founded in 1966, a few months after the University itself. It is considered one of the most important libraries in the country, both in volume and quality of its collection. In addition to products and services to the university community, it serves society as a whole, through the use of new information technologies. Its collection is divided in General Collection, Reserve, Reference, Dominican Collection, Theses Collection and Serials Collection.

The Library has a strong political presence, not just in its country, but also in all of the Caribbean region, being a member of the Association of Caribbean University, Research and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL), of the Association of Dominican

University Libraries (Abud) and of the Advisory Committee of Dominican Republic's Virtual Library in Health.

The ISSN Center of this country was created in 2010, but it is still not operational. In detail, the ISSN assignments in the Dominican Republic are of the following types of media: print (244), online (54), out of a total of 299 assignments (INTERNACIONAL STANDARD SERIAL NUMBER, 2015).

## **URUGUAY**

Uruguay's National ISSN Center is hosted by the National Center for Scientific, Technological and Economical Documentation (CNDCTE), under the National Library of Uruguay, since 1983. The negotiations, however, began much earlier, in 1975. The CNDCTE was created in 1853, after successive deals between Uruguay and Unesco, in order to develop and provide bibliographic and institutional references in fields of science, technology and economy. Besides the ISSN, the Center is responsible for two other databases essential to the information and documentation services in the country: the National Collective Catalogue of Serial Publications, which includes approximately 11,000 national and international journal titles from private and public institutions, and Uruguay's Directory of Information and Documentation Services, that has published five issues so far and contains 325 units of information (BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL DEL URUGUAY, 2015).

The National Center assigns an average of 347 ISSN numbers per year, has one full-time employee, but has two librarians supporting the activities. The use of ISSN is not mandatory, but most journals of scholarly and research institutions are published with an ISSN.

In detail, the ISSN assignments in Uruguay have the following types of media: print (2.769), online (471), CD (26), in a total of 3,273 assignments (INTERNACIONAL STANDARD SERIAL NUMBER, 2015).

## **VENEZUELA**

In Venezuela, the ISSN National Center is hosted by the National Library of Venezuela, created in 1833 and since 1977 under the Ministry of Culture. Its mission is to be the deposit center for the bibliographical and non-bibliographical archive of the country and, thus, creator and administrator of the audiovisual, serials, cartographical archives and, as a consequence, to also be the National Preservation Center. It manages the National System of Libraries and Humanities, Science and Technology Information, as well as the National Public Libraries System (BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL DE VENEZUELA, 2015).

ISSN begun in February 7 1988 and is ranked fifth in assignments in Latin America, with 4,597 numbers granted. The average assignments per year is 78, based on the last three years, with two employees, one being a librarian. The country does not have a GS1 and the Center does not inform users about the use of barcodes. The main perception of the benefits of the ISSN is for commercial and international identification purposes. It uses the AACR2 rules and MARC 21 format for cataloguing.

In detail, the ISSN assignments in Venezuela have the following types of media: print (4.464), online (21), in a total of 4,485 assignments (INTERNACIONAL STANDARD SERIAL NUMBER, 2015).

## **ISSN CENTERS IN PUBLIC AGENCIES OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND EDUCATION**

### **ARGENTINA**

The ISSN National Center of Argentina, created in 1976, is hosted by the Science and Technology Information Center of Argentina (Caicyt), a unit of the National Science and Technical Research Council (Conicet). Caicyt had its origins in the Library and Bibliographical Information Division, operational until 1962 when it was replaced by the Scientific Documentation Center and later on by the current Caicyt. This information center leads innovation in scientific documentation in Argentina, both in the dissemination and adaptation of information processing and retrieval. Historically, it hosted many working groups about terminology, formats and database query, among others, which had a great influence in the field of information science in the 1980's. Then, it expanded its activities to scientific publishing, and Caicyt has been working for many years on consultancy and continuous education, contributing to quality assurance of scientific and technical publishing. After a long history as an Information Services Center, it is today also a Research Center (CENTRO ARGENTINO DE INFORMACIÓN CIENTÍFICA Y TECNOLÓGICA, 2015).

The ISSN National Center has an average of 690 assignments per year, and is the second most active in Latin America. The staff includes the Director of Caicyt, the head of the Latindex System and of the Argentina's Scientific Journals Basic Core and two collaborators, both with library formation.

