

010 INTERNATIONAL STANDARD BOOK NUMBER (ISBN)

Field Definition and Scope

This field contains an International Standard Book Number and a qualification which distinguishes between ISBNs when more than one is contained in a record. The field corresponds to the ISBD Resource Identifier and Terms of Availability Area. The field may contain the terms of availability and/or price, even if it does not contain an ISBN.

Repeatable when more than one valid ISBN etc. is to be recorded. If it is desired to make links between a 13-digit and a 10-digit ISBN, \$6 subfields can be used in each 010 field.

Subfields & Occurrence

Field/Subfield	Field/Subfield Name	Repeatability	Occurrence
010	INTERNATIONAL STANDARD BOOK NUMBER	R	O
a	Number (ISBN)	NR	O
b	Qualification	R	O
d	Terms of Availability and/or Price	NR	O
z	Erroneous ISBN	R	O
6	Interfield Linking Data	R	O

Indicators

Indicator	Value	Description
1	#	blank (not defined)
2	#	blank (not defined)

Subfields Description

\$a Number (ISBN)

A correctly applied ISBN including hyphens. The ISBN are assigned by the designated agency in each country. Not repeatable.

\$b Qualification

An indication of the scope of the ISBN in subfield \$a (if present), usually the name of a publisher, an indication of the binding of the resource, or an indication of the relationship of an ISBN to a set or to a particular volume. ([EX 3](#), [5](#), [6](#), [7](#)). Repeatable.

\$d Terms of Availability and/or Price

The price of the resource and any comment on its availability ([EX 1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#), [8](#)). Not repeatable.

\$z Erroneous ISBN

An ISBN that has been identified as being erroneously applied to the resource or is otherwise invalid. It may have been allocated to two different publications and in this instance cancelled ([EX 8](#)), or it may have been incorrectly printed ([EX 9](#)). Repeatable.

\$6 Interfield Linking Data

This subfield contains information allowing the field to be linked for processing purposes to other fields in the record. (See section 3.13 Interfield Linking Data, 3 Format structure).

Notes on Field Contents

ISBN structure:

From 1 January 2007, national ISBN agencies are providing only ISBNs that consist of 13 digits, comprising the following elements:

- Prefix element
- Registration group element
- Registrant element
- Publication element
- Check digit

When printed, the ISBN is always preceded by the letters “ISBN”. In field 010, these are generated automatically from a UNIMARC record and should not be entered into the text whether the agency uses Latin or local script for this abbreviation. The ISBN is divided into 5 elements, 3 of them of variable length. The elements must each be separated clearly by hyphens when displayed in human readable form: it is recommended hyphens be used in UNIMARC records. The first and last elements are of fixed length. The number of digits varies in the second, third and fourth elements of the ISBN. The length of the registration group element and of the registrant element is relative to the expected publishing output of the registration group or registrant. When these elements are short in length it indicates that the output is expected to be large.

Prefix element: The first element of the ISBN is a 3-digit number that is made available by EAN International. Currently two prefixes are used 978 and 979.

Registration Group element: The second element of the ISBN identifies the country, geographical region or language area in the ISBN system. Some members in the ISBN system form language areas (e.g. registration group number 3 is the German language group); others form regional groups (e.g. registration group number 982 is South Pacific). The length of the element varies between 1 and 5 digits.

Registrant element: The third element of the ISBN identifies a particular publisher or imprint within a registration group. The length of this element varies in relation to the anticipated output of the publisher concerned and varies between 2 and 7 digits.

Publication element: The fourth element of the ISBN identifies a specific edition of a publication by a specific publisher. The length of this element varies in relation to the length of the registration group and registrant elements which precede it and varies between 1 and 6 digits. To ensure the correct length of ISBN is maintained, the number is filled with leading zeroes.

Check digit: The fifth element of the ISBN is the check digit. This is calculated using a modulus 10 algorithm. Each of the first 12 digits of the ISBN is alternately multiplied by 1 and 3. The check digit is equal to 10 minus the remainder resulting from dividing the sum of the weighted products of the first 12 digits by 10 with one exception: if the calculation results in a remainder of 10 the check digit is 0. Here is a sample calculation for the ISBN 978-0-11-000222-?.

