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CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF ISBN

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- **History of ISBN** (International Standard Book Number):

In 1965-66, Great Britain, there was book retailer named W. H. Smith, he wanted to move to a computerized warehouse in 1967 and so he developed a standard numbering system for books. In this way the Standard Book Numbering (SBN) system was initiated in 1966 and it implemented in 1967. The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Technical Committee on Documentation (TC 46) was investigating the possibility of adapting the British SBN for international use. So a meeting was organized in 1968 at London and report of this meeting was sent to all ISO member nations. As a result, the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) was formulated as an ISO standard in 1970, and declared ISO 2108. Today the ISBN Agencies around the world are monitored by the International ISBN Agency, at national level an agency is allotted to generate and distribute ISBN number to publishers and self publishers. The administration of ISBN system is done at three levels: International level, National level and Publisher level. The URL of headquarter is <https://www.isbn-international.org>. The information about national ISBN agencies country wise is available at <https://www.isbn-international.org/agencies>.

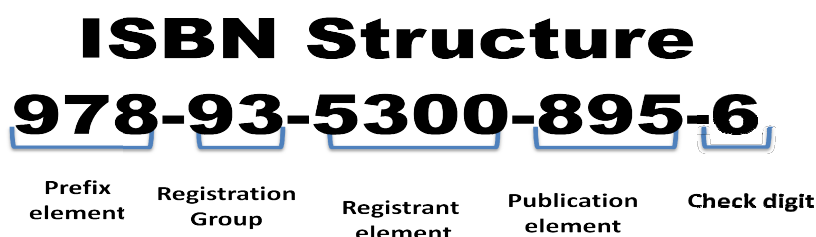
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- **Definition:**

In simple terminology, the ISBN- International Standard Book Number is unique number assigned to textual documents consists of 10 or 13 digits (Since 1st January 2007 it contains 13 digits) to identify textual documents. It is based on ISO 2108:2017. Today more than 166 nations are ISBN members. In India, the Raja Ram Mohan Roy ISBN Agency (RRRNA), Dept. of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India is working centrally to distribute ISBN number for Indian textual documents. Every book has unique ISBN number.

- **Structure of ISBN:**

Since January 2007, national ISBN registration agencies provide ISBNs that consist of 13 digits; each ISBN comprises of 5 components with each area being isolated by spaces or hyphens:



1. **Prefix element:** The First component of the ISBN is a three-digit number that is made accessible by GS1, formerly, presently this must be either 978 or 979.
2. **Registrant element:** this recognizes the specific nation, topographical locale, or language territory taking an interest in the ISBN framework. This component might be somewhere in the range of 1 and 5 digits long.
3. **Registrant element:** The third component of the ISBN distinguishes a specific publisher or imprint inside an enrolment group. The length of this component differs in direct relationship to the foreseen yield of the publisher and may contain up to 7 digits publishers with the biggest expected title yields are appointed the most brief registrant components and the other way around.
4. **Publication element:** this identifies the particular edition and format of a specific title. This may be up to 6 digits in length

5. **Check digit:** this is always the final single digit that mathematically validates the rest of the number. It is calculated using a Modulus 10 system with alternate weights of 1 and 3.

- **Benefits of ISBN:**

1. It serves as a unique international identifier and avoids lengthy bibliographic descriptions.
2. It is machine readable in the form of 13 digits EAN (International Article Numbering Association) barcode.
3. It makes arrangement of books, selling and distribution process fast for suppliers/ publishers/ distributors and possibility of error is less.
4. It differentiates books and editions clearly. If editions of same book are connected conceptually, for different editions/ volumes same ISBN number is given. In case if editions/ volumes varies from each other, different ISBN number will be allotted to entire set of books.
5. For electronic sale system, it is basic requirement.
6. It helps to form publishing and supply chain system.
7. If lending right is based upon the ISBN, the authors will receive payment proportionate to the number of times their books are lent out by public libraries.
8. Due to ISBN, the procedure of ordering and distribution of books became fast and efficient.
9. Compilation of book trade directories is possible.

- **Procedure to get ISBN in India:**

It is not mandatory to assign ISBN number to the books; however in the age of internet and from better selling/ distribution point of view, it is desirable. There are following steps to get ISBN numbers:

- The publisher should register on the website of the national ISBN agency; RRRNA is working as a national ISBN agency in India. The URL is <http://isbn.gov.in>
- Select New Applicant Registration.

- Choose any one category of applicants: Publisher, Author or Seminar and fill the complete form. It is mandatory to fill information about the name of proprietor or director or author, E mail ID, Address with pin code, Aadhaar card or address proof bearing photo, Contact No. and nationality etc.
- Once registration procedure is done, the password is generated with user name and sent via registered email Id.
- Then select Applicant Login and fill the information about user name, password and type security code given carefully in order to login, users are advised to change the password after login.
- After login to the system, select Apply for the New Application link. The applicant is required to fill this form, save it and submit.
- The status of your application pending, approved or rejected will be shown.
- The status of the ISBN numbers can be seen by clicking new book details.

References:

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