In relation to the ISSN and legal deposit in the country, it is worthy of note that intellectual property registration is performed by the National Office of Author's Rights of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights of Argentina. The 11.723 Act on intellectual property establishes, in its article 57, that all editors are compelled to legally deposit any work that has been published, being one hardcopy for issues with a print run of less than 100 copies and four hardcopies for issues with a printing runover that number. The deposited copies are destined to the National Library, the Library of Congress, the General Archive of the Nation and the National Office of Author's Rights.

The Center offers courses to scientific publishers and librarians in general and special training to answer the requests of Science and Technology organizations. ISSN are mainly used in the country in Conicet projects, in international systems like Latindex and Scielo, in the Argentina's Serial Publications Collective Catalogue, in the Archive of the National Library, in the National Bibliography of Registered Serial Publications (Binpar). Its use is planned to be implemented soon as an identifier in institutional repositories. With less frequency, it also assigns for the Journal Distribution Center of Buenos Aires and for journals that request subsidy for projects in culture, arts and sciences of the Buenos Aires' City Government. Eventually, ISSN information is used in case of journals involved in trials, about intellectual property issues and plagiarism, among other themes that involve serial publications.

It is in direct contact with the GS1 National Center and informs editors about the use of barcodes.



The library management system used is an internal development and uses the Virtua Client with MARC 21 format for cataloguing.

The ISSN assignments in Argentina are of the following media types: print (13.778), online (1.712), CD (290), multiple media (92), specific media (31), diskette (21), tape cartridge (16), computer other (14), out of a total of 15.967 assignments (INTERNACIONAL STANDARD SERIAL NUMBER, 2015).

## **BRAZIL**

The Brazilian Science and Technology Information Institute (Ibict) has been performing the activities of the National Center of the ISSN Network since 1975, but only in 1980 the understanding became formal through an agreement signed with the ISSN International Center. Ibict's history dates back to the early 1950's, when Unesco suggested the creation in the country of a national bibliographic center. By that time, the National Research Council (CNPq) was also being created and had among its assignments maintaining the relationship with national and international institutions for the exchange of science and technical documentation. Then, in February 27th 1954, The Brazilian Bibliography and Documentation Institute (IBBD) was created, which became a part of the organizational structure of CNPq (INSTITUTO BRASILEIRO DE INFORMAÇÃO EM CIÊNCIA E TECNOLOGIA, 2015).

The 1970's were marked by a reorganization of science and technology activities in the country, such as the transformation of CNPq itself into the National Council for Scientific and Technological

Development, expanding its area of activity. In the same manner as CNPq, IBBB undergoes a transformation, including the change of its name to Brazilian Science and Technology Information Institute (IBICT), consolidating its position as the institution that would manage the activities of information in Science and Technology.

The National Center assigns an average of 6,386 per year, being the most expressive ISSN center in Latin America. Besides three full-time employees, the Center has the participation of two more institutional leaders in the day-to-day discussions of strategic, tactical and operational levels. Despite informing editors about the use of barcodes, it does not keep contact with the national GS1. It uses the Virtua Client to create ISSN records.

Besides the usual advantages, users request ISSN assignment for their publications in search of an international parameter for scientific journal quality control, as well as an indexing criterion in national and international databases. The Center participates in national collective cataloguing programs, through the National Collective Catalogue (CCN) and the Bibliodata Collective Catalogue Network.

The ISSN assignment happens by request and submission of necessary documentation to the Brazilian Center: request form and proper predefined documentation, according to the type of publication (print, CD-ROM, online). The ISSN assignments in Brazil have the following media types: print (28.600), online (6.811), CD (3.702) out of a total of 39,153 assignments (INTERNACIONAL STANDARD SERIAL NUMBER, 2015).

## **CHILE**

The Scientific Information Program of the National Scientific and Technological Research Committee (Conicyt) of Chile is, since 1982, the National Center of the ISSN Network in the country. Under the Ministry of Education, the Committee was created in 1967 as an advisory body to the Presidency, on scientific development matters. It focuses on two major goals: promoting the human resources and strengthening the scientific and technological basis of the country. For over 40 years, Conicyt has been present in each of the support initiatives to strengthen Science and Technology in Chile, driving its efforts to the main goal of contributing to the economic, social and cultural progress of the country (COMISSÃO NACIONAL DE INVESTIGAÇÃO CIENTÍFICA E TECNOLÓGICA, 2015).