Step 1: determine the sum of the weighted products for the first 12 digits of the ISBN according to the table below.

	Prefix			Registration Group		Registrant			Publication				Check Digit	Sum
ISBN	9	7	8	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	2	2	?	
Weight	1	3	1	3	1	3	1	3	1	3	1	3		
Product	9	21	8	0	1	3	0	0	0	6	2	6		56

Step 2: Divide the sum of the weighted products by 10: $56 / 10 = 5$ remainder 6.

Step 3: Subtract the remainder calculated in step 2 from 10. This is the check digit (unless the remainder is 10 in which case the check digit is 0). In the example, $10 - 6 = 4$, so the result is ISBN 978-0-11-222-4.

The 10-digit ISBN, no longer applied to new resources consists of four distinct parts, each of which is separated by a hyphen or space. Hyphens are recommended in UNIMARC.

For the sake of completeness, the description of the 10-digit ISBN follows.

The four parts are:

Group identifier: Allocated to each country or group of countries or language groups by the International ISBN Agency. International organizations, e.g., the UN, also have their own group identifier.

Publisher identifier: Allocated to each publisher by a National or Regional ISBN Agency.

Title identifier: Allocated to each title (and each edition and format of each title) by the publisher.

Check digit: calculated using a modulus 11 algorithm.

All digits of the ISBN are numeric except the check digit which may be numeric or a roman numeral X (capital X, representing a numeric value of 10). ISO 2108 gives the standard specifications of the form of the ISBN.

Verification of check digit:

To check for accuracy of a ten-digit ISBN: take each digit and multiply by a number whose value depends on the position of the digit (the “weight”), add the results and divide by 11. If the remainder is not zero then one or more of the digits is wrong. Using [EX 9](#) as an example:

ISBN	0	1	1	8	8	4	0	9	4	X (i.e. 10)
'Weight'	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Result	0	9	8	56	48	20	0	27	8	10 -- total 186

186 is not exactly divisible by 11, so the ISBN is incorrect.

Data format:

The letters ISBN, which are usually found printed with an ISBN on the resource, should not be entered in field 010.

Any ISBN which is found to be wrongly printed on the resource can be entered in subfield \$z, Erroneous ISBN, which is provided to give access to records that may have been requested by an erroneous number appearing on the resource.

Hyphens are inserted to separate the distinct parts of the number in the \$a or \$z subfield. No other punctuation is permitted. The purpose of the hyphens in the ISBN is to separate the distinct parts. When an ISBN is displayed in a catalogue entry the inclusion of the hyphens is mandatory. Many national agencies do not store the hyphens in the machine-readable record since they can be generated by algorithm if the range of publisher identifiers which have been allocated is known. When records are exchanged internationally the recipient of records may not always know the range of publisher identifiers allocated within the group represented by the first part of the ISBN. Therefore, it is recommended that hyphens always be included in the ISBN in field 010 to ensure their display on output.

Strictly, each book has one ISBN. However, there are circumstances in which a single record may need to include more than one ISBN, depending on the policy of the cataloguing agency. Examples of situations in which multiple ISBN might appear in a record are: where a publisher issues a resource in more than one binding or physical format, each with a different ISBN, and a single record is created by the agency encompassing more than one of these “editions”, where a single record is created for a multipart resource (multi-volume monograph) and different ISBN have been assigned by the publisher to each volume, or to each volume and to the set as a whole; where a single resource is published, or published and distributed, by more than one entity, each of which has assigned a separate ISBN to the resource.

In order to distinguish between ISBN when there is more than one in a record, qualifications may be added to one or more of them, according to the practice of the agency preparing the record.

Terms of availability and price are often related to each ISBN. Thus this information is recorded in the same field. Punctuation is included with the data as required.

The field should be repeated for each valid ISBN. It should also be repeated for an invalid ISBN unless that invalid ISBN clearly relates to a known valid equivalent entered in the record, in which case the invalid ISBN will be entered in the same field as its corresponding valid ISBN ([EX 8, 2](#)).

Some agencies use the ISBN as record identifier and enter it in the field 001. In those cases the ISBN should be entered additionally in field 010.

