Register of ISBNs and accompanying metadata

It is the responsibility of the publishers to inform their group agency, or the organisation responsible for the maintenance of publication registration, of the ISBNs that will be assigned to forthcoming publications. The information shall include some minimum metadata (descriptive) elements and shall be compatible with the ONIX for Books product information standards maintained by EDItEUR and its associated organisations:

Data element	Comments	ONIX 3 element(s)
ISBN	In the 13 digit ISBN format, without spaces or hyphens	<ProductIdentifier>
Product form	Coding which indicates the medium and/or format of the product	<ProductComposition> <ProductForm> <ProductFormDetail> <ProductPart>
	Although not mentioned explicitly in the ISBN User Manual*, physical measurements may also differentiate between two physical products otherwise in the same binding and format.*	<Measure>
	Similarly, for digital products, different licence terms (usage constraints) or operating system requirements may differentiate between two otherwise identical products.	<ProductFormFeature> <EpubTechnicalProtection> <EpubUsageConstraint>
Title	The title of the publication, together with sub-title or other title elements where applicable	<TitleDetail> composite
Series	Series title and enumeration when applicable	<Collection> composite
Contributor	Contributor role code(s) and contributor name(s)	<Contributor> composite [Identifier (ISNI) optional]
Edition	Edition number (for editions after the first), type, and statement	<EditionTypeCode> <EditionNumber> <EditionStatement>
Language(s) of text	Using ISO 639-2/B language codes	<Language> composite
Imprint	The brand name under which the publication is published	<Imprint> composite [Identifier (ISNI) optional]
Publisher	The person or organization that owns the imprint at the date of publication	<Publisher> composite [Identifier (ISNI) optional]
	For digital products, provision is also made for the possibility that the ISBN may be assigned by a downstream intermediary if the publisher has not done so.	<RecordSource… elements
Country of publication	Using ISO 3166-1 country codes	<CountryOfPublication>
Publication date	The date of first publication under this ISBN. In the ISO 8601 format (YYYY-MM-DD).	<PublishingDate> composite [ONIX uses a format based on ISO 8601, YYYYMMDD]
ISBN of parent publication	ISBN of the parent publication of which this publication is a part, when applicable *Used when an ISBN is registered for a chapter or part – see page 6*	<RelatedProduct> composite <RelatedWork> composite

Note: In some cases the ONIX representation of the ISBN metadata set uses a composite where at first sight it would seem that a simple data element would suffice, or it uses a coded value where only one code is valid. This approach ensures that the ISBN metadata can be specified in an ONIX for ISBN Registration message that is a true subset of current ONIX for Books (ONIX 3.0).

The International ISBN Agency will supply an XML schema on request.

Databases that link ISBNs with their metadata (such as books-in-print listings, national bibliography, etc.) should be made available and kept up to date. In instances where ISBN registration agencies do not provide such bibliographic listing services, they are nevertheless responsible for liaising with appropriate service providers to ensure that such services are accessible. Customers may be charged a fee by ISBN registration agencies and publishers of bibliographic databases to access this information.