Currently, human resources fostering results in the promotion of an integral policy in training, integration and securing high-level researchers and professionals, as well as the fostering of a scientific culture throughout its society. The strengthening and development of the technological basis, on the other hand, implies in an active policy of fostering scientific research and technological development in all regions of the country, in individual and associative levels, and among beginning and established researchers, support to research centers of excellence, promotion of partnerships between scientific research and productive sectors, and fostering of research in priority areas of public interest.

ISSN in Chile began effectively in 1971, from the direct relationship with the International Center. With the designation of the National

Center in 1982, the later kept the ISSN Network objective, establishing the universal record for serial publications in all disciplines, containing the necessary data for identification and bibliographic control, according to international standards.

In fact, each serial publication published in Chile is expected to be assigned an ISSN number. Thus, magazines, newspapers, yearbooks, newsletters, reports, institutional records, regardless of their publication format and, especially in the field of Science, Technology and Education, must receive a number. The National Center, effectively, has developed many initiatives to expand the coverage, streamline processes and provide better services.

Until 2003, the registration was performed in the Osiris Database, and national information was sent manually to the International Center. From 2004, however, Chile joins the Virtua system for the registration of publications. This change allowed displaying records online in real time, when assigning the ISSN numbers. Nonetheless, the progress involved significant team efforts: changes in the execution process, training and development of verification and maintenance tasks to assure quality of the records.

The ISSN assignments in Chile have the following media types: print (2.371), online (549), out of a total of 2,930 assignments (INTERNACIONAL STANDARD SERIAL NUMBER, 2015).

## **ECUADOR**

The ISSN National Center has its headquarters in the Secretary of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (Senescyt), which seeks to ensure the implementation of principles governing higher

education, promote scientific research, technological innovation and ancestral knowledge. Its missions focus on the improvement of skills and potential of citizenship, and is characterized by the efficient and effective use of the resources it manages, its results being the seeds for the country's development (SECRETARÍA DE EDUCACIÓN SUPERIOR, CIENCIA E TECNOLOGÍA, 2015).

Created in January 18 1994, it is the youngest ISSN Center in the continent, with an average of 60 assignments per year. It has no full-time employee, but has one librarian supporting the activities. The uniqueness of the ISSN in the country is that it can be assigned to any serial publication, provided its use is not detrimental to society. Aside this characteristic, the ISSN in Ecuador is the main evaluation criterion of Latindex journals. The cataloguing is based on MARC 21 format and the center uses the Virtua Client for cataloguing.

The ISSN assignments in Ecuador have the following media types: print (887), large print (105), online (70), out of a total of 1,068 assignments (INTERNACIONAL STANDARD SERIAL NUMBER, 2015).

## **MEXICO**

In 1979, Mexico joined the International ISSN Network. The first headquarters of the National center were at the National Science and Technology Council (Conacyt), followed by the General Office of Author's Rights in 1996, currently called the National Institute of Copyright (Indautor), under the Ministry of Education.

Indautor is a decentralized body under the Sub Secretary of Higher Education of the Ministry

of Public Education, in charge of protecting and promoting author's rights, creativity, controlling and managing copyright public records, keeping updated the national cultural heritage and promoting international cooperation with institutions responsible for the record and protection of copyright. (INSTITUTO NACIONAL DEL DERECHO DE AUTOR, 2015).

Currently, Mexico's ISSN National Center has a team of seven people, to deal with ISSN as well as ISBN. Following a reorganization of the National Center in 2011, Mexico developed and implemented an online system allowing users to make their requests electronically. Since the beginning of the deployment of the system, the Center has been able to perform training and outreach Mexican publishers, events and forums dedicated to meet the demands about scientific publications from Conacyt, Redalyc and Latindex, among others. the staff was trained by the International Center, with a focus on all the Virtua modules, ISSN assignment rules and practical use cases.

An average of 150 numbers are assigned per year, with the Virtua Client and MARC 21 format. The Technical Secretary of the Review, Publication and Print Media Committee (Segob), demands an ISSN record for all serial print publications for the legality of the title and its content, without which distribution of the print publications is not allowed.