Related Fields

011 ISSN	A number similar in use to the ISBN but applied to continuing resources.
013 INTERNATIONAL STANDARD MUSIC NUMBER (ISMN)	A number similar in use to the ISBN but applied to printed music.
225 SERIES	An ISBN for a multipart monographic resource to which the resource being catalogued belongs may be entered in subfield 225 \$y.

Examples

EX 1
010 ##\$a0-246-11007-4\$d£2.95
A book published in England and cloth bound priced at £2.95 with the ISBN on the resource as follows: 0 246 11007 4.
EX 2
010 ##\$a963-592-149-7\$d\$25.00 (outside Hungary)
A resource published in Hungary and sold outside the country for \$25.00.
EX 3
010 ##\$d£3.50
010 ##\$bpbk\$d£2.50
A resource published in both cloth and paper covers. No ISBN is available.
EX 4
010 ##\$a0-85997-276-3\$d£5.20 (£3.90 to members of the Library Association)
A resource is published with a discount to members of the Library Association.
EX 5
010 ##\$a0-915408-15-5\$dUnpriced
010 ##\$a0-915408-16-3\$bSigned ed.\$dUnpriced
A resource is available in cloth bound form with the option of purchasing it in a cased edition signed by the translator. The alternatives each have their own ISBN.
EX 6
010 ##\$a0-306-35054-8\$d£22.05
010 ##\$a0-306-35050-5\$bSet of six vols\$d£97.29
The record is for volume 4 of a monograph <i>Treatise on solid state chemistry</i> published in 6 volumes, each with its own ISBN. The set also has an ISBN and a price is available for the set.
EX 7
010 ##\$a0-563-12887-9\$b(B.B.C.)
010 ##\$a0-233-96847-4\$b(Deutsch)
A book is jointly published by the British Broadcasting Corporation and Deutsch.
EX 8
010 ##\$a0-95045-372-2\$d£0.55\$z0-95045-711-6

A publisher erroneously gives the same ISBN to all the resources he publishes. The national ISBN agency provides correct ones for each. In the record for each of the resources, the correct one is found in subfield \$a and the wrongly applied one is \$z.

EX 9

010 ##\$a0-11-884094-0\$z0-11-884094-X

ISBN 0-11-884094-0 is incorrectly printed with an X as the check digit.

EX 10

010 ##\$a2-87900-777-1\$bParis-Musées

010 ##\$a2-7118-4723-3\$bRéunion des musées nationaux\$brel.\$d30 EUR

\$b is repeatable because there is more than one type of qualifier.

EX 11

010 ##\$a978-2-7073-1326-3\$bbr.\$d8,30 EUR

200 1#\$aDu nerf\$bTexte imprimé\$fRobert Pinget

Simple example of ISBN-13.

EX 12a

010 ##\$a978-2-220-04854-3\$bvol. 1

010 ##\$a2-220-04854-3

010 ##\$a978-2-220-04855-0\$bvol. 2

010 ##\$a2-220-04855-1\$z2-220-04854-1

010 ##\$bsous étui\$d57,21 EUR (les 2 vol.)

200 0#\$a≠NSB≠La ≠NSE≠Bible et sa culture\$bTexte imprimé\$f sous la direction de Michel Quesnel et Philippe Gruson

215 ##\$a2 vol. (575 p.-XII p. de pl. en coul., 606 p.-XII p de pl. en coul.)\$cill.\$d24 cm

An example of a multi-volume monograph.

EX 12b

010 ##\$6z01\$a978-2-220-04854-3\$bvol. 1

010 ##\$6z01\$a2-220-04854-3

010 ##\$6z02\$a978-2-220-04855-0\$bvol. 2

010 ##\$6z02\$a2-220-04855-1\$z2-220-04854-1

010 ##\$bsous étui\$d57,21 EUR (les 2 vol.)

200 0#\$a≠NSB≠La ≠NSE≠Bible et sa culture\$bTexte imprimé\$f sous la direction de Michel Quesnel et Philippe Gruson

215 ##\$a2 vol. (575 p.-XII p. de pl. en coul., 606 p.-XII p de pl. en coul.)\$cill.\$d24 cm

An example of a multi-volume monograph. Alternative method using \$6 subfields.

History

2008	Extensive change to reflect change of ISBN to 13-digit.
2012	Corrections.
2020	\$6 corrections. Examples 12 and previously 13 corrections. Update section Related Fields.