Due to the above resolution, it is highlighted that Conacyt and Latindex require the ISSN number to index all scientific publications and the major selling points require both the ISSN as well as the barcode. On this last aspect, it is noteworthy that even without a GS1 National Center in the country,

the ISSN National Center not only informs about how to obtain, but also effectively provides the barcode for the editor.

The ISSN assignments in Mexico have the following media types: print (4.146), online (572), out of a total of 4,737 assignments (INTERNACIONAL STANDARD SERIAL NUMBER, 2015).

## CONCLUSION

The 20 countries that comprise the Latin American region are part of the identifying effort of serial publications of the ISSN Network. Half of these countries do not have any National Center, and publishers submit their assignment requests directly to the International Center. The others host their national center's headquarters in national libraries or public bodies related to Science, Technology and Education. Of these, one is in deployment stage.

The Brazilian ISSN National Center is in the spotlight of the scenario as the oldest and most active of the regions, with an average of 6,386 assignments per year. Comparatively, in all the ISSN Network, it ranked 12<sup>th</sup> in 2014 in terms of assignments.

It can be observed that there are three distinct groups: the first group is comprised of Brazil, Argentina and Colombia, the eldest, was created in the mid 1970's and with the most expressive number assignments in the region. The second, with an ISSN assignment between 1% and 5% of the continent's total and the last group has a percentage of less than 1% of assignments.

The information gathered from each National Center, with effect, make it clear that the initiatives

prosper and keep growing, as the main advantages are easily perceived, with the distinction between serial publications with the same name or similar titles, the precision of communication as in purchase orders and database queries, for example, the disambiguation between publishers, supplier and buyers in catalogues, directories, inventory and bibliography, its wide use in data organization and recovery, metadata processing and the participation on the ISSN International Network for experience exchange related to ISSN assignments such as collective cataloguing, library management systems, GS1 National Centers, ROAD resources and ISO standards of interest.

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## APPENDIX 1 – QUESTIONNAIRE

---

Country name

---

Name of the hosting institution

---

Type of hosting institution

---

Creation date of your centre

---

Average number of ISSN assigned per year (over the last three years)

---

Number of staff members (FTE) in your national centre

---

How many are professional librarians

---

Is there a legal deposit for continuing resources in your country

---

Is your hosting institution in charge of the legal deposit

---

Have you established procedures for assigning ISSN to all the continuing resources collected via the legal deposit

---

Comments about ISSN and legal deposit in your country

---

ISSN centres and GS1 national agencies

---

ISSN and barcodes: information provided to publishers

---

Uses of the ISSN in your country

---

Do you use a LMS (library management system) for creating ISSN records

---

If so, what is the encoding format of your LMS

---

Which cataloguing standard is used by you (or your hosting institution) apart from the ISSN manual

---

Does your institution intend to adopt RDA in the coming years

---

Does your centre participate in a program for cooperative cataloguing

---

Name of the program for cooperative cataloguing

---

How do you generate the files of records you send to the IC

---

Encoding format of the records you send to the IC

---

Procedure for sending the records to the IC

---

Frequency of the sendings to the IC

---

Are you interested in using the Virtua Client

---

Does your hosting institution use its own library management system alongside with Virtua

---

Uses of Virtua and of the library management system (LMS) of your hosting institution

---

Can publishers submit ISSN assignments requests to your centre through a webform

---

ISSN and pre-publications: which types of documents do you request from publishers for assigning ISSN

---

Do you face problems with “questionable publishers”

---

Do you make some checkings in case of doubts about the publisher (“questionable scholarly publisher”)

---

Do you exclude some categories of continuing resources from ISSN assignment

---

If so, please explain why and provide a list of categories of continuing resources excluded from ISSN assignment

---

Do you process ABES requests

---

If you don't, please explain why

---

Do you participate in the core resources campaigns

---

If you don't, please explain why

---

Have you started to code road resources, have you identified a project in your institution / country enabling you to benefit from the semi-automatic assignment procedure

---

If so, please provide additional information regarding the project you have identified

---

Please provide here any comments or suggestions you want to share with the international centre and indicate your name and your position

---